

Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

December 2023 Meeting Minutes

DATE: December 12, 2023

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

ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Rebecca Strauss

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Shankle called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm over Zoom ([2023 December 12 ANC 2C Community Meeting \(youtube.com\)](#)).
2. **ROLL CALL:** Three out of the four commissioners were present.
3. **INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS:** The commissioners introduced themselves.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

MOTION: Roe motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by Shankle. (Vote 3-0-0)

5. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

The approval of the November meeting minutes will occur at the January meeting.

6. **TREASURER REPORT:**

Commissioner Lee reported that the Quarter 3 report had to be revised as no expenditures were reported. Quarter 3 began with \$70,858.44 and ended with \$70,858.44. Quarter 4 saw \$3250 in expenditures for minutes and \$50 for the ANC Security Fund, leaving a total balance of \$64,258.44. Lee stated that the FY24 allotment will be arriving shortly.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to approve the Quarter 4, FY23 Financial Report. Seconded by Roe. (Vote 3-0-0)

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. MPD 2nd District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Sharde Harris, shared.harris@dc.gov, 202.821.8414 or Lieutenant Sylvester Garvin, Sylvester.garvin@dc.gov, 202.774.6866

Sergeant Robinson reported that he was standing in on behalf of Lieutenant Garvin. He reported that there have been two assaults with dangerous weapons, in addition to three robberies, but with zero reported residential or retail burglaries.

Auto thefts are up from the previous month, though five of the six vehicles were later found. Sergeant Robinson spoke of using anti-theft measures such as steering wheel locks. He talked about a special effort underway by the police whereby the vehicles of those attending Capital One Arena events are being closely monitored to prevent theft.

Additionally, two individuals have been arrested for stealing from stores, and both people are said to account for most of this criminal activity. The department has a special unit working to counter retail theft. Sergeant Robinson also noted that bicycle theft has been on the increase.

Commissioner Shankle said that auto thefts appear to be on an upward trend. Commissioner Lee asked if air tags have been helpful in recovering stolen vehicles, to which Sergeant Robinson replied that they are. Commissioner Lee also asked if the steering wheel locks were free. Sergeant Robinson confirmed that they are and are available at police stations provided that the owner's vehicles are Hyundai or Kia.

2. MPD 1st District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Sherrelle Williams, sherrelle.williams@dc.gov, 202-729-2179 or Lieutenant Jeremy Kniseley, jeremy.kniseley@dc.gov, 202.839.1357.

Lieutenant Kniseley reported that crime has been flat over the past 30 days, though auto theft is up. Robberies went up from three to five, though two of the five stem from one individual, a juvenile who has since been arrested. A felonious stabbing occurred in Chinatown that was part of an auto theft attempt. Metro Police made an apprehension in this case.

Commissioner Shankle asked about people with mental health issues committing crimes and if they're prosecuted at the same levels as those who are not identified with such disorders. Lieutenant Kniseley said it depends upon the infraction being committed. The criminal justice system can be used to force people to get help. Shankle also talked about a targeted police presence in the area this past August and if this will be conducted again. Lieutenant Kniseley reported that the police are seeing more property crime as opposed to violent crime, which may be a result of the August effort. Lieutenant Kniseley referenced one reported stabbing that may have been an outlier, as misdemeanor crimes seem to constitute the largest number of complaints today over that of violent crime.

Commissioner Lee spoke of a merchant-led WhatsApp group whereby owners and staff are talking with one another about shoplifters and the like. Lieutenant Kniseley said that he was unfamiliar with this WhatsApp group, but he talked about a retail enforcement plan that is being undertaken.

3. Office of Mayor's Office Ward 2 Mayor's Liaisons – Christopher Powell, Ward 2 Liaison, 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.

Grace Reeder talked about the importance of residents preparing their homes for winter. She spoke about the District's snow team, comprised of 800 individuals from across the government along with more than 250 snow plows. Ms. Reeder talked about leaf collection and a second round of collection that is upcoming. She also stated that Covid test kits are being distributed at libraries, in addition to warming blankets.

Ms. Reeder spoke of the Safe Commercial Corridors Grant. She talked about the Food Access Fund that has raised access to grocery stores and restaurants for residents, specifically in Wards 7&8. She mentioned DMV Black Restaurant Week, in which small businesses in the District were celebrated.

Ms. Reeder addressed a new Realtime Crime Center (RTTC), staffed 24-7 by local, regional, and federal law enforcement. It will improve efficiency in countering crime. She talked about commissioners and residents participating in community walks with the mayor on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Commissioner Shankle asked about the Safe Commercial Corridors Grant and who is eligible to apply. Ms. Reeder replied that she would get back to him on this matter. Mr. Shankle noted that this provides an opportunity for businesses to create a communications network potentially.

Mr. Shankle inquired about plans for a holding center on New York Avenue and if it is moving forward. Ms. Reeder said that she would put him in touch with agency partners who can answer these questions.

