

# ANC 2F | Regular Monthly Public Meeting

## MINUTES

WEDNESDAY  
JULY 5, 2023

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

### PRESENT

David Rubenstein (2F01)  
Neil Rocklin (2F02)  
Joe Florio (2F03)  
Brian McCabe (2F04)  
Christopher Dyer (2F05)  
Matt Fouracre (2F06)  
Brant Miller (2F07)  
Caroline Zagraniczny (2F08)

### ABSENT

### GUESTS AND PRESENTERS

Chair Phil Mendelson (DC Council)  
Lieutenant Sylvester Garvin (MPD)  
Lieutenant Curtis Miller (MPD)  
Brian Romanowski (DC Council)  
Grace Reeder (MOCRS)  
Brittany Bunch (EOM)  
Nicholas McGuire (EOM)

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM. The Chair called roll and confirmed quorum.

### *Community Forum*

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#### **Commissioner Announcements**

No Commissioner announcements were put forward by the Commission.

#### **Report from Metropolitan Police Department, *Lieutenant Curtis Miller***

Lieutenant Curtis Miller shared updates on the 11th Street to 13th Street corridor and efforts to limit public solicitation for sex workers in the area. He also reported back on a safety walk on the border of 2D and 3D and efforts to monitor the area on 14th Street. Lt. Miller shared information about public outreach from MPD, including “Coffee with a Cop” and an MPD presence on July 22 in Blagden Alley.

Commissioner Caroline Zagraniczny asked about a crime that had occurred on Rhode Island Avenue, and Lt. Miller explained that he did not have any specifics. Commissioner Zagraniczny also asked about a stabbing that had occurred in 3D; Lt. Miller explained that there had been a stabbing and the victim had attempted to walk to the hospital before being treated by medics.

#### **Report from DC Council, *Council Chair Phil Mendelson***

DC Council Chair Phil Mendelson updated the ANC on the Council’s progress on the budget, including adding funds for access to justice, emergency rental assistance, and other key programs. He also noted a shift in funding in the District of Columbia Public Schools budget to preserve the teacher workforce and ensure that schools shared funding. Finally, he mentioned that the K Street Transitway project had been reconsidered in order for further review and consideration in next year’s budget. He explained that bus service had been preserved, but that COVID-related federal relief money would be terminated next year, creating a cliff for WMATA. He also presented changes and riders on federal funding, including reduced funds for Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE).

He presented information on an emergency bill for public safety, including a tightening of language for pretrial detention for minors, which would allow greater authority for the court to remand minors into detention if accused of a violent crime.

He shared updates on progress toward buying facilities for those experiencing homelessness in DC.

Commissioner Brant Miller expressed apprehension about the “partnership” between the DC Council and federal legislators. He asked how Chair Mendelson envisioned working with partners like WMATA and Congress. Chair Mendelson explained that he had great confidence in Councilmember Charles Allen, who was leading the Transportation and the Environment Committee. He also clarified the future of negotiations on WMATA among the participating governments.

Commissioner David Rubenstein shared concerns about public safety, including the failure to receive accreditation for the DC Forensic Lab and the inability to retain and recruit police officers. Chair Mendelson expressed his frustration with regard to public safety and his belief that the mayor needed to do more to ensure that the downtown and commercial corridor areas are safe. He explained that there needed to be more support for the MPD in ensuring cases could be closed, because most crime is committed by repeat offenders; he expressed doubt that the reforms the mayor proposed would impact crime. He suggested that more coordination needed to be done between the Mayor and the US Attorney’s office to support more aggressive prosecuting. With regard to the police force, he explained that this was not a challenge that is unique to the District and the Council had budgeted funds for incentive programs.

Commissioner Zagraniczny asked for more information on consideration of emergency legislation; Chair Mendelson explained the public safety bill would be discussed on Tuesday. She also asked about cuts to the police reimbursement fund and other gaps in funding for public safety; Chair Mendelson explained that these cuts were proposed in the House appropriations legislation and he was hopeful it would not pass in the House version of the bill or in final legislation.

