

DIETER LEHMANN MORALES, SMD 1A02, Chair
JEREMY SHERMAN, SMD 1A04, Vice-Chair
ANTHONY THOMAS-DAVIS, SMD 1A06, Secretary
BILLY EASLEY, SMD 1A10, Treasurer



JASPAL BHATIA, SMD 1A01
CARLO PERRI, SMD 1A02
STEPHEN COLEMAN KENNY, SMD 1A05
MUKTA GHORPADEY, SMD 1A07
vacant, SMD 1A08
JAMES A. TURNER, SMD 1A09

THE MINUTES OF THE

MAY 8, 2024 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Hybrid - in-person at Harriet Tubman ES and virtual via Zoom Webinar

Chairperson LEHMANN MORALES was present and called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. (the hour appointed for the meeting was 7:00 p.m.) Comm’r THOMAS-DAVIS, Secretary, was present. In accordance with D.C. Official Code §§ 1–309.11(c) and 1–207.42, the meeting was properly noticed in advance and open to the public.

The Secretary called the roll of members. At that time, it was found that there were:

PRESENT: Commissioners BHATIA, EASLEY, GHORPADEY, KENNY, LEHMANN MORALES, PERRI, SHERMAN, THOMAS-DAVIS, TURNER

ABSENT:

A quorum was established.

The Chair called for *Approval of the Agenda*. Commissioner SHERMAN moved to amend the agenda to move *Reports of Committees* to after *Presentations from the Council and the Executive*, which was seconded. On a motion to amend the agenda as offered by Commissioner Sherman, by a voice vote, the amendment was approved. Chairperson LEHMANN MORALES was recorded as voting Present. At this point in the meeting, the Chair noted the arrival of Commissioner EASLEY, who was recorded as in attendance. On the motion to approve the agenda, as amended, by unanimous voice vote, the agenda stood approved.

The Chair called up the *Reading and Approval of the Minutes* from the previous regular meeting of the Commission on April 10, 2024. Comm’r SHERMAN moved to waive the reading and to approve the minutes, which was seconded. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously by voice vote.

The Chair called up *Officer Reports*. The Chair had no report. The Chair recognized the Vice Chair who had no report. The Chair recognized the Secretary who had no report. The Chair then recognized the Treasurer for a report, which included laying before the Commission its Second Quarterly Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2024, covering January – March 2024, which was due to the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (“OANC”) on May 15, 2024. The Treasurer, Commissioner EASLEY, provided an update on treasury activities, including current balances and expenditures for the month of April. Commissioner THOMAS-DAVIS addressed several questions to the Treasurer, including a request for an accounting on expenditures to date as approved in the Commission’s FY2024 Budget. Following discussion, Commissioner EASLEY moved that the Commission approve the Second Quarterly Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2024, which passed unanimously by voice vote.



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The Chair opened the floor for *General Speeches & Public Comments/Announcements*. Speakers were permitted one minute to address the Commission. Commissioner THOMAS-DAVIS was recognized and offered remarks regarding the Department of Behavioral Health’s public engagement meeting for the proposed Stabilization Center on Park Rd. within his Single-Member District. Commissioner GHORPADEY was recognized and offered comments in limited support of Commissioner THOMAS-DAVIS’s position, emphasizing the need for residents to be responsive to requests for public comments regarding neighborhood projects and initiatives. Commissioner SHERMAN was recognized to offer an update from the DC Water and Sewage Authority (“DC Water”), regarding a notice for combined sewage inspection and cleaning across the Commission area and the District and noted the submission of the notice to the Secretary for publication in the Commission’s newsletter. Commissioner KENNY recognized and addressed the Commission’s oversight of the implementation of the Street Vending Advancement Amendment Act of 2023 in Columbia Heights, specifically the sidewalk vending licensing and vending zone management process. Commissioner KENNY announced that the Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection (“DLCP”) selected the Vending Zone Manager (District Bridges) that they issue a Request for Proposals for earlier in 2024, and noted the Commission will request the appearance of the Vending Zone Manager before the body later this year for an update of their management efforts. Commissioner EASLEY was recognized and offered an update on the completion of Pepco’s Harvard Street Substation project, scheduled to come online within the coming month, and that sidewalk replacement would be completed soon. Turning to the public, Mr. Daniel Hayes was allowed to address the Commission, announcing the 13th Annual Bike-to-Work Day on Friday, May 17, from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Columbia Heights Civic Plaza. Ms. Vida Rangel was allowed to address the Commission and announced the launch of DC Pride on May 18 at the MLK Library. Ms. Rangel also brought to the attention of the Commission an issue at one of its committee’s meetings (Committee on Housing Justice and Zoning), noting xenophobic and racist remarks targeted at the Latine community. Lastly, Captain Meagan Mulrooney introduced herself as a representative of the Fourth District Metropolitan Police Department, and noted she would attend future Commission meetings as a resource.

