

DC Police Union

1524 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003
Office (202) 548-8300 | Fax (202) 548-8306
www.DCPoliceUnion.com



November 19, 2023

VIA E-MAIL

Anthony Hood
Chair
DC Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: *Opposition to Proposal of Any Closure of the Third District Police Station*

Chair Hood and Members of the Zoning Commission,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you as the leader of the DC Police Union, representing over 3,000 dedicated men and women who serve on the front lines of law enforcement in our community, and more specifically the over 200 police officers, detectives, and sergeants that are assigned to the Third District. It has come to our attention that there is a proposal to close the Third District Station (3D). I wish to express our opposition and our deep concerns regarding the potential repercussions of such a decision.

First and foremost, the Third District has been a crucial hub for law enforcement operations in our community, serving as a vital resource for crime prevention and public safety. Closing this station would undoubtedly have a direct impact on our ability to respond promptly to emergencies, investigate criminal activities, and maintain a visible and reassuring presence in the neighborhoods we serve.

One of the primary concerns is the certainty that crime will increase as a result from closing 3D. The presence of a local police station acts as a deterrent to criminal activities, providing a sense of security for residents and businesses alike. Without a nearby station, response times may be compromised, allowing criminal elements to operate with increased impunity. This, in turn, will lead to a rise in crime rates, jeopardizing the safety and well-being of our community members.

Furthermore, community relations are built on trust and collaboration. The closing of 3D, for any prolonged amount of time, would likely be perceived by the public as a reduction in the commitment to their safety. Trust between law enforcement and the community is an invaluable asset that takes years to establish but can be eroded quickly if the community feels abandoned or underserved. Maintaining a local police presence is essential for fostering positive relationships, community engagement, and effective communication between law enforcement and residents.

We understand the need for careful consideration of budgetary constraints and resource allocation. However, we urge the Zoning Commission to explore alternative solutions that preserve the critical functions of 3D. Perhaps collaborative efforts with the community or creative resource allocation strategies can be employed to address other objectives or concerns without compromising public safety, for any amount of time.

In conclusion, I implore you to reconsider the decision to close 3D. The consequences of such an action could extend far beyond the immediate financial considerations, impacting the safety and well-being of our community members and straining the essential relationship between law enforcement and the public.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Pemberton', is written over a horizontal line.

Greggory Pemberton
Chairman
D.C. Police Union
FOP/MPD