

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2G  
Virtual Public Meeting  
Thursday, December 14, 2023**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2G convened via Zoom Video Conference and/or Telephone on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Tony Brown, (Treasurer), ANC 2G01  
Alex Padro, (Chair), ANC 2G02  
Sranda Watkins, ANC 2G03  
Steven McCarty (Secretary), ANC 2G04  
Sheena Berry, ANC 2G05  
Rachelle Nigro, (Vice Chair), ANC 2G06

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum of \_\_\_ out of 6 Commissioners present.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Watkins seconded to approve the Agenda as amended. The Motion *passed* unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

**3. POLICE REPORT: METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, 3<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT**

Did not join the call.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A. REPORT FROM MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SERVICES (MOCRS)**

Grace Reeder, ([grace.reeder@dc.gov](mailto:grace.reeder@dc.gov); 202-297-6566), Ward 2 Community Liaison

- o Mayor Bowser is encouraging residents to prepare for winter weather events by preparing their homes and supporting future deployments of the district snow team. The District's snow team is made up of more than 800 employees from across the District government, operating more than 250 snowplows to keep DC streets clear. Some of the preparedness tips include ways for residents to sign up for real time weather alerts through [alert.dc.gov](http://alert.dc.gov), and also encourage residents to sign up for serve DC's volunteer snow team, so she will drop the links in the chat as well as some important information.
- o DPW is still in leaf collection, so on Monday they started in 2D which is in Georgetown, and once they complete that section, they will come back around for a second pass of 2A and 2B. If your street has not been collected 8 business days after DPW has announced collection has started in the next

section, please call 311 or visit: <https://311.dc.gov> and open a leaf collection missed service request.

- The DC Department of Health and DC Public Library are distributing COVID-19 test kits at DCPL locations so those are available at Shaw.
- Mayor Bowser and the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice released an application for the Safe Commercial Corridors Grant Program with \$1.1 million in grant funds available in FY 24 to support public safety initiatives. The request for applications will be open through Friday, January 12, 2024, and awards will be announced in February 2024.
- My School DC Lottery: The lottery application just opened on December 11, 2023. The application deadline for Grades 9 through 12 is February 1, 2024. The application deadline for Pre-K through Grade 8 is March 1, 2024.
- Last week, Mayor Bowser and Chief of Police Pamela Smith were joined by representatives from various district federal and regional Public Safety agencies to announce MPD's new Real Time Crime Center (RTCC). The RTCC will serve as a new dedicated space that will be staffed 24/7 with local, regional and federal law enforcement agencies to monitor and respond to criminal activities in real time. The RTCC will serve as the nerve center for law enforcement in the District and throughout the region to collect and analyze data, enhance situational awareness and facilitate quick decision making regarding crimes. Some of the partners include Amtrak, Police, Arlington County Police, U.S. Capital Police, Fairfax County Police, Metro Transit Police, Montgomery County Police, U.S. Park Police, Prince George's County Police and the U.S. Secret Service Uniformed Division. Additionally, DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency and the DC Housing Authority Police Department are also going to support the RTCC along with Federal investigative partners at the ATF, FBI and U.S. Marshals Service.
- Mayor Bowser is inviting residents to register for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fit DC Fresh Start 5K that will take place on Monday, January 1, 2024 at Freedom Plaza in Downtown DC. Registration begins at 10:00 a.m. and the 5K will start at 11:00 a.m. This is a free, really fun event open to people of all ages and abilities. There will also be an activation in Freedom Park with refreshments, music and vendor booths provided by the Department of Parks and Recreation.
- She sent the Commission an email this week talking about the proposal that Mayor Bowser and the Council have submitted to Monumental Sports to keep DC teams here in DC. It is clearly the best deal for Monumental and for the region as a whole since we already have a unified District government, and there is no other jurisdiction or political process that provides greater certainty than ours. It is really important to note that while a lot of people are framing this decision for Monumental to move to Virginia as a done deal, it is definitely not. There are still a lot of legislative steps that they need to go through before this deal is finalized. And Mayor Bowser and the Council are confident that Monumental Sports will see that their deal is the best one, especially since, right now, Capital One Arena is among the highest rated transit-friendly venues.

