

# Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

Community Meeting

**August 13, 2024, 6:00 p.m. Meeting Minutes**

**DATE:** August 13, 2024

**ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Commissioner Michael Shankle, Commissioner Rebecca Strauss, Commissioner Thomas Lee

**ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Commissioner Shankle called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm over Zoom ([2024 August 13 ANC 2C Community Meeting \(youtube.com\)](#)).

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Three out of the three commissioners were present.

**3. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS:**

The commissioners introduced themselves.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**MOTION:** Shankle motioned to approve the agenda as amended to reflect a substitute representative from the BID as well as the cancelling of the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Strauss. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

**5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Strauss motioned to approve the May and July 2024 meeting minutes. Seconded by Lee. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

**1. TREASURER REPORT:**

The formal Treasurer's Report has been postponed. Shankle introduced a budgetary issue associated with the organization's Internet service, whereby the web professional handling the ANC-2C account has been paying the Internet cost out of pocket for several years, for a total of \$1733.04. The invoice will be forwarded to Lee.

**MOTION:** Shankle motioned to approve moving \$1733.04 from reserves into the Internet line item on the budget to pay for the reimbursement. Seconded by Lee. Approved unanimously. (Vote 3-0-0)

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**1. MPD 2nd District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Sharde Harris, [sharde.harris@dc.gov](mailto:sharde.harris@dc.gov), 202.821.8414, Sargent Philip Robinson, or Lieutenant Sylvester Garvin, [Sylvester.garvin@dc.gov](mailto:Sylvester.garvin@dc.gov), 202.774.6866**

Lieutenant Garvin spoke of two individuals who entered into an altercation, whereby one of them attacked the other with a brick. The suspect was arrested a few blocks away.

An attempted purse snatching occurred on the 1300 block of G Street. The case is still being investigated.

A burglary took place in the 1000 block of F Street.

Special police attention is being given to the Lululemon store, a franchise that has been hard hit by crime all along the East Coast. As a result of this special attention by MPD, there has only been one reported theft at this store in the past 30 days. The store has hired private security, but they do not have arrest authority. Shankel asked Garvin if this is typically the case with private security. Garvin replied that some private security guards do have arrest authority. It is also dependent upon store policy.

Drug-free zones are being started again, beginning tomorrow and concluding on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Shankle asked if there had been a pause in enforcing these zones. Garvin replied that these drug-free zones are being set up in different locations.

Since the beginning of 2024, there have been 192 illegal weapon recoveries.

Contractor trucks are being broken into, and valuable equipment/tools are being stolen. The police advise contractors to lock and keep an eye on their vehicles.

A member of the public asked Garvin about two disruptive individuals camping outside of the Wawa store at Thomas Circle. Garvin stated that he would have an officer investigate this matter. Ms. Johnson, representing the BID, stated that these two individuals have been at this location on and off since around the time of the Pride Parade. Shankle noted a similar situation outside of the MLK Library. Ms. Johnson said that she would investigate this matter as well.

**2. MPD 1st District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Paul Hrebenak, [Paul.Hrebenak@dc.gov](mailto:Paul.Hrebenak@dc.gov), 202-729-2179 or Lieutenant Jeremy Kniseley, [jeremy.kniseley@dc.gov](mailto:jeremy.kniseley@dc.gov), 202.839.1357.**

Lieutenant Alali spoke of declining crime statistics, including violent crime, which has undergone a 64 percent decrease, while property crime is down 35 percent. Alali referenced numerous arrests having taken place within 1000 feet of Gallery Place Metro. He stated that "Arrests are outpacing crimes."

Lee asked about a woman who was attacked at D and 8<sup>th</sup> streets, saying it was reported in the news that it took an hour for MPD to respond. Alali pointed out that 911 calls go not to MPD but rather to an autonomous agency that is suffering severe staffing shortages. The response depends upon how emergencies and crimes are being prioritized at any given time. Alali said that he would inquire as to the status of this case and get back to Lee with any details.

A resident applauded Alali for the improved crime statistics. The individual asked if MPD still conducts traffic control. Alali replied yes, especially at the most troublesome intersections. The resident also related a couple of examples whereby cars have been traveling at high speeds through an intersection (5<sup>th</sup> and E streets NW) and red lights, narrowly missing himself and his wife. He asked if video footage might be available. Alali said that he would investigate this matter. Alali suggested calling 911 in such instances.

A resident inquired about cooperation between MPD and Metro Police. The resident also noted that drug-free zones, while they are in operation, are “very successful” and asked if the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metro stop could be made a permanent drug-free zone. Alali said the DC code only allows for five-day periods of these zones. Alali referenced the unique roles of each law enforcement entity and said MPD responsibility begins a few feet from Metro elevators, but yes, there is coordination between the two departments.

A resident asked about the incident at 8<sup>th</sup> and D streets NW and expressed her desire to receive more information on this matter. Alali suggested monitoring X (Twitter) and other platforms. The woman provided her email address.

**3. Office of Mayor's Office Ward 2 Mayor's Liaisons – Christopher Powell, Ward 2 Liaison, [christopher.powell2@dc.gov](mailto:christopher.powell2@dc.gov), 202.805.7122 and Grace Reeder, Ward 2 Liaison Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), [grace.reeder@dc.gov](mailto:grace.reeder@dc.gov).**

A representative from the Office of the Mayor, Ward 2 manager Tadaï Abilla, introduced herself and the Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS). She spoke of the Safety Hub and encouraged residents to visit the hub and share any concerns that they may have. Abilla talked about a 311 app, saying that it is a good starting point with which to address issues.

Abilla spoke of Restaurant Week and other upcoming promotions, such as Jazz in the Park.

