



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B**

June 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 12, 2024; 7:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Call to Order

The regular June 2024 meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission of ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Roggensack at 7:01 PM.

Introduction of Commissioners

The Commissioners identified their single member districts (SMDs). Present were Meg Roggensack (2B01), Jeffrey Rueckgauer (2B02), Vincent Slatt (2B03), Matt Johnson (2B06), Libby Franklin (2B07), Zachary Adams (2B08), and Christopher Davis (2B09).

Adoption of the Agenda

Chair Roggensack adopted the ANC's meeting agenda by unanimous consent.

Announcements and Public Comments

Announcement from Metro DC DSA and DC for Democracy on the social housing Council bill

John Qua made an announcement from METRO DC DSA and DC for Democracy on the social housing bill in Council.

DDOT presentation on the Dupont Tree Plaza Concept Design

Annie Tkacik presented on behalf of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) on the Dupont Tree Plaza Concept Design.

Reports from Government Representatives

Christopher Powell, Ward 2 Liason from the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS); Pablo Velasco Rodriguez, the Constituent Services Coordinator for Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office; and Captain Harris and Lt Forrest, representatives for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, provided updates.

Commissioner Updates

Chair Roggensack, Commissioner Franklin, Commissioner Rueckgauer, Commissioner Davis, and Commissioner Slatt provided updates.

Committee Updates

Commissioner Rueckgauer, Chair of the ANC's Mobility Committee (MC), Christopher Davis, Chair of the ANC's Land Use Committee (LUC), and Matt Johnson, Chair of the Complex Application Committee (CAPP) gave updates.

Other Public Announcements and General Comments or Future Agenda Items

Bill McLeod, Executive Director of the Dupont Business Improvement District, gave an announcement.

Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board Agenda

Bell Wine & Liquor- Application for renewal of a Class "A" Retail Liquor Store License located at 1821 M Street NW (ABRA-095984) (2B05) (1 min)

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Press Club Cocktail Bar- Application for a new Retailer's Class "C" Tavern license at 1506 19th Street NW (ABRA-128025) (2B02)

Commissioner Rueckgauer moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Press Club Cocktail Bar, LLC trading as Press Club Cocktail Bar ("Press Club") has applied for a new Class "C" Tavern Alcoholic Beverage license (ABRA-128025) at 1506 19th Street NW, which is located in ANC 2B, Single Member District 2B02;

WHEREAS, Press Club's placard states the establishment has an interior occupancy of 40 persons with seating for 20; and

WHEREAS, Press Club's placard states they have applied for the following hours of operation:

Alcoholic Beverage Sales, Service, and Consumption, Inside the Premises

Sunday through Saturday – 11:00AM – 1:00AM

Alcoholic Beverage Sales, Service, and Consumption, Outside the Premises (with valid endorsement, Public Space permit by the District Department of Transportation (“DDOT”), and subject to conditions of Settlement Agreement)

Sunday through Saturday – 11:00AM – 1:00AM

WHEREAS, promoting and maintaining good relationships between residents and nightlife establishments is a responsibility and priority of ANC 2B;

WHEREAS, the placarded outside operating hours exceed ANC 2B’s guidelines of 11:00 PM Sundays through Thursdays, and 12:00 Midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. However, the 1500 block of 19th Street NW is commercial in nature and becomes deserted by 10:00PM. Supporting the requested hours may bring desirable activity that enlivens the area;

WHEREAS, ANC 2B reached out the Dupont Circle Citizens Association to learn if they had any concerns about the application but no response was received;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the application of Press Club Cocktail Lounge as placarded, pursuant to DDOT issuing a Public Space permit for outdoor use, and a Settlement Agreement that establishes the expected conduct of the business and relationship with the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B will file a pro forma protest of the application on the basis of Peace, Order, and Quiet, which will be withdrawn upon approval of the Settlement Agreement and Order by the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board.

