

**DEITER LEHMANN MORALES, SMD 1A02, Chair**  
**JEREMY SHERMAN, SMD 1A04, Vice-Chair**  
**ANTHONY THOMAS-DAVIS, SMD 1A06, Secretary**  
**JAMES A. TURNER, SMD 1A09, Treasurer**



*Vacant, SMD 1A01*  
**CARLO PERRI, SMD 1A02**  
**STEPHEN COLEMAN KENNY, SMD 1A05**  
**MUKTA GHORPADEY, SMD 1A07**  
**DAVID SEGALL, SMD 1A09**  
**BILLY EASLEY, SMD 1A10**

**NOVEMBER 8, 2023**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

*In-Person at Harriet Tubman ES and Virtual via Zoom Webinar*

Chairperson LEHMANN MORALES was present and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Comm'r THOMAS-DAVIS, Secretary, was present. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the meeting was open to the public. The meeting was scheduled from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Secretary called the roll. Comm'rs PERRI, SHERMAN, KENNY, GHORPADEY, TURNER, and EASLEY were present. A quorum was established.

The Chair called for approval of the agenda, which was moved by Comm. TURNER. The agenda was approved unanimously.

The Chair called up Officer Reports, which included the Treasurer's Report. Comm'r TURNER, Treasurer, presented the FY23 Q4 Financial Report and moved approval of the report. The FY23 Q4 Financial Report which was adopted unanimously.

The Chair opened the floor for *Community Announcements*. Speakers were permitted one minute to address the Commission.

The Commission first heard from Comm'r SHERMAN, Vice Chair, who announced news of the vacancy in Single Member District 1A01, encouraging interested residents to visit the Board of Elections and [openanc.org](http://openanc.org) to find out more information.

The Commission then heard from Dante O'Hara, community organizer in Ward 1. Mr. O'Hara announced a petition effort related to the Israeli-Hamas war in Gaza to encourage the Council of the District of Columbia (hereinafter "the Council") to pass a resolution calling for a ceasefire.

The Commission also heard from Vida Rangel, Associate Director of Education and Health at the Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments ("MOTA") to announce several vacancies in various boards and commissions, encouraging residents to visit MOTA's website to learn more about the available positions and vacancies and how to apply for appointment. Comm'r GHORPADEY addressed a question to Ms. Rangel regarding further explanation on MOTA's process, which Ms. Rangel elaborated on.

Rebecca Chavez, Director of Agriculture Programs at FreshFarms, addressed the Commission regarding concerns with human waste impacting the operation of the Farmers' Market on Saturdays at the Columbia Heights Civic Plaza. Ms. Chavez requested assistance with



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addressing this issue given the range of resources being directed to the Civic Plaza by various stakeholders, including the Commission, Office of Ward 1 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau, and District Bridges. Ms. Chavez addressed questions from Comm’r EASLEY and THOMAS-DAVIS, and Comm’r KENNY raised additional concern with animal waste at the Civic Plaza.

Porchia Foreman, Ward 1 Liaison from the Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services (“MOCRS”), informed residents present that she can be a resource in addressing community concerns in concert with the Commission.

Diana Lono Watkins, a resident of SMD 1A09, expressed concern regarding a residential apartment building at 2724 11<sup>th</sup> Street, citing its continued vacant and blighted status. Comm’rs SHERMAN and TURNER addressed responses to Ms. Watkins and noted ongoing follow-up on the building by the Commission, and Comm’r GHORPADEY flagged Community Chair Max Ewert of the Commission’s Housing Justice and Zoning Committee as a resource.

Lastly, Dan Dodge, a resident of SMD 1A06, addressed the Commission about concerns with street vending and blocked sidewalks. Comm’r KENNY briefly responded with an update on the implementation of legislation passed by the Council to address street vending regulation.

The Chair opened the floor for *Committee Reports*.

Reporting on behalf of the Housing Justice and Zoning Committee, Community Member Max Ewert, who chairs the committee, addressed the Commission to note the committee met for the first time since July to discuss the Green New Deal for Housing legislation pending before the Housing Committee at the Council.

Comm’r SHERMAN, reporting on behalf of the Small Business and Economic Development Committee, which he co-chairs with Comm’r Segall, provided notice on the committee’s next meeting on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 7:00 pm, meeting virtually. The committee announced its intent to provide a readout of a citywide ANC meeting with the new DSLBD director, to begin budget planning for FY25, and discuss general business governance for Columbia Heights.

Comm’r KENNY, reporting on behalf of the Transportation, Parks, and Public Spaces Committee, announced the next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 7:00 pm. The committee still meets remotely via Zoom. Comm’r Kenny noted discussion items at the meeting would include a presentation from Kevin Harrison, Project Lead at DDOT regarding dedicated bus lanes on Columbia Rd., as well as an update on street vending regulation.