Commissioner Shankle said a major concern for the community is the homeless population living under the MLK Library. He wonders about the new fiscal year and if monies are available to house these individuals as it remains a growing population, with increased public health concerns. Ms. Reeder said that she would get the information back to him.

Commissioner Shankle talked about the Capital One Arena story and its prospective move to Virginia. Mr. Shankle underscored that this would be highly detrimental to the community in terms of loss of business. He noted the destruction of large segments of Chinatown that occurred when the arena was originally built. Mr. Shankle stressed the importance of keeping the arena and its sports teams as the centerpiece of Chinatown. Ms. Reeder provided a recap of the actions ongoing in trying to move the Wizards and Capitals to Virginia.

Commissioner Lee talked about the importance of keeping Monumental Sports in the city and lamented the \$600 million being asked of the city to keep the teams here. He stressed that reforms are necessary so that the teams, if they should stay in D.C., do not later move

elsewhere, citing, once again, crime, homelessness, etc. Ms. Reeder talked about the mayor's office being focused on keeping the teams in D.C.

Commissioner Shankle wants to draft a resolution outlining the challenges and showing ANC 2C support for keeping the teams in D.C.

Commissioner Roe talked about a 5K race that will take place early in 2024.

A resident spoke of homeless people sleeping on the sidewalk along Capital One Arena and in an escalator. She asked what she could do upon seeing these individuals sleeping in the cold. Ms. Reeder said to email, call, or text her, and outreach will be conducted. She talked about the various alerts that are issued and the services provided and dropped information into the meeting chat.

4. Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto -- Brooke Pinto Councilmember, Ward 2, bpinto@dccouncil.us, 202-724-8058, Maddie White, mwhite@dccouncil.gov, Brian Romanowski, Constituent Services Director, bromanowski@dccouncil.us, 202-285-9195.

Maddie White announced that Councilmember Pinto plans to attend the ANC 2C's January or February meeting and encouraged commissioners to be ready with their questions. The next office hours event in ANC 2C will be Thursday, January 11, at 8:30 am at Compass Coffee at 650 F. Street.

Ms. White addressed crime, saying it remains the top concern of residents. Yesterday, Councilmember Pinto held hearings on three bills, including grants for improved lighting and security controls. The grant application went live last week.

Another bill centered around cameras and emergency communications. The blue lights system found on college campuses will be installed in various locations around Washington.

A third bill calls for the collection of firearms tracing data. It is also designed to encourage recruitment for the Department of Forensic Sciences. Ms. White addressed a bill that passed last week in which retired police and fire officers can be hired as temporary employees, which will then help fill a gap in staffing.

Ms. White said Councilmember Pinto will hold her Ward 2 virtual Budget Forum on January 16, 7:00 pm.

Commissioner Lee asked if this collection of various meetings could be sent to commissioners as automatic calendar invites.

LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY

1. **2024 National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade, Saturday, April 13, 2024. Diana North, Festival Operations Manager, National Cherry Blossom Festival, Inc., dnorth@ncbfdc.org, 202.640.3956.**

Diana North, with First Watch Strategies and Events, talked about the annual Cherry Blossom Festival Parade being held on April 13, 2024, from 10:00-12:00. The parade marks the culmination of a series of cherry blossom-related events. Attendance is typically around 50,000 in addition to 3500 parade participants. The parade assembly and road closures begin early at around 3:00 am. Load-out is intended to have been met by 4:00 pm.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the 2024 Cherry Blossom Parade. Seconded by Roe. (Vote 3-0-0)

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNIBUS LICENSING (ABCA)

1. **Huntley and Brinkley, LLC, Trade Name: The Occidental License, New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant (ABRA-126759), 1401-1475 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Mathew Minora, mminor@malliosobrien.com, 202.625.7700**

Mathew Minora said this application resides in the Willard Hotel at the site of the former Occidental. An entertainment endorsement is sought for the indoor portion of the establishment. Mr. Minora said the likely opening date is near the end of 2024.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the Occidental License. Seconded by Roe. (Vote 3-0-0)

2. **Kofu Koken Hospitality, LLC Trade Name: Kiyomi Sushi by Uchi License, New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant (ABRA-126877), 1825 -1875 I Street, NW, Space #10, Manalle Mahmoud, Esq., mmahmoud@malliosobrien.com, 202.625.7700.**

Manalle Mahmoud said this will be a sushi stall in the Square Food Hall. Operating hours will be consistent with the food hall hours. A late February or early March opening is anticipated.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the Kiyomi Sushi License. Seconded by Roe. (Vote 3-0-0)

3. **Café Point Group, LLC, Trade Name: Moi Moi, Substantial Change of Restaurant License Class: Retailer's Class "C" Tavern (ABRA-120466, 1627 K Street, NW, Cham Howsoon, howsoonc@gmail.com, 301.605.4041.**

Cham Howsoon provided an overview of the request. He noted that this is a convenient location for late-night service as such options are limited during later hours. It does not change the alcohol hours, only the hours of operation (8:00 am-6:00 am).