Firetuned- Application for a new Medical Cannabis Retailer located at 1342 Connecticut Avenue NW (ABCA-128026) (2B05)

Commissioner Rueckgauer moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, DSB, LLC trading as Firetuned (“Firetuned”, “Applicant”) has applied for a new Medical Cannabis Retailer License (ABCA-128026) at 1341 Connecticut Avenue NW, which is located in ANC 2B, Single Member District 2B05;

WHEREAS, the nature of operation states the facility has approximately 1,500 square feet of space and will vend cannabis flowers, cannabis concentrates, and a line of edible products, an on-premises Safe Use Treatment facility, and home delivery services to registered patients in Washington DC; and

WHEREAS, Firetuned has applied for the following License Endorsements:

- Delivery

- Safe-Use Treatment Facility
- Cannabis Summer Garden

WHEREAS, Firtuned's placard states they have applied for the following hours of operation:

Hours of Operation for Retailer

Sunday – 11:00AM – 6:00PM

Monday through Friday – 10:00AM – 8:00PM

Saturday – 10:00AM – 9:00PM

Hours of Retailer Sales Open to the Public

Sunday – 11:00AM – 6:00PM

Monday through Friday – 10:00AM – 8:00PM

Saturday – 10:00AM – 9:00PM

Hours of Safe-Use Treatment Facility

Sunday – Saturday 12:00 Noon – 6:00PM

Hours of Cannabis Summer Garden

Sunday – Saturday 12:00 Noon – 6:00PM

WHEREAS, Firtuned currently operates a Cannabis Manufacturer at this same address and is in good standing;

WHEREAS, promoting and maintaining good relationships between residents and ABCA licensed establishments is a responsibility and priority of ANC 2B;

WHEREAS, Firtuned has agreed to enter into a Cannabis Settlement Agreement with ANC 2B governing the retail operation;

WHEREAS, ANC 2B has discussed the delivery service and is satisfied that it should not pose problems for the neighborhood, and that should delivery service increase such that it may impact traffic flow, Firtuned will work with ANC 2B and DDOT to arrive at an agreeable solution.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the Cannabis Retailer License application of Firetuned as placarded, pursuant a Cannabis Settlement Agreement that establishes the expected conduct of the business and relationship with the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B will file a pro forma protest of the application on the basis of Peace, Order, and Quiet, which will be withdrawn upon approval of the Cannabis Settlement Agreement and Order by the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board.

Nice Guys 2- Application for a new Medical Cannabis Retailer located at 1215 Connecticut Avenue NW (ABCA-127919) (2B05)

Commissioner Rueckgauer moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B Cannabis Resolution: Application by Power of Plants LLC for a Medical Cannabis Retailer License at 1215 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 4A (ABCA-127919)

WHEREAS, Power of Plants LLC trading as Mr. Nice Guys 2 (“Nice Guys 2”, “Applicant”) has applied for a new Medical Cannabis Retailer License (ABCA-127919) at 1215 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 4A, which is located in ANC 2B, Single Member District 2B05;

WHEREAS, the nature of operation states the facility has approximately 1,160 square feet of space and will vend cannabis flowers, cannabis concentrates, and a line of edible products, and home delivery services to registered patients in Washington DC; and

WHEREAS, Nice Guys 2 has applied for the following License Endorsements:

- Delivery

WHEREAS, Nice Guys 2’s placard states they have applied for the following hours of operation:

Hours of Operation for Retailer

Sunday through Saturday – 10:00AM – 9:00PM

Hours of Retailer Sales Open to the Public

Sunday through Saturday – 11:00AM – 8:00PM

WHEREAS, Nice Guys 2 has a location at 1470 Church Street NW in ANC 2F, Single Member District 2F03, which is operating with a Cannabis Settlement Agreement and is in good standing;

WHEREAS, promoting and maintaining good relationships between residents and ABCA licensed establishments is a responsibility and priority of ANC 2B;

WHEREAS, Nice Guys 2 has agreed to enter into a Cannabis Settlement Agreement with ANC 2B;

WHEREAS, ANC 2B has discussed the delivery service and is satisfied that it should not pose problems for the neighborhood, and that should delivery service increase such that it may impact traffic flow, Nice Guys 2 will work with ANC 2B and DDOT to arrive at an agreeable solution.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the Cannabis Retailer License application of Mr. Nice Guys 2 as placarded, pursuant a Cannabis

Settlement Agreement that establishes the expected conduct of the business and relationship with the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B will file a pro forma protest of the application on the basis of Peace, Order, and Quiet, which will be withdrawn upon approval of the Cannabis Settlement Agreement and Order by the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board.

