

Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

March 2023 Meeting Minutes

DATE: March 14, 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 Commissioner Roe.
- 4. QUORUM:** A quorum of four commissioners was present.
- 5. OPENING REMARKS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Shankle reviewed the agenda (available at www.anc2c.us). Shankle motioned to approve the March 2023 agenda, seconded by Roe. (Vote 4-0-0)

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto Update -- Brooke Pinto Councilmember, Ward 2, bpinto@dccouncil.us, 202.724.8058, Ella Hanson, ehanson@dcouncil.us, 202-724-8058, Victoria Casarrubias, Scheduler & Office Assistant, vcasarrubias@dccouncil.gov, 202-679-5905, and Brian Romanowski, Constituent Services Director, bromanowski@dccouncil.us, 202-285-9195.**

Councilmember Pinto shared updates on what was being worked on in her office, including new legislation to reduce vehicle noise, increase public restroom access, streamline public health access, replace city pipes, and expand electric bike access. She stated that her top priority was public safety. She stated she was focused on holding her agencies accountable and ensuring the resources were available. She reported she held a three-day roundtable on gun violence. She was also focused on domestic violence. She also was working on getting more staffing for police and mental health services. The Council passed a revision to the criminal code written in 1901, and Congress disapproved the bill. She stated the bill revision would be put on pause to focus on public safety for the time being. She reported that other priorities were working to address homelessness, support small businesses, and help downtown after the pandemic. A Recovery Act would be implemented in a few days to incentivize and provide a grant system. The provision for bid safety specialists would include 20 additional individuals downtown to prevent crime. She reported she recently sent her budget request and was hopeful that many of the items would be able to be funded,

including police, more salaries, requests for small businesses, standalone hotels to help with homelessness, funding for an elementary school, and addressing senior hunger. On March 22nd, the budget will be received and examined. The Committee will pass the budget and send it to the entire Board by mid-May.

Commissioner Strauss asked what could be done for construction mitigation. Councilmember Pinto stated that one major ask was support for retail. Commissioner Strauss asked if the old balance gym could be a site for a senior center. Councilmember Pinto stated a study was ongoing and that she would ensure that that site would be on their radar. Commissioner Strauss asked when work would begin on transit, and Pinto stated she thought it was set to begin in the fall, but she would follow up.

Commissioner Lee asked if it was possible to work on the 5% of the criminal reform bill that everyone did not approve. Councilmember Pinto stated she thought it was best to give some time before picking it up again, but once the process began, it would be best to ensure everyone agreed with the bill.

Commissioner Shankle asked about the escalating concerns surrounding the Legacy Shelter and accountability. Councilmember Pinto stated she thought it was important that the mayor knows how important this is. She stated she had raised this issue to the mayor, the city administrator, and many others and that her team had been following up on this issue weekly for two years. She stated that the renovations should begin by April. She shared her frustrations and said that her team would continue working on this.

A citizen followed up on the balance gym and raised concerns that they did not know it may be a senior shelter until there was an incident with squatters and a shoot-out in the gym. Councilmember Pinto stated that the first step was ensuring that DHS has full-time on-site mental health professionals. She addressed the specific area around the gym, stated that she had tried to raise concerns about the encampment, and apologized for what had occurred. She stated that she and her team would make sure that there were no other uses of the property before determining what it would be officially used for.

A citizen asked about the truck trafficking on 7th & H and why they were out 18 hours daily. Councilmember Pinto stated that she hoped safety officers would help. Other ideas included expanding hiring to Virginia and Maryland departments to address hiring and retention challenges and working with the courts to change statutes. She stated the U.S. Attorney would be worked with to examine how the nuisance laws could be worked with. She made a note of the suggestion to hold a public hearing.

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

Lieutenant Garvin reported that there in the past 30 days, there were three burglaries, which was up 50% from the past month, three additional motor vehicle thefts, which was down 58%, and zero homicides. One robbery case was being investigated; a victim

was leaving around 3 am near the clubs and was shot in his hip. There was one sexual assault on February 28th, and the suspect was arrested on March 3rd. There was a first-degree theft at Macy's, and the suspect was apprehended. There was an unarmed carjacking on March 2nd, and the carjacking task force was investigating it. There was a stolen auto after a rear-end accident; no arrests had been made, but the car was located. There was an assault arrest, and the victim suffered no injuries. Finally, there was a burglary at an establishment on March 11th and burglars stole approximately \$311, several chargers, phone cases, and software. It was suspected that this was one of the known serial burglars.

