

Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C
November 2023 Meeting Minutes

DATE: November 14, 2023

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

ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Shankle called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm over Zoom (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zra_p7A__kY). Commissioner Shankle noted that the video was not functioning for the meeting.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Four 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 Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

5. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

The approval of the minutes will occur at the December meeting.

6. **TREASURER REPORT:**

Commissioner Lee reported that he wrote two checks for the August minutes and the October minutes. Once the checks were cleared, there would be \$66,558.44 in the bank account. Commissioner Shankle asked if the quarter four financial report was submitted. Commissioner Lee stated it was still being worked on. Commissioner Strauss reported that there was a plan to do websites for all of the ANCs, so the money on that was never spent.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Sergeant Robinson reported that he was with Sergeant Sanders on behalf of Lieutenant Garvin. He reported that in the last 30 days, there were 0 homicides, one assault with a deadly weapon at 931 H Street, and three robberies at 1215 L St NW, 925 G St NW, and 1250 I St. NW. There was one burglary at 1399 New York Avenue. There were eight motor vehicle thefts. There were

19 thefts from automobiles. There were 45 property thefts. Six out of eight motor vehicle thefts were recovered within a 3-to-10-day period. It was suggested to buy Apple Air Tags. It was reported that certain districts were handing them out, but the second district was not yet. He stated that the air tags were approximately \$30. He reported that the station was giving out steering wheel locks for Kia or Hyundai. It was suggested to keep items out of sight or leave them at home rather than within vehicles. It was reported that a retail theft operation had begun, and targeted stores included Zara, Nordstrom, and Sephora. There were six arrests so far.

Commissioner Roe asked if the consumer had to activate the air tag. It was reported that this was the case. The operator has to place the air tag inside the vehicle and download the app.

A resident discussed two robberies in the 900 block. He stated that the robbery on H Street was particularly troubling. Sergeant Robinson reported that it happened inside the garage area, where an individual pointed a handgun at the parking attendant. The resident raised concerns about thefts from his garage. Sergeant Robinson acknowledged that it was a pattern, and he would check with security guards and police at City Center to see what else could be done. The resident asked about the armed robbery on G Street. Sergeant Robinson reported that someone was robbed at gunpoint; an individual exited a vehicle and instructed the victim to drop their belongings. The resident asked if the robberies were becoming more common. It was reported that it was becoming more common.

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 violent crime was down 25%. There were zero AWDs and three robberies in the past 30 days. There were three robberies in the previous month as well. There was an uptick in theft from autos. Property crime was up by 29%. There was an increase in events around Capital One Arena. He stated that none of the robberies affected unknown citizens. Lieutenant Kniseley reported that one of the robberies at Walgreens was believed to have been orchestrated by an employee. Another robbery involved the casing of an employee after they left their workplace. The last robbery appeared to be a dispute between known parties, and it occurred in the 400 block of H Street.

Commissioner Roe asked if there was any advice on how to protect themselves from thefts from vehicles. Lieutenant Kniseley reported that he believed most of the victims were those who did not live or work in the area and were too comfortable leaving items in the car. He discussed that there was not a lot of security in some garages and emphasized not leaving items in the car.

Commissioner Lee asked about the shooting on D Street involving the carjacking. Lieutenant Kniseley reported that there was not a lot of public information at the time due to it being a homicide investigation. He stated that there was an off-duty court security officer in his car, and a couple of juveniles approached him with the impression that they had a weapon. The officer discharged his firearm, and one juvenile succumbed to his injuries. The other juvenile was

turned in to the police by his mother. Lieutenant Kniseley reported that the case was closed, with the use of force being investigated. The other juvenile who was turned in was being adjudicated.

