

Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

April 2023 Meeting Minutes

DATE: April 18, 2023

ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioner Michael Shankle, Commissioner Kristin Roe, Commissioner Rebecca Strauss, and Commissioner Thomas Lee

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Shankle called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm over Zoom (available at <https://www.anc2c.us/video-recordings>).
2. **ROLL CALL:**
3. **INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS:** Commissioner Shankle introduced himself along with Commissioners Roe, Strauss, and Lee.
4. **QUORUM:** A quorum of four commissioners was present.
5. **OPENING REMARKS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Shankle reviewed the agenda (available at www.anc2c.us). Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the April 2023 agenda, seconded by Shankle. (Vote 4-0-0)
6. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Commissioner Lee spoke of the need to obtain access to the March 2023 statements from PNC Bank. Lee stated that the bank balance stands at roughly \$66,000.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **MPD 2nd District Crime and Community Awareness**
Lieutenant Sylvester Garvin, Sylvester.garvin@dc.gov

Lieutenant Garvin reported an 11% decrease in violent crime over the past 30-day period, and an 18% increase in property crime. Garvin spoke of a gun brandishing event in which an arrest warrant has been issued. There were burglaries in the 1100 and 1500 blocks of Connecticut Avenue, and an armed robbery at a 7-11. Garvin said there have been nine, gun recoveries.

Commissioner Strauss asked about trends with the 7-11 robbery and what is being done to counter carjackings.

2. **MPD 1st District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Justin Roth, justin.roth@dc.gov, 202 729-2179**

Captain Roth touched upon a shooting as well as a robbery that occurred in Chinatown. Roth said the Pat Handy Shelter is either closed or will be closing shortly. Roth spoke of a heavy presence across multiple law enforcement agencies working the area, and of the cooperation that is ongoing between them.

Commissioner Shankle spoke of the high numbers of individuals congregating in the area and open sales of what he assumes are illicit items. He questioned if a police presence at the Metro stop would be more productive than across the street. Captain Roth said that violent crime has gone down 90% since the stationing of a police cruiser. Commissioner Lee asked about whether charges are being filed or not being filed against those committing crimes. Mr. Marks inquired about an incident that he witnessed some 90 minutes prior to tonight's meeting and asked about laundry detergent being used as a form of currency on the streets. Captain Roth said these items are frequently stolen and then sold on the street. He was unaware of the particulars on recent incident that was cited.

3. 2024 Mayor's Budget, Deputy Mayor for the District of Columbia Health and Human Services and Director, District of Columbia Department of Health Care Finance.

A quick overview of the mayor's budget was provided. Because of federal money being brought forward significant funds were available to go into affordable housing, rental assistance, while businesses received grant money. Money was put forward in countering gun violence, and towards supporting area schools.

The budget deficit was discussed, along with funding at the pre-pandemic level. In the 2024 overview, it was stated that there is a \$19.78 billion gross funds budget, and the largest part of the budget goes to human support services. The fiscal year 2024-2029 capital budget is decreased by \$598 million from last year's approved CIP.

There are a number of major capital investments in education, the majority of which are in renovations. There are also major allocations in transportation safety and mobility, including redesigns of the most problematic and dangerous roadways. There is a massive effort to expand and improve public housing in the District.

Commissioner Shankle asked if the budgeted numbers for health and human services are sufficient. The deputy mayor responded that the District of Columbia likely spends more on housing than any other large city in the nation. The pandemic caused a lot of challenges that are still ongoing. He stated that the resources are fine, but the challenge is in operations. A question was raised regarding housing vouchers. The deputy mayor stated that a primary issue is in getting enough housing units in place, as well as securing enough case managers.

A question was raised about measuring the effectiveness of programs. The questioner also commented upon automated traffic management controls and stated that they are too focused on cars when pedestrians and other types of vehicles are also behaving in dangerous fashion.

A question was raised by Father De Rosa regarding the length of time that homeless men remain on the streets, and if the company whose shoddy work delayed the construction of the new shelter is being held accountable. The deputy mayor stated that he believes the contractor who did the substandard work is being confronted. He promised to investigate this matter and submit an email response.

The deputy mayor said the decision to move homeless from one shelter to another is made by DHS and the director's team. Commissioner Shankle said this has been a tremendously challenging issue for Chinatown and that DHS has been less than transparent. Shankle stated that residents of the community were blindsided by a building that was deemed uninhabitable for women, but suddenly becoming a place to house homeless men. The deputy mayor said that the best approach in instances where the DHS response is felt unsatisfactory is to call or email him directly.