3. MPD 1st District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Justin Roth, Justin.Roth@dc.gov, 202-729-2179 or Lieutenant Jeremy Kniseley, Jeremy.kniseley@dc.gov, 202.839.1357

Captain Roth reported that in the past 30 days, there were two robberies. One was on February 19th, where a group of juveniles snatched a cell phone. The complainant was unable to identify the suspects. The other was in the early morning hours, and individuals approached a construction worker from vehicles, and they took some of his personal property. The carjacking force was investigating it. There were also some burglaries, mainly in Mt. Vernon, with different suspects. They targeted alcohol and electronic devices and accessed vehicles by throwing bricks into car windows. It was reported that there were some arrests made in Northeast. In addition, over 1,000 wheel locks were distributed from 2011 to 2021 Hondas and KIAs, and motor vehicle thefts have since decreased.

There were issues with vehicle thefts for food delivery drivers from vehicles being left unlocked and running. A light tower was put up in the alley of the shelter. A partnership was being looked into with Metro for Chinatown. The Gallery Place property managers were spoken with about solutions for fences to close the metro at night altogether. It was discussed that with Capitol One, events could draw in a quarter of million people. There were some robberies on a night when there were 30,000 additional people in the district. A couple of significant events were coming up, so it would be a good test for the new plan. A multi-agency task force would likely be making its way through Chinatown again. Violent crime was down 60%, property crime was down 6%, and overall crime was down 15%.

Commissioner Lee asked about individuals being released from prison with lengthy criminal histories and DC not meeting their recruitment numbers despite bonuses. Captain Roth stated it stemmed from the 7th District Crime Suppression Team but had no further information. He stated that policing was currently an unpopular profession, which he expected was the main reason it was difficult to recruit officers.

A citizen asked about stay-away orders and how they would be identified. Captain Roth stated that the officers knew who the individuals were.

4. Ward 2 Mayor's Liaison – Grace Reeder, Ward 2 Liaison Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), grace.reeder@dc.gov, 202.545.3108 and Christopher Powell, Ward 2 Liaison, Christopher.powell2@dc.gov, 202.805.7122

Powell reported that street sweeping began again, and the fines also began. He reminded everyone that anti-theft devices were available for 2011 to 2021 Hondas and KIAs and were first come, first served. He reported that ongoing maintenance was occurring for DC Water until May 15th, so the taste of water may be different. Finally, he stated that the Department of Small and Local Business Development was still accepting applications for robust city-wide grants. The deadline was April 10th.

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

There was no one in attendance to present.

6. Allister Chang, Ward 2 Board of Education, Update, allister.chang1@dc.gov

Chang reported that his top priority was to advance literacy, and 74% of students in DC are not performing at or above expected levels by fourth grade. He stated he would return in the fall with a more specific ask after the task force meets regularly. He stated he was the chair of the education standards, and the social studies standards were being revised. He asked for any feedback on the social studies standards. There would be more historiography involved. Student safety, mental health, and teacher retention were also being worked on.

Commissioner Shankle asked what teacher retention was like for the DC school system. Chang reported that the school systems were struggling, including bus drivers. It was stated that two studies looked at this issue.

Commissioner Roe asked about the legislation regarding mental health days for teachers and asked how to support it. Chang stated that everyone could write the council members, so it is known that the initiative was supported.

LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY

1. 2023 National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade, Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Linda Lindamood, Director of Operations, National Cherry Blossom Festival, lindamood@ncbfdc.org, 202.577.3274

Lindamood spoke about the parade that would run from 10 am to 2 pm. She stated the bleachers setup would begin on April 3rd in the South Curb lane until April 7th between 9:30 and 4. On parade week, on Monday, the bleachers will be built on the south side, TV equipment will start to load in on Thursday, and there will be much activity on Friday with equipment coming in. The area included 6th Street to 23rd Street on Constitution Avenue. She stated that the Emancipation Day Parade would occur immediately after. She reported that a de-confliction meeting was held with other organizers, and a tabletop exercise with local agencies was also happening. The unified command post is

often on Pennsylvania Avenue, close to the White House. She reported that at 3 am, the road closures would begin, which included 7th Street from Independence to Pennsylvania, Constitution from 7th to 9th Street, and Jefferson and Madison from 4th to 14th.

NPD will also help contain the area where the activities were occurring and ensure adherence. At 8:30 am, a rolling closure starting at 9th and Constitution will begin, and NPD will take control of the intersections to 17th Street. There will be fun local entertainment in the bleacher area. The finale unit will be at 12 pm and 12:30 pm. After the finale, the dispersal begins. By 2:30 pm, all floats and the people are usually gone. There will be full medical stations with nurses and doctors, a complete first-aid section, and medical staff throughout the area. Lindamood presented the maps of where the parade will occur and where the other events will occur.