The Chair opened the floor for *Community Presentations*.

The Commission heard from Joshua Brown, Chief Program Officer at Next Step Public Charter School. After briefly introducing the adult public charter school, Mr. Brown shared that the school’s principal was attacked after parking and attempting to make their way to the school building. Noting the recent increase in crime within the Commission area and the neighborhood, Mr. Brown shared the school’s public safety strategy chances and acknowledged the helpful engagement of Commissioner PERRI to facilitate immediate action from DCUSA, MPD and other partner and stakeholders.

The Chair opened the floor again for *Presentations from the Council and the Executive*.



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The Chair invited Assistant City Administrator Christopher Rodriguez, Office of the City Administrator (“OCA”), to present the Mayor’s Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan: A Fair Shot: Strategic Investments and Shared Sacrifice. Following discussion and questions from the Commission, the Chair turned to and invited the Honorable Brianne K. Nadeau, the Ward 1 Member of the DC Council to offer commentary on the Mayor’s Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Budget and neighborhood-level priorities for Columbia Heights, addressing questions from the Commission and the public.

The Chair opened the floor for *Committee Reports*.

ANC 1A resident Christine Miller, reported on behalf of the Education, Youth and Family Committee, which she chairs. Ms. Miller discussed the efforts her committee made on the Mayor’s FY2025 Proposed Budget, including the submission of several recommendations to the Commission, which were approved and transmitted in its budget priorities letter to the Council. Ms. Miller also announced that the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (“OSSE”) would present more context on the Mayor’s proposed budget through an education lens at its next meeting on May 22, when the committee will convene again for its next regular meeting.

Reporting on behalf of the Housing Justice and Zoning Committee, ANC 1A resident Max Ewert, who chairs the committee, addressed the Commission. The committee’s most recent meeting was on May 6, where the committee took official action on Board of Zoning Adjustment Application No. 21139 of The Family Place, Public Charter School, which requested two special exceptions to construct a rear addition, and convert to a public school or daycare, an existing, attached, three-story with cellar, building in the RA-2 Zone. The committee also moved to rescind the recommendation it made to the Commission supporting Board of Zoning Adjustment Application No. 21037, discharging the matter for further consideration by the Commission. Chair Ewert also announced a Tenant Resource Fair, organized in collaboration with Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B, and noted additional details would be forthcoming. Questions from the public were focused on the process of the BZA Application 21037, which Commissioner SHERMAN, as the affected Single-Member District Commissioner and Chair Ewert addressed.

Commissioners PERRI and EASLEY reported on behalf of the Public Safety Committee, which they co-chair. The committee, at its April 30 meeting, discussed several updates, including the shooting in Single-Member District 1A07. The committee also followed up on the Fire and Emergency Medical Services (“FEMS”) briefing it received in April, noting the drafting of an action for next steps to include meetings between FEMS and the Metropolitan Police Department to improve coordination across the neighborhood. The committee also reviewed its recommendations included in the Commission’s budget priorities letter to the Council and went over summer safety expectations as warmer weather settles in around the District and the Fourth of July holiday draws near. Commissioner EASLEY noted that the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, which he is a member of, is reviewing the Mayor’s truancy reduction strategy proposal and he will report back.



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Commissioner SHERMAN, reporting on behalf of the Small Business and Economic Development Committee, which he chairs, shared updates from the Commission’s ongoing small business survey initiative, which the Commission authorized for release to residents to understand what new businesses they want to see in Columbia Heights at its April meeting. The committee noted that over 80 respondents have taken the survey and that the survey would remain open until at least 100 residents have responded to it.

Commissioner KENNY, reporting on behalf of the Transportation, Parks, and Public Spaces Committee which he chairs, discussed that committee’s review of the Mayor’s FY25 budget proposal and recommendations to the Commission. Notably, the committee focused on restoration of the Circulator, which is operated and managed by the District Department of Transportation. Commissioner KENNY noted that the committee’s next meeting would be attended by DDOT to present on the agency’s Safe Routes to School plans and the Washington Area Transit Authority’s (“WMATA” or “Metro”) Better Bus Network Redesign and its implications for the Columbia Heights neighborhood.

