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**RESOLUTION OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 4D CONCERNING
IMPROVING TRAFFIC SAFETY IN SHERMAN CIRCLE**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D takes note of the following:

1. **WHEREAS** Sherman Circle Park is a beloved and highly-trafficked neighborhood park that is used regularly and widely for recreation by many District residents within and outside ANC 4D, including a substantial number of young children;
2. **WHEREAS** Sherman Circle NW is a two-lane traffic circle that includes a parking lane, two bus stops, a bike lane, and busy sidewalks, around Sherman Circle Park;
3. **WHEREAS** for the purpose of the Safe Streets for Students Amendment Act of 2022 designated all streets, blocks, and intersections within 350 feet of a school zone’s grounds as “school zones,” requiring (among other things) Action Plans, spot safety assessments, and other investigations to determine appropriate traffic safety infrastructure investments within school zones;¹
4. **WHEREAS** Sherman Circle is within 350 ft of E.L. Haynes Public Charter

¹ D.C. Law 24-285, Secs. 2(10), 2e

School, with many young children walking, riding, or driving to and from school through Sherman Circle every school day;

5. **WHEREAS** in October 2021, a vehicle traveling towards Sherman Circle northbound on Kansas Ave NW at high speed failed to turn into the circle, instead driving into the park with enough force to destroy one of Sherman Circle's lampposts;
6. **WHEREAS** in October 2021, our community was fortunate that this vehicle struck a lamppost rather than a young child, many of whom were playing in the park at the time;²
7. **WHEREAS** on October 26, 2023, a cyclist was struck in Sherman Circle by a careless driver entering the circle southbound on Illinois Ave NW;
8. **WHEREAS** Sherman Circle has also hosted multiple other vehicle and vulnerable road user crashes in recent years;³
9. **WHEREAS** DDOT currently has at least 5 open Traffic Safety Inputs for future consideration concerning traffic speeds and pedestrian safety in Sherman Circle;⁴
10. **WHEREAS** DC's Department of Transportation (DDOT) has previously recognized unsafe conditions on Sherman Circle, recommending as far back as 2016 that even more substantial traffic calming measures be taken to keep pedestrians safe, and that the Circle be converted to one lane of vehicle traffic to slow traffic and shorten crossing distance for pedestrians using the circle;⁵
11. **WHEREAS** Sherman Circle does not currently have any vertical traffic

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<https://twitter.com/zachbisrael/status/1448044863514161152?s=46&t=bV38cpt7ygLgeDVW1vyx8Q>

³ <https://opendata.dc.gov/datasets/crashes-in-dc/explore?location=38.947215%2C-77.021561%2C18.85>

⁴ See TSI Request Nos. 22-00101587, 22-00264799, 23-00408236, 23-00556264, 23-00561648.

⁵ https://anc4d.org/uploads/1/2/4/6/124699457/rceii_finalrecommendationsbooklet_final.pdf;
See also <https://tinyurl.com/2017DDOTPres>

- calming, either within the Circle or at the intersections entering the Circle;
12. **WHEREAS** any road diet efforts on Sherman Circle to date have maintained a lane of parking, two lanes of traffic, and an unprotected bike lane most of the way around the Circle;
 13. **WHEREAS** DDOT has a current project underway to make substantial investments in safety infrastructure at our neighboring circle at Grant Circle NW;⁶
 14. **WHEREAS** Sherman and Grant Circles are connected by a short, three-block stretch of road on Illinois Ave NW that was identified in 2021's moveDC Multimodal Long-Range Transportation Plan as a Future Planned Improvement for the District's Bicycle Priority Network;
 15. **WHEREAS** Commissioner George of ANC 4D06 distributed a recent survey about traffic safety in Sherman Circle with nearly 300 respondents, including over 260 respondents from within ANC 4D;
 16. **WHEREAS** ANC 4D constituents responding on the survey were in favor of various potential traffic calming measures, including raised crosswalks at intersections leading into Sherman Circle (75% supported), raised crosswalks within Sherman Circle (72% supported), and narrowing Sherman Circle to one lane (61% supported);
 17. **WHEREAS** ANC 4D constituents responding on the survey were largely not supportive of leaving Sherman Circle as it is, without making further traffic safety improvements (8% supported);
 18. **WHEREAS** constituents responding on the survey consistently criticized pedestrian safety in particular in Sherman Circle, emphasizing unsafe traffic speeds, reckless driver behavior, and the dangers of drivers using the left lane to pass vehicles that have stopped for pedestrians in a crosswalk;
 19. **WHEREAS** the intersection of Buchanan St. and Illinois Ave. NW is currently a two-way stop-controlled intersection leading into Sherman Circle NW and within 350 ft. of E.L. Haynes Public Charter School;
 20. **WHEREAS** DDOT currently has at least 4 open Traffic Safety Inputs for

⁶ See <https://www.petworthnews.org/blog/grant-circle-proposed-2023>.

future consideration concerning traffic speeds and/or the need for a four-way stop at Buchanan St. and Illinois Ave.;

- 21. WHEREAS** Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4C previously passed a resolution supporting installation of a four-way stop control at the intersection of Buchanan St. and Illinois Ave.;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D:

1. **Calls upon** DDOT to develop a plan to substantially improve traffic safety in and around Sherman Circle, with a particular focus on reducing vehicle speeds and increasing pedestrian safety;
2. **Calls upon** DDOT to develop these safety improvement plans for Sherman Circle on a rapid timeline, sufficient to allow DDOT to plan for redesigns of Sherman Circle alongside or shortly after planned improvements at neighboring Grant Circle.
3. **Encourages** DDOT to consider using any and all of the traffic calming tools in its toolkit, including vertical traffic calming and road diets, to achieve the goals of reduced vehicle speeds and increased pedestrian safety;
4. **Calls upon** DDOT to install a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Illinois Ave. and Buchanan St. NW; and
5. **Calls upon** DDOT to keep ANC 4D regularly apprised of its progress towards developing a plan for safety improvements at Sherman Circle;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That Commissioner Aman George (4D06) is hereby authorized to represent the commission in all matters relating to this resolution.

This Resolution of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D concerning Improving Traffic Safety in Sherman Circle was considered on December 20, 2023 before ANC 4D at a duly noticed meeting of the Commission in the presence of a quorum. The vote of the Commission was 7 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstentions. The resolution is hereby adopted as resolution number 4D-2023-17.

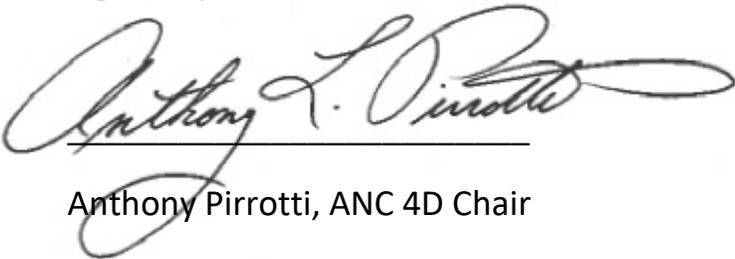
⁷ See TSI Request Nos. 22-00450774, 23-00434898, 23-00016310, 23-00271675.

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[https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/AttachmentsFiles/19/Illinois and Buchanan Letter 10212022 \(1\) TM 20221116035723PM.pdf](https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/AttachmentsFiles/19/Illinois and Buchanan Letter 10212022 (1) TM 20221116035723PM.pdf)

Signed by:

Dated: 2 January 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthony L. Pirrotti". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

Anthony Pirrotti, ANC 4D Chair