A resident asked about the Walgreens robbery and asked who was robbed. Lieutenant Kniseley reported that the robbery happened during the drop of the money to the master safe, and they got \$7,000 in cash. Other factors led them to believe it was orchestrated by an employee, such as the use of a freight elevator with an access code and employees not cooperating with police. Lieutenant Kniseley emphasized that this was an internal problem with Walgreens and should not concern residents. The resident asked about incidents around the Capital One Arena. Lieutenant Kniseley reported that there was a crime trend when there were events at the arena. In the past month, there had been an increase in music events and there were more contingency plans put in place. He discussed that there were staffing issues and there were not as many officers in Chinatown for a recent event. There were about 20 cars broken into in the course of that one night.

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.

Christopher Powell reported that Mayor Bowser celebrated a milestone in the DC Street Smart Lighting Project, and 50% of the district's streetlights have now been modernized to LED lights. Mayor Bowser celebrated the ribbon cutting of a new medical facility for veterans. Mr. Powell reported that leaf collection was different for this year, and more could be found online at dpw.dc.gov and through their app. Winter programming at DPR started at the beginning of November, and registrations have opened. There was dashcam distribution that began for rideshare and food delivery drivers free of charge to improve safety. Mr. Powell reported that work was going on at BLM Plaza through Thanksgiving. The Umbrella Art Fair will be held November 17th through 19th with approximately 150 artists. Mr. Powell reminded everyone that a meeting could be requested with the Mayor. Mr. Powell stated that there were walks on Tuesdays and Fridays with him and Grace Reeder.

Commissioner Shankle asked about the drug-free loitering zones and the legality of implementation. He asked if the Mayor was still moving forward with creating those zones. Mr. Powell stated that he believed she was still moving forward, but he would return with a solidified answer.

A resident commented on the issues with drugs in Chinatown. He raised concerns about the laws against selling cannabis being enforced.

4. Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto -- Brooke Pinto Councilmember, Ward 2, bpinto@dccouncil.us, 202-724-8058, Aukima Benjamin, Constituent Services Manager, ABenjamin@dccouncil.gov, 202-724-8058, and Brian Romanowski, Constituent Services Director, bromanowski@dccouncil.us, 202-285-9195.

Pablo Velasco introduced Maddie White. Mr. Velasco reported that Councilmember Pinto's top priority was improving public safety, and she recently completed public safety walks. One of her key takeaways from public safety walks was that the Secure DC Plan addresses many of the concerns. A joint public roundtable was recently held on violence prevention efforts. There were discussions about the need for increased resources. DC launched a new 211 system to provide quick referrals to social services and to provide help for loved ones who are heading down the wrong path. The next judiciary hearing will be held on November 29th, with a hearing on the Mayor's Act Now legislation. Mr. Velasco stated that if leaves are bagged, they must be bagged in paper bags, and 311 can be called to pick them up. Leaves bagged in plastic bags must be thrown out with regular trash.

Commissioner Lee proposed a motion to support the Mayor's and Councilmember's outfits in their most recent bills to reduce crime.

MOTION: Lee motioned to create a resolution to support the recent bills for crime reduction. Seconded by Shankle. (Vote 4-0-0)

Commissioner Lee will draft the resolutions.

5. DC Office of the Tenant Advocate's (OTA) Education & Community Outreach team (E&O). Christopher E. Lucas, Program Analyst, Education & Community Outreach, Christopher.lucas@dc.gov, 202.719.6560.

There was no one present to speak on this item.

LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY

- 1. Mayor's Fresh Start #FitDC 5K, Monday, January 1, 2024. Jewel Hanson, Hanson Productions, LLC, hpeventsdc@gmail.com, 703.307.2734.**

Julie Hanson reported that the Fresh Start 5K was taking place at Freedom Plaza, and it was an annual event. The start and finish line will be held on 12th Street. The festival is set up mostly on Freedom Plaza. The race begins at 11 am and is typically finished by noon. The event is well attended when the weather is good, with approximately 3,000 to 4,000 people. The Mayor will be in attendance. The attendance has been as low as 900 when the temperature was sub-zero and as high as 4,000.

