

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize the 100th anniversary of the Cleveland Park Citizens Association.

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Park Citizens Association was organized in late 1911, under its original name, the Connecticut Avenue Citizens Association;

WHEREAS, the first regular membership meeting of the Connecticut Avenue Citizens Association was held on January 17, 1912, with fifty charter members;

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Association, according to the by-laws, was “to promote the interests of that part of the District of Columbia lying between Chevy Chase Circle and the Connecticut Avenue Bridge, and the adjacent territory, as well as the interests of the District of Columbia”;

WHEREAS, membership in the Association was open to property owners and residents in the designated area with dues at \$2.00 per year;

WHEREAS, committees in the original Association included: Streets, Sidewalks, and Lights; Sewer and Water Supply; Fire and Police Protection; Public Schools; Public Health; Parks and Parking; Public Utilities; Legislation; Membership; and Publicity;

WHEREAS, by 1915, the Association had succeeded in obtaining additional police and fire protection, including plans for a fire house; street and sidewalk improvements; new street lights and street trees; and, assurances from the District Commissioners that they would press for legislation to replace the old Calvert Street Bridge;

WHEREAS, in 1916, members of the Association celebrated the opening of a fire station at 3522 Connecticut Avenue, the first structure built on the Avenue in Cleveland Park;

WHEREAS, as noted in their 1916 Yearbook, the Association added their voice to those working for home rule and voting representation in Congress, declaring that “we have in the District of Columbia a form of government unlike that found anywhere else on earth”;

WHEREAS, during the 1920s and 1930s, the Association could claim credit for helping to spur commercial development on the Connecticut Avenue corridor above the Taft Bridge;

WHEREAS, in 1938, the Traffic Committee of the Association was successful in securing a traffic signal at the entrance to the National Zoo;

WHEREAS, in 1946, the Association, helped to promote a plan for a public playground in Cleveland Park, which later became Macomb Playground;

WHEREAS, in the early 1950's, the Association helped to raise money to purchase the site for the Cleveland Park Library;

WHEREAS, in 1954, the Association, with 1800 members, was the third largest citizen association in the District of Columbia, and one of the few that consistently supported home rule and voting representation in Congress;

WHEREAS, in 1954, the membership of the Association supported school integration;

WHEREAS, in 1955, the Association joined others in successfully opposing a parking lot in front of the Sheraton-Park Hotel in Woodley Park;

WHEREAS, in 1955, the Association supported Bill 669, the Home Rule Act, in the House of Representatives;

WHEREAS, in 1958, members of the Association became the driving force behind the creation of Friends of the National Zoo (FONZ) when the zoo was experiencing severe financial difficulties;

WHEREAS, in the 1960s, members of the Association joined others in promoting the establishment of the Washington Technical Institution, which later became the University of the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, the Association has provided the Federation of *Citizens* Associations of DC with one of its longest serving presidents and provided the DC Federation of *Civic* Associations with two presidents;

WHEREAS, in 1962, the Association membership agreed to eliminate the word "white" before "citizen" in its constitution;

WHEREAS, on February 28, 1966, the Connecticut Avenue Citizen Association changed its name to the Cleveland Park Citizens Association;

WHEREAS, between 1968 and 1971, the Association joined other organizations in successful campaigns to block the Three Sisters Bridge across the Potomac River and an inner-city highway system;

WHEREAS, in 1980-1982, Association President Arthur Miegs became the first white president of the DC Federation of Civic Associations;

WHEREAS, in the 1980s, the Association began the practice of holding candidate forums for mayor, city council, and board of education elections, a practice which remains today;

WHEREAS, in the 1990s, Mrs. Gilpin Walker, the Association's first African-American president, organized numerous programs emphasizing city-wide issues;

WHEREAS, in the late 1990s, the Association started a long campaign to convince the city to enforce the Cleveland Park Overlay District regulations, which had been adopted a decade earlier;

WHEREAS, in 1998, the boundaries of the Association were changed to reflect the emergence of other citizens associations serving other parts of the Connecticut Avenue corridor;

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Association negotiated a usage agreement for the proposed new athletic facility at the National Cathedral School for Girls;

WHEREAS, in early 2000, the Association negotiated with the owners of the Friendship Shopping Center, which included Giant Food, to modify their development plans, and throughout the decade the Association, along with ANC-3c, attempted to keep the lines of communication open with the new developer;

WHEREAS, in 2003, the Association joined the Friends of the Cleveland Park Library and the Cleveland Park Historical Society in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the neighborhood library;

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Association revived a neighborhood festival called Cleveland Park Day after an absence of over a decade;

WHEREAS, current projects of the Association include the 2011 Cleveland Park Day, Neighborhood Greening, and an Aging in Place initiative where Association volunteers hand-delivered surveys to over 2500 households; and

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the "Cleveland Park Citizens Association Centennial Recognition Resolution of 2011."

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes the efforts of the Cleveland Park Citizens Association and its volunteers for their work on behalf of the citizen of the city.

Presented at Cleveland Park Day
October 2, 2011

By
Councilmember Mary M. Cheh