

NOTES FROM FEBRUARY 14, 2023 ANC 2C COMMUNITY MEETING

6:03 PM – meeting called to order by Commissioner Michael Shankle, 2C01

Introduction of Commissioners:

2C02 – Rebecca “Becky” Strauss

2C04 - Kristin Roe

2C03 – Thomas S. Lee

2C01 – Michael Shankle

Quorum of 4 out of 4 Commissioners present for the meeting. Review of and approval of agenda for meeting (motion to approve by Commissioner Roe (“Roe”), seconded by Commissioner Strauss (“Strauss”))

Minutes from December and January meetings not yet reviewed by all so postponed approval until the next meeting (March 14, 2023)

Did not have financial reports ready so postponed until next meeting as well.

McPherson Square - Per Strauss, she was advised that as of meeting time there were 56 residents present at McPherson Square. Of those, 20 were not engaging with social workers or other representatives, and the remaining 36 had applied for housing. Of those 36, 20 were deemed eligible for housing. 2 were immediately placed in housing, with the remaining 18 being placed in bridge housing (motels).

There will be some budget money spent to purchase additional motels to help end the era of encampments. Roe asked whether services would continue to be provided to those in bridge housing, and it is thought they will continue to receive social services. Resident Barb W asked in the chat what happens to the 16 individuals who did not qualify for housing. Strauss did not know for certain.

ANC 2C Commissioners approved the closure of the McPherson encampment for safety reasons and prepared a statement. Roe read the statement into the record. The statement was then finalized by a motion from Commissioner Shankle (“Shankle”), which was seconded by Roe. 4 out of 4 Commissioners approved the final statement.

Notes to the community - the Park Police will monitor prior encampment sites; please do not go to McPherson square on February 15 to allow the calmest possible closure process.

Commissioner Lee (“Lee”) asked whether it was necessary to advise other Commissioners not to be present; Strauss felt that was not a necessary action.

Presentation by Lieutenant Sylvester Garvin, MPD 2nd District

Lieutenant Garvin noted that both thefts of autos and thefts from autos were up in the 2nd District.

On January 28, 2023, there was an armed carjacking on the 500 block of 13th Street NW; 3 juveniles were arrested on January 29.

On February 12, a flash mob consisting of 10-15 individuals robbed the Chanel store in City Center, using a fire extinguisher as cover. This was a planned robbery; the persons stood outside the camera's view and waited for someone to come out, as Chanel is an appointment-only store with a locked door. Between \$200-\$500k in merchandise was stolen. Cars are a white Infiniti sedan and a black Aura SUV.

There was a burglary at Ella's Wood Fired Pizza on 9th Street; windows broken.

Roe asked if anything to do to help Chanel; Lieutenant Garvin noted that everyone should say something if they see something.

Strauss asked about the juveniles arrested for carjacking, and Lieutenant Garvin noted that DC is lenient.

Sylvester.garvin@dc.gov

Presentation by Lieutenant Jeremy Knisely, MPD 1st District

Violent crime and robbery are on the rise, particularly in the area of the Capital One Arena.

There were 2 robberies at 7th and H Streets; persons arrested the next day. Arrested in the 5th district, and considered a "frequent flyer" by Montgomery County PD.

At the intersection of 7th and H (and the Gallery Place Metro Station), MPD will be coordinating with Metro Police. There is also a Capital One "traffic box plan" to reduce post-event crime.

Strauss asked about what to do if you witness a car break-in. Lieutenant Knisely advised to call the police and *do not intervene*. Move to a safe place; the more detailed information you can provide, including clothing, etc., the better.

Resident Barb W thanked the police and asked about the specific role of their presence at 7th and H. Lieutenant Knisely noted that the officers will be high visibility and will work with Metro officers, moving between the street, station and platform.

Resident Howard M also praised the police for their presence at 7th and H and noted a big improvement in the situation. Gallery Place - 1 of 5 areas where these coordinated "dual patrols" are taking place. Residents are already seeing the difference.

Question to Lieutenant Knisely - Squad car - how does that deter crime?