Commissioner Zagraniczny also shared feedback on the transitional housing proposed for the former GW University campus housing, which she believed was important to maintain as long term transitional housing. She asked the Chair whether he would support the proposed plan. Chair Mendelson clarified that the Council had voted to pursue a lengthier timeline to consider the plan with the executive branch, including by providing more detail and conditions on the contract in terms of service provision. She finally noted that the Public Safety Committee would be meeting in the coming week.

Janice Ferebee expressed her interest in strengthening the conditions on the transitional housing program to ensure the safety of the residents and the community. She shared her personal experience as someone who lived in transitional housing in DC and now worked as a social worker and advocate, and she asked what mechanisms were available to work with the Council.

**Report from Metropolitan Police Department, *Sergeant Tim Shefman***

Sgt. Shefman provided updates on crime statistics in the second district, including two burglaries that had taken place on 14th Street and which were being investigated. He noted a robbery and a sexual abuse case that were also being investigated by the second district. Finally, he shared information about a handgun and ammunition recovery during a traffic stop.

Commissioner David Rubenstein asked about the status of prosecution for arrests that took place; Sgt. Shefman explained that the MPD could only make its recommendation to the prosecutor, but he committed Lt. Garvin to follow up with status updates.

#### **Report from Mayor's Office, *Grace Reeder***

Grace Reeder provided updates on the Mayor's plans to utilize federal grants to protect and preserve the Anacostia waterway. She advertised an upcoming event to swim in the Anacostia.

She also reminded the Commission that the minimum wage had increased on July 1, and the DC Office of Employment Services would be holding a webinar on wage theft.

She shared information on free summer meals throughout the District.

Finally, she provided an update on the upcoming Black Business Expo, which had been rescheduled from earlier in the year.

Commissioner Miller shared his excitement about the prospect of swimming in the Anacostia and his dismay that tickets were sold out. Ms. Reeder explained she would do her best to make sure he could participate in the event!

#### **Report from DC Sentencing Commission, *Brittany Bunch and Nicholas McGuire***

Brittany Bunch of the DC Sentencing Commission presented information about the mission and structure of the Sentencing Commission, as well as their work in making sentencing recommendations, researching policies, monitoring application of guidelines, and outreach through community events.

Nicholas McGuire presented the voluntary sentencing guidelines, which provided a matrix of suggested sentences depending on the type of crime and the perpetrator's criminal history.

Ms. Bunch presented a series of data on sentencing in the District, including the type of sentence, manner of resolution, distribution of offense, and information on adherence to guidelines.

#### **Report from DC Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office, *Brian Romanowski***

Brian Romanowski presented updates from CM Pinto's office, including new bills that she had put forth on fare evasion, public safety, and emergency response on 911 calls.

Finally, he shared updates on community events with CM Pinto.

#### **Community Announcements**

US Shadow Representative Adeoye Owolewa shared updates on efforts to work with formerly incarcerated individuals, with events to help to educate on sealing records and for second chance employment.

#### ***Consent Agenda***

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Chair Florio read the consent agenda, including:

- Approval of the July agenda
- Approval of June Meeting Minutes
- Approval of New Public Safety Committee Members (Noel Schroeder, Vera Feinhaus, and Adam Shapiro)

Commissioner Miller moved to approve the consent agenda; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**VOTE: 8-0-0**

## ***Treasurer's Report***

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### *Review of Accounts*

Commissioner Fouracre presented the final balance for the third quarter of fiscal year 2023, as well as updates on tracking toward the budget. He shared that the ANC was on track to be ahead of budget by the end of the fiscal year.

### *Approval of Expenses*

Commissioner Christopher Dyer moved to approve the following expenses:

- \$1278.81 for Executive Director's Salary
- \$747 for Federal Income Tax
- \$131.50 for State Income Tax
- \$91.98 for DC Unemployment Insurance

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**VOTE: 8-0-0**

### *Approval of FY 2023 Q3 Quarterly Financial Report*

Chair Florio moved to approve the Quarterly Financial Report. Commissioner Fouracre seconded the motion and explained that the report was presented as a full ledger of expenditures. The motion was approved unanimously.