MOTION: Roe motioned to send a letter of support, stipulated license, for Moi Moi restaurant. Seconded by Shankle. (Vote 3-0-0)

- 4. DC Gem Foodhall Inc, Trade Name: Umai Nori, New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant (ABRA-126869), 1147 20th Street, NW, Kyung Lee, kevinleelaw@gmail.com, 703.941.3133.**

No representative was present.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to take no action on this matter at this time. Seconded by Roe. (Vote 3-0-0)

- 5. Pines Restaurant, Inc. Trade Name: Pines of Florence License Class: Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant (ABRA-126124), 1990 M Street, NW, Suite 100, Mohammed Khan, jkhan1200@gmail.com, 703.244.7433**

No representative was present.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to take no action on this matter at this time. Seconded by Roe. (Vote 3-0-0)

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SPACE

- 1. 1901 L St NW, Roasting Plant Coffee, New Unenclosed Patio Seating (DDOT: 11041207). Debra Moyer, Restaurant Consultants, Inc., debra@restconsultant.com, 410-827-9002.**

Debra Moyer discussed permitting for Roasting Plant Coffee. The owner of the establishment said that he anticipates a February opening.

MOTION: Roe motioned to send a letter of support for Roasting Plant Coffee. Seconded by Lee. (Vote 3-0-0)

- 2. 1200 Block of L Street, creating an evening drop-off and pick-up for Thompson Elementary School. Christopher Wassmer, Community Engagement Specialist -- Ward 2, District Department of Transportation, Christophe.wassmer@dc.gov, 202.809.8453.**

Christopher Wassmer talked about the creation of an evening drop-off and pick-up area for Thompson Elementary School children. Four or five parking spaces will be taken out

to extend the time from 3:00 pm until 6:30 pm. This would commence at the start of the new calendar year. Ms. Roe noted ongoing construction that might create some pushback.

MOTION: Roe motioned to send a letter of support for the requested increased drop-off and pick-up time for Thompson Elementary School. Seconded by Shankle. (Vote 3-0-0)

PLANNING, ZONING, ENVIRONMENT, and HISTORIC PRESERVATION

1. **507-517 H Street NW Development Project. (HPA 24-089) Stephan Rodiger, Managing Partner, RiftValley Partners, Stephan@riftvalleycapital.com, 202.361.0570. Shani Shih, Chinatown Art Studio, shanishih@gmail.com, 202-681-7001.**

Shankle noted that this item was withdrawn this afternoon.

Members of the community provided commentary and a slide show noting the businesses that would be displaced by this proposal, saying that they are all small, Chinese immigrant-owned establishments. Safety and security concerns were addressed. Area tenants are asking the ANC for preservation to be a top priority and for more affordable housing and affordable business space. A resident expressed his desire to see a Chinese grocery store that could help revitalize the community.

Commissioner Shankle asked if additional retail is being proposed in the plans. He called it a huge development of the block and asked if there are/were residents on the upper floors, to which it was said yes, there were, but these residents were kicked out. Shankle agrees that community engagement is crucial and recommends the ANC brings interested parties together to discuss these plans. The press release and other important information on these matters have been forwarded to the Office of the Mayor and councilmember offices.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a request to the developer to meet with community stakeholders. Included in the letter is the sentiment that adequate community feedback has not been received prior to the developer's scheduled hearing. Seconded by Roe. (Vote 3-0-0)

2. **610 H ST NW. Dispensary Near Me. Installation of New Signage. Chinatown Design Review. Meta Yee, Cathay Owners, LLC, mail2meta_cathay@yahoo.com, 301.806.9348.**

Commissioner Shankle spoke of the importance of ensuring that the proposed signage maintains the integrity of the neighborhood. Two examples were submitted.

MOTION: Roe motioned to send a letter of support for the design as proposed, and if a blade sign is needed on H Street, that should also be included. Seconded by Shankle. (Vote 3-0-0)

3. 806-7th Street NW. Grassroots Analytics. Installation of New Signage. Chinatown Design Review. Hayley Martin, hayley@duo-graphics.com 410.927.5424, HTO7, LLC, jscanzello@midwoodid.com, 929.566.1101.

Commissioner Shankle described the proposed sign. A representative of Grassroots Analytics discussed the signage particulars, stating that the firm is happy to adapt the signage as needed. He presented a slide showing the location and positioning of the signage. The signage does not need to be intrusive, in his words, but merely serves as an identifier for customers, given that the business occupies a third-floor location.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for Grassroots Analytics' signage request. Seconded by Roe. (Vote 3-0-0)

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Shankle motioned to Adjourn at 8:23 pm. Seconded by Lee. (Vote 3-0-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Minutes Submitted by: Minutes Services

Minutes Approved by: January 9, 2024

Next Meeting: January 9, 2024, 6:00 pm. It will be a hybrid format.

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

ANC Commissioners and Website

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