Nero- Application for a new Retailer's Class "C" Tavern license at 1207 19th Street NW (ABRA-128597) (2B05)

Commissioner Rueckgauer moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Nero 1207, Inc. trading as Nero ("Nero") has applied for a new Class "C" Tavern Alcoholic Beverage license (ABRA-128597) at 1207 19th Street NW, which is located in ANC 2B, Single Member District 2B05;

WHEREAS, the nature of operation is stated as a restaurant and wine bar serving Italian cuisine;

WHEREAS, Nero's placard states the establishment has an interior occupancy of 180 persons with seating for 180 inside; the outside capacity is 50 persons with 45 seats;

WHEREAS, Nero has applied for the following License Endorsements:

- Entertainment with Dancing and Cover Charge inside the premises only.

- Sidewalk Café
- Carry-out and Delivery.
- Holiday Extension of Hours.

WHEREAS, Nero's placard states they have applied for the following hours of operation:

Inside the Premises

Sunday through Thursday – 8:00AM – 2:00AM

Friday and Saturday – 8:00AM – 3:00AM

Alcoholic Beverage Sales, Service, and Consumption, Inside the Premises

Sunday – 10:00AM – 2:00AM

Monday through Thursday – 11:00AM – 2:00AM

Friday – 11:00 AM – 3:00AM

Saturday – 10:00AM – 3:00AM

Outside the Premises (with valid endorsement, Public Space permit by the District Department of Transportation (“DDOT”), and subject to conditions of Settlement Agreement)

Sunday through Saturday – 8:00AM – 1:00AM

Alcoholic Beverage Sales, Service, and Consumption, Outside the Premises

Sunday – 10:00AM – 1:00AM

Monday through Friday – 11:00AM – 1:00AM

Saturday – 10:00AM – 1:00AM

Live Entertainment, Inside the Premises (with valid endorsement, subject to conditions of Settlement Agreement)

Sunday through Thursday – 12:00 Noon – 2:00AM

Friday and Saturday – 12:00 Noon – 3:00AM

Carry-Out and Delivery (with valid endorsement)

ABCA's standard hours, currently 6:00AM – 1:00AM daily

Extended Holiday Hours (with valid endorsement, subject to conditions of Settlement Agreement)

May sell and serve alcohol up to 4:00 a.m. and operate 24-hours on select days in conjunction with select District Government and federal holidays.

Hours of alcohol service are automatically extended for licensees during daylight saving changes.

WHEREAS, promoting and maintaining good relationships between residents and nightlife establishments is a responsibility and priority of ANC 2B;

WHEREAS, the placarded outside operating hours exceed ANC 2B's guidelines of 11:00PM Sundays through Thursdays, and 12:00 Midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. However, the 1200 block of 19th Street NW is commercial in nature and, historically, establishments in the vicinity have been allowed similar hours and not adversely affected the Peace, Order, and Quiet of the area;

WHEREAS, ANC 2B reached out to Commissioner Rebecca Strauss of ANC 2C (2C02) whose district is across M Street from the applicant's establishment. Commissioner Strauss did not express any objections to the requested outside hours;

WHEREAS, ANC 2B reached out to residents of the Jefferson Row condominium to learn if they have any concerns about the application but no response was received;

WHEREAS, ANC 2B reached out the Dupont Circle Citizens Association to learn if they had any concerns about the application but no response was received;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the application of Nero as placarded, pursuant to DDOT issuing a Public Space permit for outdoor use, and a

Settlement Agreement that establishes the expected conduct of the business and relationship with the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B will file a pro forma protest of the application on the basis of Peace, Order, and Quiet, which will be withdrawn upon approval of the Settlement Agreement and Order by the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board.

Chair Roggensack proposed an additional resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports Nero's request for a stipulated license as part of the establishment's application for a new Retailer's Class "C" Tavern license.