Answer - Quick response - able to keep an eye on the situation. Adding bikes, and BAT (Business Action Team)

Shankle thanked MPD officers for their work in the area

jeremy.knisely@dc.gov

Presentation by Ward 2 Mayor's Liaison Grace Reeder

1. Former liaison Julius Terry is moving to ward 7 and 8; new liaison for 2A-2D is Christopher (Chris) Powell
2. Mayor Bowser Get REady DC, 1800 MLK Avenue SE
3. Opening of the Ethel, Ward 7, permanent supportive housing, 100% full-time staff (RFK Campus)
4. DDOT Open House 3:30-5:30 (I think February 15 or 16)
5. Mayor Bowser's team wants to know the ANC's top 3 budget priorities by the end of the week (K. Roe note - I provided my list to Grace as Education, Pedestrian / Traffic Safety, and Poverty Reduction)
6. DPR Grants - Youth Services, please share widely

Question from resident Barlow (?) - Mayor's position on possible House vote overturning updated Criminal Code

Ms. Reeder directed everyone to Mayor Bowser's public statement on the issue.

Resident Nancy G noted that the former Balance Gym at 1339 Green Court has now been fully secured by plywood and thanked the team for ensuring that work occurred.

Lee asked whether it was possible to amend the reformed criminal code to remove the parts the House is objecting to? Ms. Reeder said she would share the Mayor's statement which included information on that.

Shankle asked that the Mayor's office consider that Commissioners are unpaid volunteers, usually with full-time jobs; he noted the DDOT Open House in the middle of the day, and the short notice for most events.

christopherpowell@dc.gov

(202) 805-7122

Presentation by Councilmember Brooke Pinto Liaison Brian Romanowski

Councilmember Pinto will join ANC 2C meeting next month (March 14)

The Councilmember and/or her team have been visiting McPherson Square daily to connect the residents there with appropriate services.

The Councilmember will be visiting the Pat Handy shelter with Councilmember Robert White (budget letter mentioned here?)

Councilmember Pinto will be hosting a 3-day forum on gun violence. People can sign up to testify via Zoom on Friday, March 3rd, at 11:00 AM, in person at the Anacostia Library on Saturday, March 4th, at 11:00 AM, or on Monday, March 6th at the Wilson Building.

Oversight hearing sare ongoing - testifying is possible

Budget Priority Letter - #1 issue is public safety and ending gun violence (Mayor to follow)
Newsroom link Priorities: Expanding public restrooms, Amplified Noise, Harmonious Living, [missed one?], E-bikes

Shankle - object to vendor license issue (Mendelson)

Roe - Pat Handy Shelter on 11th Street

Resident Howard M asked the Councilmember's office to address the drug dealing in Chinatown. He also feels that shoplifting will increase with the revised criminal code.

Mr. Romanowski noted that he will bring those concerns to Councilmember Pinto's attention

Resident Barb W asked what happened to the amplified noise focus group and whether that will move forward

Mr. Romanowski noted that Councilmember Pinto will discuss that with Council Chair Mendelson

Resident Father Vincent DeRosa asked who will be held accountable for the issues at the Pat Handy Shelter (I assume he means the temporary male residents here) and who will be fired for ruining the neighborhood?

Mr. Romanowski noted that is under DHS oversight

DMHHS Encampments

(202) 839-1301

jamal.weldon@dc.gov

Resident S Towns asked whether the Councilmember will also address the temporary relocation of female Pat Handy residents to 11th Street, as well as issues with alleys and the issues potentially created by the closure of the AMC Theatre in Chinatown

Lee asked about Chinatown sidewalks - many are in need of repair

Presentation by Declan Falls, office of Council Chair Phil Mendelson

Mr. Falls works in Councilmember Mendelson's office of Consituent Services; he welcomed everyone and wished a Happy New Year to the attendees but didn't have any particular updates or news to share.¹

Dfalls@dccouncil.gov

(202) 724-8158

Presentation of Community Events

Cherry Blossom Kids Run, Saturday, April 1, 5:30 AM to Noon

George Banker presented. Event will be at the Building Museum (4th and 5th Streets). There will be 500 participants between the ages of 4 and 10, and about 120 volunteers. the event benefits Children's Hospital / Children's Miracle Network, and they've raised over \$9.5 million with related events.