Abilla talked about public safety as being a priority of the mayor’s office, along with the revitalization of downtown. She spoke of education and resources that are available for parents.

Shankle asked Abilla about the mayor and council not finishing the deal on the Capital One Arena. Abilla stated that she does not have enough information with which to provide an update. Shankle underscored that he does not want to be back in the same position as earlier in

the year, whereby there is a tug-of-war between DC and Virginia over the sports teams. Abilla said that she would get back to Shankle on this matter.

Lee asked about food trucks along the National Mall and who oversees these businesses. Abilla said the city ensures that these trucks are licensed. Lee noted that people complain about the lack of transparency in prices at these trucks. Abilla took note of this issue.

A resident spoke of the Service Center and problems with rodents at H and 8<sup>th</sup> streets. The resident went in to report this issue to the Service Center, saying it was resolved in 48 hours. He complained that the entrance to the Service Center is poorly marked.

A resident complained that the Service Center is not ADA-compliant.

A resident spoke of the revitalization of downtown and the “pomp and circumstance” that went into the arena, etc. He asked how a resident can get information on revitalization milestones as they occur.

**4. Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto -- Brooke Pinto Councilmember, Ward 2, [bpinto@dccouncil.us](mailto:bpinto@dccouncil.us), 202-724-8058, Maddy White, [mwhite@dccouncil.gov](mailto:mwhite@dccouncil.gov), Brian Romanowski, Constituent Services Director, [bromanowski@dccouncil.us](mailto:bromanowski@dccouncil.us), 202-285-9195.**

Maddy White noted that the council is in recess through September 15, though residents are still encouraged to reach out with any needs or concerns. White referenced two letters that Councilmember Pinto has put out to the public, one of which was sent to social media companies regarding what is said to be social media services being partly to blame for driving up gun violence. In the letter, Pinto asks what these companies are doing to combat this problem, urging them to do more and offering her help in doing so.

The second letter was to the WMATA regarding Circulator bus routes and their importance to the community.

White applauded the work of BID and the Chinatown Task Force. She spoke of efforts to turn vacant office space into residences, saying it improves the resiliency of downtown. Ten properties are ongoing in this transition.

White talked about medical cannabis legislation. The bill went through markup and passed out of committee. She spoke of the protest process and encouraged people to give their feedback. Shankle raised the issue of unlicensed medical marijuana businesses and the lack of enforcement in closing these establishments, saying that they are harmful to the profitability of those businesses that are operating legally. White underscored that the council member is aware of this issue and is working to address it.

A resident talked about the value of drug-free zones and spoke of having sent letters to the council members about this program. White agreed that these zones are effective.

A resident asked if ANC-2C is the only ANC that is primarily zoned commercial, saying that residents feel like they are an afterthought in area decision-making.

A resident questioned the supposed success of drug-free zones, calling them stopgap measures. White said she would deliver this message to the council member.

**5. DowntownDC BID, Lukas Umana, Director of Public Space Operations, [lukas@downtowndc.org](mailto:lukas@downtowndc.org), 202.270.0366.**

Elloise Johnson, filling in for Lukas Umana, talked about a new safety team, saying it has been in existence for four months. She spoke of the various technologies that are being used.

Johnson said the safety team is going around the Chinatown area, engaging with stakeholders. She referenced the rodent issue mentioned earlier as being an example where the team has been expedient in solving problems. She also referenced stickers, posters, and graffiti removal efforts that have been successful. This includes stickers and the like that came about via the recent Gaza protests. Johnson talked about garbage collection that has been conducted and flowerpots that have been installed.

A resident spoke of weeds growing in a particular tree box. Johnson said it would be addressed tomorrow. The resident talked as well about an individual living on the street who has a difficult time communicating, and the fact that nothing can be done for this person. Johnson underscored that outreach has taken place with this individual.

#### **LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY**

**1. Indonesian Festival, Sunday, August 25, 2024 (with load-in on the evening of Friday, August 23, and Saturday, August 24). Pennsylvania Avenue NW between 3rd & 7th Streets, NW. Jewel Hanson, [hpeventsdc@gmail.com](mailto:hpeventsdc@gmail.com), 703.307.2734.**

Jewel Hanson talked about the load-in time, early Saturday morning. She spoke of the many entertainers and vendors that will be on hand from Indonesia. A site plan was displayed, showing the layout of the event, including a stage for performances.

**MOTION:** Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the Indonesia Festival. Seconded by Strauss. The motion was approved. (Vote 3-0-0)

**2. More than Pink Walk, Sunday, September 8, 2024, benefiting the Susan G. Komen Foundation (Freedom Plaza and Pennsylvania Avenue, between 12th & 14th Streets, NW). Lisa Brooks, Director, [lbrooks@eventage.net](mailto:lbrooks@eventage.net), 973.996.1910.**

Lisa Brooks noted the date for the walk as being September 8 as opposed to the 18<sup>th</sup>, as shown in the agenda.

Brooks said load-in will begin in the Freedom Plaza area around midnight, at which time Pennsylvania Avenue will be closed. Walkers should be done around 10:30 a.m., and the streets should be opened by 3 p.m. on Sunday.

**MOTION:** Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the More than Pink Walk on Sunday, September 8. Seconded by Strauss. The motion was approved. (Vote 2-0-0) (Commissioner Lee briefly lost his Internet connection and was unable to vote)

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Shankle motioned to Adjourn at 8:37 pm. Seconded by Strauss. (Vote 3-0-0)

**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 10, 2024, 6 p.m.**

**Minutes Submitted by:** Minutes Services

**Minutes Approved by:** Commission on 9.10.2024

**Next Meeting:**

Meetings will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month throughout 2024.

ANC Commissioners and Website

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