Public Space Committee Agenda

Public space application for New Sidewalk Cafe Un-Enclosed located at 1207 19th Street NW (DDOT-11067897) (2B05) (5 mins)

Commissioner Rueckgauer moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Nero 1207, Inc. trading as Nero (“Nero”, “Applicant”) has applied for use of a sidewalk café space at 1207 19th Street NW, which is located in ANC 2B, Single Member District 2B05;

WHEREAS, the sidewalk café space is extant and been used by predecessor establishments at this location;

WHEREAS, the Applicant has applied for an endorsement to its ABCA license permitting outdoor seating and serving, subject to approved hours of operation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports Public Space Permit Application #11067897 for a sidewalk café at 1207 19th Street NW.

Public space application has been filed for New Sidewalk Cafe Un-Enclosed located at 1641 R Street NW (DDOT-11074854) (2B03) (5 mins)

Chair Roggensack moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports Public Space Permit Application #11074854 for a sidewalk café at 1641 R St NW.

Public space application for New Sidewalk Cafe Un-Enclosed located at 1837 M Street NW (DDOT- 11071713) (2B05) (5 mins)

Chair Roggensack moved to withdraw the proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-1).

Land Use Agenda

1536 U Street NW- Historic designation application for Youth Pride, Inc. (HPRB- #TBD) (2B09) (10 mins)

Commissioner Davis moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-2-0). The resolution reads as follows:

The Center for Community Change Action and the D.C. Preservation League have applied to the Historic Preservation Review Board for historic designation of 1536 U Street NW, located in ANC district 2B09;

ANC 2B's Land Use Committee reviewed the application and heard a presentation by the applicant at its duly noticed monthly meeting held on June 4th, 2024;

The building was constructed in 1920 with a third floor added in 1930, and is a contributing structure in the Sixteenth Street Historic District;

The applicant is nominating the property for local designation under criterion A for its association "with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history";

From 1968 to 1981 the building was the headquarters of Pride Inc., an organization that provided job training, self-help, and business development programs for Black youth. It was central to Marion Barry's rise to mayor, inspiration for his signature Summer Youth Employment Program and Mayor's Youth Leadership Program, and more broadly an important facet of the Black Power Movement in DC.

Therefore, ANC 2B supports the nomination and agrees that the building qualifies for local historic designation under criterion A.

General Agenda

Consideration of a resolution regarding WMATA's proposed 2025 Better Bus Network (5 mins)

Commissioner Rueckgauer moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Commissioner Johnson moved to adopt an amendment to the proposed resolution by adding "and incorporate Circulator service into WMATA regular bus service at the same frequency and span levels as currently exist." Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion for the amendment, which was voted on and passed (6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, in 2023, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority (WMATA) released the Better Bus Visionary Network service transformation plan, followed by a Revised Visionary Network plan; representing the most ambitious update of bus service in the District and the region in over a century;

WHEREAS, unfavorable financial conditions affecting WMATA and the supporting jurisdictions in Fiscal Year 2025 and the foreseeable future, compelled a substantial

scaling-back of the Visionary Network to a what can be accomplished with current resources, resulting in the May 2024, Proposed 2025 Better Bus Network;

WHEREAS, ABC 2B's June Mobility Committee held a public discussion of the Proposed 2025 Better Bus Network and its potential effects on the Dupont Circle area;

WHEREAS, Dupont Circle is a major activity center with substantial destinations for business, domestic and international tourism, hospitality; art, dining, nightlife, and depends heavily upon the availability of Metrorail and Metrobus service;

WHEREAS, for almost 50 years, Dupont Circle provides a convenient, heavily utilized transfer between Metrobus routes and the Red Line, serving thousands of people every day including many who don't live near Metrorail;

WHEREAS, the proposed plan replaces all existing routes with new ones that preserve some aspects of current service patterns but shorten routes, alter destinations, reconfigure or eliminate existing service, in order to achieve more frequent service system wide;

WHEREAS, while many "long" routes traversing downtown have been shortened to reduce the all-too-common delays from traffic and the resulting "bunching" of buses, some of those eliminations (42/43 to Kennedy Center, D6 to Metro Center/Cap Hill; G2 Georgetown-Howard University) adversely impact many residents and visitors alike;

