



**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4A
Government of the District of Columbia
Washington, DC 20011 and 20012**

RESOLUTION #4A-02-2-21-03

**Regarding Pedestrian Safety and Access to/through Rock Creek National
Park from Eastern Road Approaches**

February 2, 2021

Introduced by Commissioner Patience Singleton, 4A04

WHEREAS, the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (“ANCs”) are the bodies of government with the closest ties to the people and they are expected to advise the city on issues, including fees, education, taxes, zoning, social services programs, health, emergency preparedness, economic development, transportation and infrastructure issues;

WHEREAS, the government of the District of Columbia is required by law to give “great weight” to comments from ANCs;

WHEREAS, ANC 4A is an interested party and stakeholder. ANC 4A covers more than 16,000 DC residents and includes the Ward 4 neighborhoods of Brightwood, Colonial Village, Crestwood, North Portal Estates, Shepherd Park, and Sixteenth Street Heights;

WHEREAS, historic structural racism and politics have resulted in more multi-use paved pedestrian entrances into Rock Creek National Park (RCNP) from the west side of the park compared to the east side of the park;

WHEREAS, there are 10 eastern road entrances into RCNP from the northern District/Maryland line south to Mount Pleasant neighborhood used weekly by thousands of motor vehicles from Brightwood, District residents, commuters, and visitors. Most of these motor vehicles are using the roads to cross through the park and some are visiting the park;

WHEREAS, those same entrances do not provide any safe or easy access for pedestrians, cyclists, or other people-powered transportation in the way of sidewalks, bike lanes, or other traffic-free spaces. These users coming from Ward 4's eastern side do not have the same level of access and safety that users coming from the western road approaches do;

WHEREAS, residents/other users have expressed concerns about the safety of the pedestrian, cyclists, and people-powered transportation sharing these roads with numerous close calls and uncomfortable encounters with motor vehicles that do not slow or give right away for these users;

WHEREAS, users with mobility concerns such as young families with strollers and young children, elderly or disabled people with limited range of motion and balance, or inexperienced or new Park users are the most negatively impacted by the lack of safe and easy access. This deterrence affects these and all users especially during the pandemic where residents are compelled to be outdoors to exercise, recreate, or just find an alternative to being stuck at home;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia government, the Ward 4 Livability Study, Capital Trails Coalition, the National Park Service, National Park Police and other planning entities, and governing or jurisdictional parties have not addressed the access and safety shortcomings of these road approaches;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ANC 4A requests that National Park Service, the District of Columbia government, and other responsible parties identify locations for additional accessible entry points to address social inequity and provide a response to start the planning of safe and easy access for pedestrians, cyclists, or other people-powered transportation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that other Ward 4 and concerned ANCs pass similar resolutions in support and solidarity of all District residents and visitors having safe and easy access to and through Rock Creek National Park;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Commissioner Patience Singleton, ANC 4A04, is hereby authorized to serve as the Commission’s representatives in all matters relating to this resolution;

ADOPTED by a voice/show of hands vote at a regularly scheduled public meeting (notice of which was properly given, and at which a quorum of seven of eight members was present) on February 2, 2021, by a vote of 6 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain.

Respectfully submitted,

 /s/ Patience Singleton
Patience Singleton
ANC 4A Chair