

**Hillcrest Community Civic Association**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**November 8, 2003**

*Draft Minutes*

Pastor Senger called the meeting to order at 10:03. Pastor Burke led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes of the October meeting were read and approved on a voice vote. Dennis Logan's Treasurer's Report, showing a balance of \$808.13, was approved on a voice vote.

Kathy Chamberlain reported on the Board of Directors meeting, including that a successor will be sought for Alyce Foster, who is resigning as editor of the Newsletter; that \$150 was approved for holiday party food; that traffic-calming recommendations for Branch Avenue between Alabama and Southern Aves. were approved, with the exception of one recommendation to create a cul-de-sac on Erie Street, for which additional neighborhood input will be sought; and that Don Murray is resigning as legislative chair, and that a successor will be sought.

In response to a member's question, she then explained that the entire HCCA Body must endorse the traffic recommendations in order for them to go before the ANC and on to DC DOT, and clarified that they will not affect parking in other areas of Branch Avenue. Her motion to adopt the recommendations was approved on a voice vote.

Information Chair Poteat announced plans for the holiday party, including asking members to bring dishes according to their last names. Gloria Logan reported membership of 365 households including one new member. She introduced guests including new managers from Safeway and the new Tropicana restaurant. Education chair Carrie Thornhill discussed upcoming legislation on youth violence and school autonomy, and said discussions on system governance have begun.

For the Public Safety committee, Kathy Chamberlain brought up the question raised in the prior meeting about the rush-hour "Do Not Enter" signs. She provided background including the complaints of inconvenience caused by the signs, their intended purpose to reduce traffic safety problems, and the public process by which they were approved. Mary Ross suggested that "Except Residents" be added, rather than removing the signs. There followed extended discussion of the issue, with several members questioning whether and how each of the options might be enforced. Ms. Ross and one other Member agreed to research how residential exceptions are enforced in other neighborhoods and agreed to report findings at the January meeting.

Environment Chair Phil Hammond proposed a fall cleanup for December 12. A Member asked for specific attention to trash accumulating near a group home on W Street. Reporting for ANC7B, Chair Kathy Chamberlain discussed the upcoming meeting

agenda and said the ANC has endorsed Councilmember Chavous's bill on accountability in juvenile justice.

Lt. Sims reported 81 crimes, of which 74 were property crimes, primarily stolen autos and theft from autos.

Guest Speaker, Ward 7 Councilmember Kevin Chavous said that the city will build a new hospital on the grounds of DC General, to be managed by Howard University. He is pleased that this is being done in partnership with the Mayor and praised aspects of the Mayor's health-alliance plan. Reviewing crime statistics, he decried the lack of direction and discipline in the lives of young people and said that they cannot be simply sent back to the streets after repeated offenses. He called on parents to shoulder their responsibilities, but said there should be more places to provide help and referrals – a “nurturing environment, with discipline.”

He said that the Skyland project is “very important to all of us,” and said the expected problems about historic designation need to be resolved before beginning the purchase of land – but that the Council will be ready to assist in funding and ownership issues.

He said he is “completely, unabashedly supportive of public education,” and that children, not political parties, should come first. He discussed tax incentives for more resident teachers, legislation to grant autonomy to high-performing schools, and increased choice along with additional dollars for public and charter schools.

In response to questions, Mr. Chavous said that there will be two new libraries in the Ward, including a commitment to a new Gregory library. He said that vouchers are not the only solution to educational problems, but that they can make a difference for 2000 students – and that the current situation is unacceptable. He said that he supports an all-elected school board but that the “hybrid” is not working as well as it should. He is looking at new structures that would promote greater accountability, either through direct mayoral appointment or by giving the Board taxing authority to link funding and management.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm with 72 members and guests in attendance.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Nelson Smith  
Recording Secretary*