Another questioner stated that DHS has been dishonest with the community and postulated that DHS has inadequate staffing, and if the budget allow for adequate staffing? The deputy mayor said that regardless of the size of any staff, there is no room for dishonesty. He did note that the work patterns of these workers have changed dramatically since the pandemic and that there are many vacancies in critical roles, but it should not impact the ability of staff to speak with veracity.

A resident asked why top management has not been replaced at DHS given the perception of them as being less than transparent. The individual also asked about unspent funds and partnering with organizations such as Bread for the City. The deputy mayor stated that the city already contracts with a number of community service organizations across a range of services. Additionally, said the deputy mayor, monies may be made available for more staff, but then it becomes difficult to find and hire prospective individuals to come aboard. Regarding the first question, the deputy mayor underscored that if the mayor becomes aware of a governmental organization that is not working transparently, then action will be taken.

4. Office of Mayor's Office Ward 2 Mayor's Liaisons – Christopher Powell, Ward 2 Liaison, Christopher.powell2@dc.gov, 202 805-7122

Nothing further to report.

5. Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto, bpinto@dccouncil.us, 202 724-8058, Pablo Velasco Rodriguez,

**Constituent Services Coordinator, pvelascorodriguez@dccouncil.gov,
202 724-8058**

Mr. Rodriguez spoke of funding for the Thomson Elementary School playground renovation, Farragut Park extension, street, alley, sidewalk repairs and repaving, as well as Councilmember Pinto's concerns with budgetary cuts to the Department of Behavioral Health Community Response teams. Councilmember Pinto's top concerns remains public safety, and the downtown recovery. The councilmember introduced a bill to replace lead water pipes by 2030 at no cost to homeowners. Graffiti removal requests are now being taken.

Commissioner Shankle expressed his thanks to the councilmember for her continued support for the Circulator bus, and underscored the importance of revitalizing downtown. He expressed concern over the potential shutting down of Seventh Street to buses and bicycles only, saying that extensive community engagement and feedback is crucial before any such actions are taken.

6. Office of Chairman Phil Mendelson. Declan Falls Community Outreach Specialist, dfalls@dccouncil.gov, 202.724.8158

There was no one in attendance to present.

LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY

1. 2023 National Veteran's Day Parade, Sunday, November 12, 2023. Francis Ventura, Executive Director, National Veteran's Day Parade Foundation, fventura@globalema.com.

Mr. Ventura stated that a site plan has been submitted for this first of its kind parade, taking place along Constitution Avenue between 7th and 14th streets. Street closures will be in effect from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. Twenty-two dump trucks are slated to block intersections. Veteran suicide prevention is a key topic, as is homelessness. Veteran's groups will march in the parade, along with bands. Mr. Ventura referenced food, hotel and other sectors that will generate business from this parade.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the National Veteran's Day Parade. Seconded by Lee. (Vote 4-0-0)

2. BuildWithin, 4–6-week IT training for DC Residents. Lee Manley III, Apprentice Coordinator, lee@buildwithin.com.

No one was available to present.

3. Lyft Scooter Education Program. Leah Fantle, Community Educator, Lyft Scooter, leah@upshiftdc.com, 425 463-5052

Ms. Fantle spoke of the Lyft Scooter Education Program and its mission of teaching scooter safety. She talked about a new fleet of scooters in Washington, offering bigger lights and tires, in addition to turn signals. Fantle underscored the importance of riders not driving on sidewalks. She talked too about the practice of uploading a photo at the conclusion of a ride, showing that the scooter is in an appropriate location and not haphazardly situated in lawns, sidewalks, etc.

Commissioner Shankle inquired as to the location of these scooter trainings. Ms. Fantle said that they take place at community events, such as festivals, and a one-hour training course along K Street N.W. conducted once a month. Shankle said that scooters continue blocking sidewalks and are attached to things which they should not. He said almost no one rides these scooters in designated bike lanes, but rather atop city sidewalks. Shankle said technology must be devised to prevent riding on sidewalks. Fantle referenced a GPS tool that governs where scooters can be driven.

A comment was made as to the problems these scooters cause for motorized wheelchair users. Anthony Mitchell, senior policy analyst at Lyft, spoke of real time indicators of its scooter fleet in which units that are parked illegally will be identified. Citizens can call 311 to report scooters in violation. Additionally, via the photos that are uploaded at the conclusion of trips, users will be fined if their scooters are attached to inappropriate things.