Shankle moved to send letter of support; Roe seconded. 4 of 4 Commissioners agreed.

Marine Corps Marathon, October 29, 2023, 3:00 AM to finish (mid-afternoon)

32,000 participants; same route as 2022, mostly the Mall / Capitol area

Shankle moved to send letter of support; Strauss seconded. 4 of 4 Commissioners agreed.

Herstory 5K Run and Walk, Saturday, March 4, 8:30-11:00 AM

Freedom Plaza, DPR event, 3000 participants

Roe moved to send letter of support; Strauss seconded. 4 of 4 Commissioners agreed.

Colorectal Cancer 5K, Sunday, March 26, 8:30-11:00 AM

Freedom Plaza, 2000 participants

Strauss moved to send letter of support; Shankle seconded. 4 of 4 Commissioners agreed.

14th Annual Purple Stride (Pancreatic Cancer) Walk, Saturday, April 29, 7:30-11:00 AM

Freedom Plaza, coordinated event in DC and 59 cities

Shankle moved to send letter of support; Strauss seconded. 4 of 4 Commissioners agreed.

Presentation of ABRA applications

Sushi Snob, 1730 Rhode Island Avenue NW

¹ I actually didn't write down whether he was there, but these are my notes from January so could have been a repeat; anyone remember?

Jaukhin Enkhtaivan is the owner and chef, his wife Zolzaya Mashbott is the manager; they are applying for a license renewal

Strauss moved to send a stipulated letter of support; Roe seconded, 4 of 4 Commissioners agreed.

Shankle moved for stipulated (??); Roe seconded, 4 of 4 Commissioners agreed.

Tatte, 1634 I Street NW²

Applying for an outdoor patio, hours will be 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM 7 days a week; not a residential area and no protests so no concerns mentioned.

Strauss moved to send a letter of support; Roe seconded. 4 of 4 Commissioners agreed

kevin.vargas@tattebakery.com

Presentation regarding Pedestrian Safety

Maria Espinoza, DowntownDC

Jim Sebastian, Toole Design

Discussion on how to improve pedestrian safety by potentially creating new areas, like making Vermont Avenue between Thomas and Logan Circles car-free, etc. Other proposed areas include Indiana Avenue near 7th Street (courthouse area)

Lee agreed on Indiana Avenue being a good location; noted that planters moved everywhere on 7th and F and hoped could reuse those. Downtown DC BID would look into the planter situation.

Roe noted in favor of Indiana and Vermont Avenue locations but also presented 9th and Massachusetts Avenue NW as potential area to consider, due to it being dangerous intersection on all statistics presented.

Howard M noted he lives at 777 7th Street NW with 192 units and these pedestrian-friendly zones would decrease parking spaces for the residents of his building

Presentation regarding 7th Street Bus Priority Project (DDOT)

Zack Gambezi-Mendez and Donovan Boyd

Feedback form to buspriority@dc.gov; or (202) 671-2376; chose 7th Street NW from Pennsylvania Avenue to Massachusetts Avenue. Will create bus priority (red) lanes to increase

² This was actually the last item actually discussed, but I thought for my notes OK to take out of order and group by subject for ease of reference later.

public transportation efficiency; already some lanes done north of Massachusetts (Howard University area)

Shankle noted that flexposts DDOT is installing aren't working.

Howard M again noted that his building has 300 residents who will object to this as it will limit parking for their building; emailed Roe directly in chat to ask for support in objecting to this project; Roe did not answer

Roe asked DDOT reps (copying everyone) in chat for statistics on how many folks ride the bus through that area daily, but they didn't answer

donovanboyd@dc.gov

This is when Tatte was actually presented

Following Tatte presentation, Roe moved to adjourn. Strauss seconded; 4 of 4 Commissioners agreed and meeting was adjourned.