WHEREAS, eliminating one seat service between Dupont and Kennedy Center (current 42/43), and Metro Center and Capitol Hill (current D6), is inconsistent with the District's plans for increasing activity in Downtown DC. Transfers, even if from one high-frequency route to another, is objectionable among seniors, those with young children, or having mobility issues;

WHEREAS, the proposed replacements serving Connecticut Avenue, Adams Morgan, Mount Pleasant, Columbia Heights, result in too much weekday service in the short stretch between Dupont Circle and Farragut;

WHEREAS, the proposed replacement of Massachusetts Avenue (N2/N4/N6) service west of Dupont may be a wash along Mass, it will create a transit desert in far northwest DC in the Western Avenue vicinity that isn't merely "a slightly longer walk" to a new route;

WHEREAS, the proposed addition of Massachusetts Avenue service east of Dupont to the Convention Center has potential but that stretch of Mass is frequently congested between 17th Street, Scott Circle, 15th Street, Thomas Circle, Mount Vernon Square and the intersection of Mass and New York. There is skepticism whether the eastern section will be able to meet frequency and travel time expectations;

WHEREAS, the proposed plan eliminates the only direct transit connection between Howard University and Central Dupont Circle (the current G2 route), leaving only a route

stopping at 18th & U Streets NW or continuing to Woodley Park and transferring to the Red Line;

WHEREAS, the proposed plan does not include an urgently needed (and long promised by DDOT) direct connection between Dupont and the U Street corridor. Such a route was in the Visionary Network (but as a 30-minute service). Such a route has been identified as critical for transit equity for lower-income residents in the U Street corridor, economic sustainability of the commercial and nightlife centers along the route, and success of the U Street Bus Priority project through reducing the number of private cars on the street;

WHEREAS, there is skepticism that the D74 (Farragut-RI Ave Metro) will be able to meet frequency and travel time expectations because of its long route through multiple heavily congested areas;

WHEREAS, changes to 14th Street routes will likely result in a considerable service reduction;

WHEREAS, most routes serving Dupont cease operating at midnight with only the Connecticut Avenue line running until 2AM. This discourages workers and patrons from using transit to the many nightlife offerings in and near Dupont, U Street, or Downtown, resulting in people driving or taking costly for-hire conveyances. There also is no overnight route serving Central Dupont; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to development of the proposed plan, the District announced that DC Circulator service will be eliminated in the spring of 2025, potentially forcing that those who have come to depend on Circulator to resort to costly automobile conveyance; and

WHEREAS, the 1500 block of Connecticut Ave NW between Q St and Dupont Circle will be transformed into a shared-street plaza, with construction expected to commence later in 2024 and taking approximately 27 months. When completed, there may be reduced capacity in that block which could affect bus service; and

WHEREAS, while the route identification scheme makes sense to planners and those who are particularly savvy about the system, it doesn't convey to the general public "at a glance" recognition of which route will take them where they want to go.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B generally supports WMATA's Proposed 2025 Better Bus Network;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B offers these recommendations for the 2025 Better Bus Network:

- Implement a Dupont-U Street-LeDroit-Howard U route with headways of 10-15 minutes. This can be the route from the Visionary Network; or implement the proposed extension of the Georgetown Circulator

- Consider changes to the Connecticut Avenue routes between Dupont and Farragut to not “over serve” that segment.
- Consider one-seat daytime “Mall Museum and Monument” service serving Dupont and key stops in the monument and tourism core, Capitol Hill.
- Consider a “Late Last Run” on the Connecticut Avenue line departing the termini 30 minutes after bar closing time so nightlife patrons and workers can get home on transit; or, add Connecticut Avenue to the 24 hour network to eliminate the gap between 16th Street and Wisconsin Avenue.
- Work with DDOT to ensure adequate capacity on Connecticut Avenue at Dupont Circle.
- Conduct more public outreach regarding more relevant route naming, especially for visitors and occasional users. Consider carrying-over as many existing route names as possible for launch of Better Bus if a final naming convention has not been selected.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that WMATA work with DDOT to sustain Circulator service without interruption of service, and incorporate Circulator service into WMATA regular bus service at the same frequency and span levels as currently exist.

Approval of the ANC’s May Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the ANC’s regular May 2024 meeting minutes. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Adjournment

Chair Roggensack adjourned the meeting at 9:07 pm.