MOTION: Roe motioned to send a letter of support for the Mayor's Fresh Start FitDC 5K. Seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

- 2. HerStory 5K, Saturday, March 9, 2024. Jewel Hanson, Hanson Productions LLC, hpeventsdc@gmail.com, 703.307.2734.**

Julie Hanson stated that the HerStory 5K takes place at Freedom Plaza and is in honor of Women's History Month. Last year, there were approximately 3,000 attendees. It begins at 10

am and is typically finished by 11 am. It follows the same path as the Mayor's Fresh Start 5K. It is a free event.

MOTION: Roe motioned to send a letter of support for the HerStory 5K. Seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSING (ABCA)

- 1. The God of Wine and Vegetation, LLC, Trade Name: Coco Lezzone, New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant (ABRA-126264), 915 15th Street, NW, Sean T. Morris, The Morris Law Firm LLC, 301.654.6570**

There was no one in attendance to present. Commissioner Shankle reported that there was a seating capacity of 92 with a sidewalk café of 24 seats. The license was requesting the carry-out and delivery of alcohol. The hours are Sunday-Thursday, 11 am to 12 am, and Friday and Saturday, 11 am to 1 am. The sidewalk café is open from 11 am to 11 pm Sunday through Thursday and 11 am to 12 am Friday and Saturday. There were no concerns or objections.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for Coco Lezzone for the new retailer's class "C" restaurant. Seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

- 2. D&S Franchising, LLC, Trade Name: Topsy Scoop, New Retailer's Class "D" Tavern (ABRA-126236), 901 7th Street, NW, Cameron Mixon, Esq., The Veritas Law Firm, 202.686.7600, cmixon@thevertiaslawfirm.com**

Cameron reported that the concept was an ice cream parlor where the beverages were infused with a small amount of spirits. The establishment was largely carried out, with some seating. The hours were Sunday through Saturday from 12 pm to 10 pm, except for occasional expanded hours in the summer. It will open shortly after New Year's.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the Topsy Scoop for the retailer's class "D" tavern license. Seconded by Roe. (Vote 4-0-0)

- 3. Full Moon, LLC, Trade Name: Equinox on 19th, Transfer of Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant and stipulated (ABRA-126264), 900 19th Street NW, Cameron Mixon, Esq. The Veritas Law Firm, 202.686.7600, cmixon@thevertiaslawfirm.com**

Cameron reported that Equinox was in operation for 20 years. They want to relocate, and they were asking to receive a stipulated license to begin full operations while the full license was approved.

MOTION: Strauss motioned to send a stipulated letter of support for Equinox for the transfer of the retailer's class "C" license. Seconded by Lee. (Vote 4-0-0)

- 4. Himalayan Doko, LLC, Trade Name: Himalayan Doko, New Retailer's Class "C"**

Restaurant, 1108 K Street, NW, Nabin Paudel, paudelnabin90@yahoo.com, 571.225.5409

Alcohol was not being served at the location. Commissioner Shankle reported that the seating capacity was 68, with a total capacity load of 90. There was a summer garden with 22 seats. They were requesting an alcohol and delivery carry-out endorsement. The hours were 10 am to 11 pm, Sunday through Saturday. The carryout is 11 am to 11 pm. The outdoor café is open from 11 am to 11:30 pm. The summer garden is 11 am to 11 pm. There were no concerns raised.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for Himalayan Doko for a class “C” license. Seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

OTHER BUSINESS

The meetings in 2024 will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month.

MOTION: Lee motioned to support Councilmember Pinto’s Secure DC Plan introduced on September 18th, 2023, which will increase accountability for violent crime and gun offenses, boost law enforcement hiring and retention challenges, and improve infrastructure at schools and recreational facilities. Seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

MOTION: Lee motioned to support Mayor Bowser’s Addressing Crime Trends Now Act and new legislation introduced on October 23rd, 2023, that will address recent public safety challenges by giving law enforcement more tools. Seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Minutes Submitted by: Minutes Services

Minutes Approved by: 01.09.2024

Next Meeting: December 12, 2023, 6:00 pm. It will be a hybrid format.

The meetings in 2024 will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month.

ANC Commissioners and Website

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Meetings are scheduled for the Second Tuesday of each month.