Commissioner THOMAS-DAVIS, reporting for the Special Committee on Public Life in Columbia Heights, which he chairs, shared updates from its April 24 meeting where the special committee held a field hearing to conduct a walkabout of the Columbia Heights public realm, namely at the Columbia Heights Civic Plaza, the 14th and Girard Street Park, the Columbia Heights Metrorail Station plazas, and the National Park Service-managed triangle park at 16th and Park Rd NW. Commissioner THOMAS-DAVIS noted the special committee’s continued engagement with the Office of Planning on the Public Life Study, which is expected to begin in earnest later in May.

The Chair called up the *Consent Calendar*.

A single measure was on the Consent Calendar. CR07-2024, A Resolution Concerning the Appointment and Removal of Members To/From Certain Standing Committees of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A, sponsored by Commissioner Anthony Thomas-Davis, would make changes to the standing committees of the Commission, removing and appointing ANC 1A residents and members of the public to said committees. The Consent Calendar was moved for approval by Commissioner SHERMAN and seconded. The measure was approved unanimously by voice vote.

The Chair called up *New Business*.

The first item for consideration was R24-0010 A Resolution Concerning the Need for Permanent & Standardized Guidelines and Equitable Implementation of Streateries in the District of Columbia, as sponsored by Commissioners SHERMAN and KENNY, in their capacities as chairs of the Committee on Small Business and Economic Development and Committee on Transportation, Parks, and Public Spaces, respectively. Chair LEHMANN MORALES recognized Comm’r SHERMAN for a statement. Comm’r SHERMAN moved the measure for consideration, which was seconded. No further questions or debate followed from members of the Commission



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or the public. The Chair called the question, for passage of R24-0010, for which Comm'r THOMAS-DAVIS requested a recorded vote of the Yeas and Nays. The Chair ordered a roll call vote, which the Secretary took and recorded as 7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 PRESENT.

YEAS: BHATIA, EASLEY, GHORPADEY, LEHMANN MORALES, KENNY,
PERRI, SHERMAN

NAYS:

PRESENT: THOMAS-DAVIS (Recused)

NOT VOTING: TURNER

Note: As of 9:52 p.m., Commissioner Turner took no further part in the meeting and was noted as absent.

The second item for consideration was CR06-2024 A Resolution Concerning the Reimbursement of Funds to Commissioner Billy Easley in the Amount of \$1,600.00 for Monthly Disbursements for Personnel Payments in January/February 2024, as sponsored by Commissioner SHERMAN. Comm'r SHERMAN was recognized to make a statement and moved the measure for consideration. No further questions or debate followed from members of the Commission or the public. Following a brief discussion with the Chair regarding a drafting error, the Chair called the question, for passage of CR06-2024, which the Commission approved unanimously by a voice vote, with Commissioner EASLEY abstaining.

The next measure for consideration, LTR24-0011 A Letter of Support Concerning the Application of The Family Place's Application for a Facilities Amendment to the District of Columbia Public Charter Schools Board, sponsored by Commissioner KENNY. The Chair recognized Commissioner KENNY for a statement. No further questions or debate followed from members of the Commission or the public. Comm'r KENNY moved the letter for approval, with the Chair offering to move this measure and LTR24-0012 A Letter of Support Concerning The Family Place's Application for Special Exception at 1501 Park Road NW to the Board of Zoning, which Commissioner KENNY also sponsored, en bloc. The motion was seconded. The Chair called the question on the motion to approve both LTR24-0011 and LTR24-0012, which were approved unanimously by voice vote.

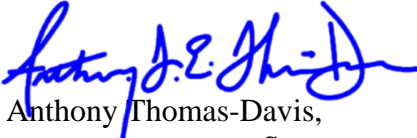
The final measure for consideration was A24-0003 A Settlement Agreement Concerning Green Label Consulting, LLC t/a Green Label (ABCA-127434) for a Medical Cannabis Retailer License (SMD 1A02), as sponsored by Commissioner SHERMAN in his capacity as Chair, Committee on Small Business and Economic Development, for which this measure was referred. The Chair recognized Comm'r SHERMAN for a statement, who yielded time for the owners of the establishment to introduce themselves and their business. Commissioner SHERMAN noted that Chairperson LEHMANN MORALES, the affected Single-Member District Commissioner, reviewed the settlement agreement as presented by the Committee on Small Business and Economic Development and agreed with all terms. Comm'r SHERMAN moved the settlement



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agreement for approval. The motion was seconded. The Chair called the question on the motion to approve A24-0003, which was approved unanimously by voice vote.

With no further business before the Commission, the Chair called the meeting to a close, noting that the next regular meeting of ANC 1A is Wednesday, June 12, 2024. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:04 p.m.


Anthony Thomas-Davis,
SECRETARY