Commissioner Shankle asked how many people often come. Lindamood stated it is often 150,000. In the bleacher area, there were 7,000 seats.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade on Saturday, April 15th, seconded by Roe. (Vote 4-0-0)

2. 2023 Race for Hope DC, The 26th annual 5K, Sunday, May 7. Deana Martin Director of Regional Development, Project Management, National Brain Tumor Society, dmartin@braintumor.org, 202.210.2756

Martin provided information on the Race for Hope 5K. She reported 5,000-6,000 individuals were expected, possibly up to 7,000. Last year, there were changes made to the event that created less impact on the roads. Most of the event is on Freedom Plaza and Pennsylvania Avenue between 14th Street and 12th Street. She presented the race route. She stated that a quiet sweep would be used for trash, and GW medical was being used. NPD would be present for road closures.

Commissioner Shankle asked if the Marriot had been contacted. Martin stated they were contacted and also had some rooms for the event.

Commissioner Roe asked about the hours of the event. Martin stated that registration would begin at 7 am, the opening ceremony at 8:40 am, the race at 9 am, and the closing ceremony at 10:30 am.

MOTION: Roe motioned to send a letter of support for the 2023 Race for Hope DC 5K, seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

3. 39th Army Ten-Miler, Sunday, October 8, 2023. George Banker, Operations Manager, Army Ten-Miler, monkbank@comcast.net, 301-537-6739

Banker provided information on the 39th Army Ten-Miler. He stated the route was from 14th to 17th on Independence Avenue, and no structures would be set up. There would

be four medical providers, and the police were also coordinated with. A 15-minute mile pace was required for all runners. A trash sweep would trail the last runners to ensure everything was cleaned up. It would begin around 9 am, and everyone would be gone by 10:45 am. The expected number of runners was reported to be 25,000.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the 39th Army Ten-Miler, seconded by Roe. (Vote 4-0-0)

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSING (ABRA)

1. G.O.A.T. Room, Ten Ten, Inc., 1010 Massachusetts Ave NW, New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant (ABRA 123802). Manish Berry, Tenten.incs@gmail.com, 202.413.1112. No one was in attendance to present, so Commissioner Roe presented information. She stated there were many concerns related to the restaurant's hours. She stated a settlement agreement was being worked on to limit some hours and add soundproofing and ventilation. A draft settlement agreement was sent to Berry. However, this would likely not be completed by the protest deadline.

A citizen asked if the settlement agreement was done collectively and if individual protests needed to be filed. Commissioner Shankle stated that groups of five or more could still file protests. He stated there was also historical precedence that limits outdoor summer gardens.

A citizen asked if the original plan for the G.O.A.T Room had changed. Commissioner Roe stated that when they first filed their plan, it brought about many concerns. However, she stated that the restaurant owner was highly amenable to the changes.

MOTION: Roe motioned to send a letter of protest and begin the negotiation process, seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

2. Taco Bell Cantina, TB Cantina, LLC, 808 7th ST NW, New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant (ABRA 123721), Manalle Mahmoud, Associate Attorney, Mallios O'Brien & Sandground PLLC, mmahmoud@malliosobrien.com, 202.625.7700. Mahmoud stated it would be modeled after existing Taco Bell Cantinas and open from Sunday to Saturday, 7 am to 1 am. There is a capacity for 21 seats and 67 occupants. There would be frozen, ready-made cocktails.

Commissioner Roe asked if it was a residential building. Mahmoud stated she did not believe it was but would confirm.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the Taco Bell Cantina, seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

3. **Chole Hospitality, LLC, 815 7th Street, NW, ABRA and Stipulated License, Eugene J. Mark, Jr., Attorney At Law, eugenemarklaw@gmail.com, 301.237.7850.**

This was withdrawn because the paperwork was not yet filed.

TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC SPACE

1. **Mezze and More LLC, 701 9th ST NW, New Sidewalk Cafe Un-Enclosed, DDOT#: 10987392, Kenneth Abdul, kenneth.abdul@joseandres.com, 240.229.5115.**

There was no one in attendance to present.

2. **Glass House Coffee Three 1201 New York Ave NW, New Sidewalk Cafe Un-Enclosed, DDOT#: 10985477, Ryan Fleming, ryan@slipstreamdc.com, 917.843.5042.**

There was no one in attendance to present

PLANNING, ZONING, ENVIRONMENT, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

1. **1125 15th Street NW, Modification of Consequence (BZA 20611), Lawrence Ferris, goulston&storrs, lferris@goulstonstorrs.com, 202.721.1135.**

Ferris presented on 1125 15th St NW. He stated it was an existing office building that would be converted to residential units. Balconies would be added to the exterior walls. One revision was modifications to the penthouse. The parking spaces moved from 123 to 121, and bicycle spaces would be added. He stated ground retail spaces would be added. There would be no zoning adjustments. The BZA staff will begin looking at the application tomorrow.

Commissioner Strauss asked why the balconies were not included in the original plan. Ferris stated that the balconies were approved in the original plan, but some had to be moved, and three additional balconies were also added.