Commissioner Shankle challenged Mitchell to produce metrics on violations, stating that it is his assumption that these numbers do not exist. Shankle also said that VDOT and DC government have too much of an existing burden to now be asked to regulate these scooters. Commissioner Roe spoke of the dangers in having multiple people on individual scooters and suggested that Lyft scooter trainings might occur at hotels owing to the number of tourists using this mode of transportation.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSING (ABRA)

- 1. Parlour Victoria/Lucha Rosa, Alice RE Holdings LLC & Atlas Hospitality Group LLC Ten Ten, Inc., 1011 K Street, NW, Substantial Change to License (ABRA – 119917). Matthew Minora, Associate Attorney, Mallios O'Brien & Sandground PLLC, mminora@malliosobriend.com, 202 625-7700**

Attorney Minora spoke of the restaurant seeking an increase in interior occupancy, currently at 240, expanding to 399 allowable capacity.

Commissioner Shankle asked as to the number of floors of the establishment. Minora replied that the ABC license applies to the first two floors and rooftop. Ms. Roe inquired about the origin of the numbers and if they were fire code related.

MOTION: Roe motioned to send a letter of support for Parlour Victoria ABRA certificate of occupancy. Seconded by Shankle. (Vote 4-0-0)

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for Parlour Victoria, stipulated license. Seconded by Lee. (Vote 4-0-0)

2. **Flora Pizzeria, PlumaDC, LLC, 1825-1875 I Street NW, Space #14 (ABRA 124062), New Retailer’s Class “D” Restaurant License. Matthew Minora, Associate Attorney, Mallios O’Brien & Sandground PLLC, mminor@malliosobriend.com, 202 625-7700**

Attorney Minora stated this request is for one of the vendors in the International Square Food Hall. There is no stated capacity with this establishment as it shares in the overall communal seating. A holiday extension of hours and alcohol carryout and delivery endorsements are being sought.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for Flora Pizzeria ABRA certificate of occupancy. Seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

3. **TWB DC Chinatown, LLC, Tom’s Watch Bar, 781 7th St. NW (ABRA 119403) – Substantial Change to License. Andrew Kline, Esq., The Veritas Law Firm, akline@theveritaslawfirm.com, 202 686-7600**

A resident reported difficulties in communicating with the establishment owners.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of protest for Tom’s Watch Bar and its request for an entertainment endorsement. Seconded by Roe. (Vote 4-0-0)

4. **Five Iron Golf DC. 575 7th Street NW, (ABRA 117509) – Substantial Change to License. Andre Barlow, Esq., Doyle, Barlow & Mazard.**

Attorney Barlow described Five Iron as a new, urban way of experiencing golf. He is seeking a change in the technical aspect of the license from a CR to CT. Food sales are not meeting the percentage needed to justify a CR license.

Commissioner Roe asked about the presence of residential neighbors. Barlow stated that he was unsure, however, he underscored that this is a golf setting, and not a nightclub.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for Five Iron Golf DC, substantial change from Class “C Restaurant” to Class “C Tavern.” Seconded by Roe. (Vote 4-0-0)

TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC SPACE

2. 639 Indiana Avenue, NW, Penn Quarter Sports Tavern, Streeery Continuation, (DDOT: PA 10816102). Mike Brand, 202 276-8885

Mr. Brand spoke of the establishment being on a one-way street. What helped save the tavern, upon reopening during the pandemic, was the streeery.

Commissioners Shankle and Strauss asked about the use of fencing. Commissioner Lee stated that the establishment adds vitality to the area and offers a safety component.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for Penn Quarter Sports Tavern and the extension of its sidewalk cafe. Seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

3. 801 17th Street NW, Penthouse extension

The addition of a small, habitable penthouse is being sought. It lies within the White House security area in which the Secret Service must conduct a review. Secret Service has been on the roof and found no concerns.

Shankle stated that this is a straightforward request. He inquired if there was an existing template letter for the ANC to use.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for 801 17th Street NW new penthouse. Seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Commissioner Lee presented the ANC 2C Quarterly Financial Report FY23 Q1.

MOTION: Lee motioned to approve the fiscal year 2023, quarter 1, Quarterly Financial Report. Seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0). The fiscal year 2023, quarter 1, Quarterly Financial Report has been approved.

The ANC 2C Quarterly Financial Report, FY23 Q2 was outlined by Commissioner Lee.

MOTION: Lee motioned to approve the fiscal year 2023, quarter 2, Quarterly Financial Report. Seconded by Shankle. (Vote 4-0-0). The fiscal year 2023, quarter 1, Quarterly Financial Report has been approved.

Commissioner Roe inquired about the processes for allotments.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business.

ADJOURNMENT: Shankle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm, seconded by Roe.

Minutes Submitted by: Minutes Services

Minutes Approved by:

Next Meeting: May 9, 2023, 6:00 pm

ANC Commissioners and Website

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Meetings are scheduled for the Second Tuesday of each month.