Comm’r GHORPADEY, reporting on behalf of the Community Outreach & Events Committee, noted several upcoming initiatives including a Community Clean-Up, in partnership with Buddy’s DC for November 18, 2023, as well as a Community Drive with Ward 1 Mutual Aid in partnership with Buddy’s DC. Comm’r GHORPADEY also announced planning for job fair in



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early 2024. She noted that the committee’s next meeting for Monday, November 27, 2023 is cancelled.

Comm’rs PERRI and EASLEY, reporting on behalf of the Public Safety Committee, noted the committee’s next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 8:00pm. The committee did not meet in October. The committee’s recent work included drafting a response letter related to the Alanos Condo Owners Association and the Gerard St. Condo Owners Association regarding public safety concerns in their alleyway. The committee has been in contact with CVS Corporate regarding the store located on 14<sup>th</sup> St. and Irving St. NW and noted that it will remain open per CVS based on discussions with their representatives. Comm’r Easley noted that the committee welcomes public input on all public safety matters and would be planning a second Public Safety Summit. He also encouraged residents to reach out to Metropolitan Police Department (“MPD”) district commanders directly with concerns given how responsive MPD has been to the Commission and residents within the Commission.

Community Member Christine Miller reported on behalf of the Education, Youth and Family Committee, which she chairs. She highlighted the committee’s focus on FY25 budget planning around a range of priorities including proposed restrictions on public library programming. She also noted a focus on Spanish-speaking community residents to ensure they get educational information translated and made available to parents. The next quarterly meeting of the committee is scheduled for February 2024.

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

The Commission heard from Ward 1 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau, who provided comprehensive budget, legislative, and community updates, notably on the state of public safety and her bills to address it across the Ward and District, the upcoming Columbia Heights-Mt. Pleasant Public Life Study, and a street vending study regarding the Columbia Heights-Mount Pleasant Sidewalk Vending Zone. The council member also addressed some early FY25 budget priorities and recapped implementation of FY24 budget priorities to date.

The Chair opened the floor for *Community Presentations*.

The Commission heard from Paco Ramos, Main Street Manager for Columbia Heights at District Bridges. Mr. Ramos presented updates regarding the events District Bridges is undertaking during the holiday season to highlight small businesses and the Columbia Heights community, as well as community navigation programming updates for health and human services and supports for residents in need, particularly during the winter season. He noted that the community navigation team will be conducting evening walks around the community to ensure they can connect unhoused residents or residents experiencing a behavioral or mental health disorder with services.



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The Chair called up the *Consent Agenda*. Comm'r SHERMAN moved to amend the Consent Agenda to add his amendment (SA23-XXXX Sherman Amendment to A Settlement Agreement Concerning Margots Chair, Inc. d/b/a The Coupe, ABRA-086623). The motion was considered by unanimous consent and no objections were made. Comm'r Sherman's amendment was moved to the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda was moved for approval by Comm'r TURNER and was approved unanimously by the Commission. 8 YEAS – 0 NAYS – 0 PRESENT

The Chair called up *New Business*.

Comm. KENNY introduced a resolution, R23-0011 A Resolution Concerning the 14th Street Bus Lanes Design/DDOT Bus Priority Plan. After debate regarding the resolution, Comm'r THOMAS-DAVIS made a motion to commit the measure to the Committee on Transportation, Parks, and Public Spaces for further consideration. The Chair put forward the question on the motion to commit on a voice vote, which was adopted. The measure was referred to the Committee on Transportation, Parks, and Public Spaces for further consideration.

Comm'r EASLEY introduced a resolution, R23-0012, A Resolution Concerning Support for B25-0132, Requirement to Provide Notice of Intent to Remove Public Litter Containers Amendment Act of 2023 and B25-0412, Litter Control Amendment Act of 2023. After debate, Comm'r SHERMAN moved the resolution, and the Chair put forward the question on passage on a voice vote and the resolution passed. 8 YEAS – 0 NAYS – 0 PRESENT

*Comm'r PERRI took no further part in the meeting after departing at 8:55 p.m.*

Chairperson LEHMANN MORALES introduced a resolution, R23-0013, A Resolution Concerning A Pause on Collection Action by the Office of Tax & Revenue under the Street Vendor Amesty Program. After debate, the Chair put forward the question of passage on a voice vote, which was passed. 5 YEAS -1 NAYS - 1 PRESENT.

Comm. THOMAS-DAVIS introduced a resolution, CR10-2023, A Resolution Concerning the Establishment of a Special Committee on Public Life in Columbia Heights. Comm. Comm'r THOMAS-DAVIS moved for approval of the resolution. After debate, and noting the prior approval of a Public Life Task Force at the Commission's February 8, 2023 Regular Meeting, Comm'r EASLEY moved to rescind the resolution establishing the Public Life Task Force. The Chair put forward the motion on a voice vote, which was adopted. The Chair called the question on passage of the resolution offered by Comm'r Thomas-Davis, which passed. 7 YEAS – 0 NAYS – 0 PRESENT

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, January 10, 2024. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:07 p.m.



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Anthony Thomas-Davis, Secretary