Commissioner Shankle asked if the revision to the penthouse would be to take off the mechanical area. Ferris stated that the structure would be kept as is and converted to capital space. Commissioner Shankle asked for clarification on one part of the proposed design. Ferris stated it was a shade structure.

Commissioner Roe asked if a letter was needed for tomorrow morning. Ferris stated BZA would leave the application open for another week.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for 1125 15th Street NW modifications, seconded by Lee. (Vote 4-0-0)

Ferris will send a short blurb letter to the Commissioners.

2. 1017 12th Street NW, 12th Street LLC, Extension Request for BZA (BZA-18878E). Meredith Moldenhauer, Co-Chair Zoning, Land Use & Development, Cozen O'Connor, MMoldenhauer@cozen.com, 202.747.0763.

Moldenhauer presented on 1017 12th Street NW. She stated that a BZA hearing was scheduled for April 5th. The application was located in the D-4-R Zone. The intent was for headquarters for a consulting firm specializing in Bio-Tech, Health Care, and IT consulting. The current request was for a two-year extension. It was stated there were no substantial changes, and the extensive document was available showing the inability to procure funding due to the current challenges.

Commissioner Shankle asked why there was litigation. Moldenhauer stated they were some at-risk windows.

MOTION: Strauss motioned to send a letter of support for 1017 12th Street NW and the extension, seconded by Roe. (Vote 4-0-0)

3. 1735 ST NW, BUAP 1735 K, LLC, (BZA 20863), Bradley Lockhart, Development Manager, Urban Atlantic, blockhart@urban-atlantic.com, 202.689.9998 and Lee Templin, goulston&storrs, lttemplin@goulstonstorrs.com, 202.721.1153.

Lockhart presented on 1735 K St. NW. He stated that this was for an office and residential hybrid space. It would allow for nightly stays, short-term stays, and long-term stays. The location was presented. There would be a basic amenity space with a bike room, a retail space, and 106 units. The relief being requested is for the screening surrounding the future mechanical equipment and the future generator.

Commissioner Shankle asked if the conversion from office to mixed-use was already completed. Lockhart stated it was a matter of right.

MOTION: Roe motioned to send a letter of support for the relief for 1735 K St NW, seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

OTHER

1. Approval of December 2022, January 2023, and February 2023 Minutes.

It was reported that the December 2022 and January 2023 minutes had been sent out, but the February 2023 minutes were not yet received. Commissioner Roe stated she had sent edits on the December 2022 and January 2023 minutes.

MOTION: Roe motioned to approve the revised December 2022 and January 2023 minutes, seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

2. Treasurer's Report

There was no treasurer's report.

3. Petition to Cancel DC Contract #CA23-0793, Michael Edwards, me1s@comcast.net

Edwards thanked everyone for signing the petition. Commissioner Roe asked what contract number was being referred to. Edwards stated it was the end lease agreement on 1009 11th Street and that he would send a copy to Commissioner Roe. Brunson asked what the concerns were related to the women at that location and the basis of the petition's concerns. Edwards stated that it was supposed to be a temporary housing situation. Brunson stated that the men would move out of the location in April and move to a new location, and the construction will occur at the 5th Street location. The timeline involved moving back into the 5th Street location in the summer of 2024.

4. Executive Director Search.

Commissioner Shankle stated he would like consideration of hiring an executive director. Commissioner Lee asked if this was done with other ANCs and how many hours per week it would be. Commissioner Shankle stated that most other ANCs had an executive director, likely for 20 to 25 hours per month. He suggested contacting other commissions to speak with the executive directors to see how it works before putting together proposals. Commissioner Roe stated it would be very helpful with the letters and more.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to begin the process of determining what an executive director would do and begin the process of acquiring one, seconded by Roe. (Vote 4-0-0)

5. Returning to a Hybrid Model

It was stated that legally, virtual meetings could occur through at least the end of 2023. The public health emergency ends at the end of March, so it may be best to return to hybrid meetings. It was asked if the MLK Library was open until 9 pm, and Commissioner Shankle confirmed it was. Commissioner Shankle stated exploration could be done on the library's capacity and how other ANCs were holding meetings.

ADJOURNMENT: Roe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm, seconded by Lee. Commissioners were in favor of adjourning the meeting (Vote 4-0-0)

Minutes Submitted by: Minutes Services

Minutes Approved by:

Next Meeting: April 11, 2023, 6:00 pm

ANC Commissioners and Website

Michael Shankle 2C01@anc.dc.gov

Rebecca Strauss, 2C02@anc.dc.gov

Thomas Lee 2C03@anc.dc.gov
Kristin Roe 2C04@anc.dc.gov

www.anc2c.us

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Meetings are scheduled for the Second Tuesday of each month.