**VOTE: 8-0-0**

## ***Committee Reports***

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### **Community Development Committee, *Helen Kramer***

#### *BZA Application: 1931 15TH Street NW*

Committee Chair Helen Kramer presented the application for a zoning variance for a rowhouse at the corner of 15th Street and U Street. She explained that the first floor of the building was zoned for commercial use, and the owner was seeking to extend the commercial use to the basement of the building. She clarified that the zoning regulation standards required demonstrating exceptional hardship due to a peculiarity of the building, and because the building is constrained by historic preservation regulations, the applicant was unable to renovate and add entrance to the basement at the front of the building.

She explained that the CDC had voted unanimously to recommend that the ANC support the application.

#### *BZA Application: 1315 Corcoran Street NW*

Dr. Kramer also presented the application for a special exception for relief on the maximum height requirement for a mechanical penthouse. She clarified the unusual nature of the application, which had been approved by the BZA and then rescinded amid personnel turnover; the mechanical penthouse already existed on the property and would not be altered.

She explained that the CDC had voted unanimously to recommend that the ANC support the application.

Commissioner Dyer moved to accept the recommendations of the CDC. Chair Florio seconded the motion. No further discussion was presented and the motion approved unanimously.

**VOTE: 8-0-0**

### **Public Space and Transportation Committee, *Commissioner David Rubenstein***

Commissioner Rubenstein reported that the Committee had discussed trash removal in the commercial and residential areas of the ANC. He noted that the contracts for the “Clean Team” responsible for trash removal in commercial areas were being renegotiated, and the Committee would be examining the funding available and the substance of the contracts. He noted that upcoming meetings would deal with traffic issues.

**Alcohol Policy Committee, Commissioner Matthew Fouracre**

*Aslin Brewing Company*

Commissioner Rubenstein reported that the ANC had negotiated an updated Settlement Agreement with Aslin and the neighborhood civic association. He explained that the SA stipulated hiring a consultant to conduct a sound study and improve trash storage and removal. He did note that ABCA had communicated some suggested changes, which he was confident would be resolved, and so the protest was dropped.

*Trade: Substantial Change to License*

Chair Florio reported that the ANC had reached a Settlement Agreement with Trade, which was filed with ABCA and the protest had been dropped.

*Bar Japonais: New License*

Chair Florio reported that the ANC had nearly reached a Settlement Agreement with Bar Japonais, but the ownership had made amendments to the Agreement that fundamentally changed the nature of the use of public space in the sidewalk cafes, along with other changes that would require renegotiation of the Agreement before signing.

*Muni: New License*

Chair Florio shared updates on the concept for the Muni and explained that he planned to pursue a Settlement Agreement with the establishment.

Commissioner Miller reminded the Commission that the District did have temporary guidelines for the construction of Streateries that should guide discussions.

**Public Safety Committee, Commissioner Caroline Zagraniczny**

Commissioner Zagraniczny reported that the ANC has recirculated the Committee interest form in order to encourage members of the public to join the Public Safety Committee. She also reported that the Committee would be meeting on July 11 at 6 PM.

***New Business***

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*Traffic Enforcement Resolution*

Chair Florio moved to approve the resolution to start discussion. Commissioner Dyer seconded. Commissioner Rubenstein shared background on the resolution, which included a review of reciprocity with Maryland and Virginia on ticketing and a review of enforcement mechanisms. Commissioner Rubenstein also offered a proposal that the ANC may want to coordinate with other ANCs to amplify and strengthen the impact of the resolution. Commissioner Miller explained that there is an ATE task force with monthly meetings open to the public and an upcoming report scheduled to be released on September 30 of this year. He asked whether it may be wise to wait for the report to respond to recommendations and offer input at that time. Commissioner Dyer offered his viewpoint that the resolution was well articulated and the policy positions were crafted effectively—he also noted that it’s possible the ANC could offer another resolution upon release of the report. Commissioner Rubenstein expressed his interest in exploring the resolution’s timing further. Commissioner Dyer rescinded his motion.

*August Meeting*

Commissioner Brant Miller moved to cancel the August meeting. Commissioner Dyer seconded the motion. Chair Florio clarified that the ANC was not required to meet every month of the year and no urgent business was pending

for August. He noted that Committees could still meet in August. Commissioner Rubenstein asked about what might happen if urgent business arose; Commissioner Dyer explained it was possible to call an emergency meeting and the Commission discussed procedures for doing so if necessary. The motion passed unanimously.

**VOTE: 8-0-0**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.**