- o Additionally, you can request meetings with Mayor Bowser by visiting:  
<https://mayor.dc.gov/page/invite-mayor>
- o On Tuesdays and Fridays, we do community walk throughs.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- o Commissioner McCarty – **(1)** asked regarding the Real Time Crime Center if there is any component of that getting the DC crime lab reaccredited?  
Response: That is separate from the Real Time Crime Center. That is something that we are working on in the process. She can follow up with him with more specifics; **(2)** the Friends of Tenth Street Park have been really struggling to get DGS to act. There are lighting issues, the fences broken, and folks are breaking in at night, so it is officially a matter of public safety. We have had these requests into DGS for almost 8 months now. Response: Yes, she has been in communication with DPR and DGS about that. She knows DGS is following up on the work order that, she believes, was submitted in August. Once she has more information, she will let him know. They did let her know that they are aware of the issue and they will work to get her an update in the coming days and weeks.
- o Commissioner Nigro stated it is clear with the Capital One Arena situation and Monumental Sports that that was in the works for very significant amount of time with the State of Virginia, so who is the person who was supposed to be handling the relationship with Ted Leonsis? Response: The Mayor and our team have been in constant communication with Monumental Sports in regard to the legislative process in Virginia. It is not a done deal. They still have to go through the Alexandria City Council, they still have to hold public hearings, and they still have to get the support of the Virginia State Legislature. Also, it is unclear if it is going to be supported by the public, so Mayor Bowser and the Council are united in their proposals and pitch to Monumental about that and their belief that DC teams need to stay here in DC. But to answer your question about who and how often were they talking to Monumental, Mayor Bowser and our administration have had constant meetings with Monumental Sports, and as most recently as Sunday when they presented the offer that was released publicly.
- o Commissioner Nigro reiterated her concerns about the DC Government putting a jail downtown.
- o Chat: There was a question about where in the budget are the funds to keep and revitalize the sports arena. So the CFO recently refinanced district debt. Then, as a result, lo and behold, they were able to find \$500 billion.  
Response: There is a difference between the general operating fund and the capital budget. We can get into more specifics about funds as we get into budget season and the Mayor will be hosting her public budget engagement forums. So, if you have more questions about the budget there, and how money is allocated in that way, she will definitely encourage you to attend.

## **B. REPORT FROM DPW – INSPECTOR DAVIS**

- Leaf Season: Just about completing 2D and hopefully start second round sometime next week.
- Yard Waste Bags: Everything from yard waste can be placed in those bags. So if you see the leaf crew coming through and they don't dump the yard waste bags, the reason is that the vacuum cannot handle branches. There are separate crews that collect the yard waste bags. The leaf vacuums can only handle leaves.
- Snow Removal: Residents must be prepared to remove their snow within eight (8) hours of the completion of the snow event or there will be a \$25 citation if there is snow still on the sidewalk.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Commissioner Nigro asked whether the public really gets fined. Response: We have spoken to management about this and there have been staffing issues, but he agrees we need to be out there dealing with residents and snow that has not been removed on the sidewalk.
- Commissioner Watkins asked about the citation and what does DPW do about older residents who cannot go outside or are disabled? Response: There is an exemption form that can be completed for seniors and disabled residents. Residents can call: 202-645-7190.
- Commissioner Brown asked about handicapped residents placing trash out in front of their homes. Response: We have a handicapped form that can be put on the cans and the crews will empty the cans and return them to the property.
- Commissioner Berry stated she heard back from the OANC and if the ANC wants to post signs, meeting notices, etc., copies should be submitted to Walter Graham, Public Space Regulation Division, DDOT, [walter.graham@dc.gov](mailto:walter.graham@dc.gov), 202-442-4670

## **C. REPORT FROM WARD 2 COUNCILMEMBER PINTO'S OFFICE**

[bpinto@dccouncil.gov](mailto:bpinto@dccouncil.gov); 202-724-8058; <https://www.brookepintodc.com/> Brian Romanowski, Constituent Services Director, [bromanowski@dccouncil.gov](mailto:bromanowski@dccouncil.gov)

- Councilmember Pinto plans to attend ANC 2G's January or February meeting, so please begin to think of what questions you have for her
- Her next office hours event will be early in January. On Thursday, January 11, 2024, it is going to be at Compass Coffee, 650 F Street, NW, at 8:30 a.m.
- Crime: Councilmember Pinto is continuing to hold hearings on her Secure DC Plan.
- On Monday she held a hearing on 3 more bills:
  - The first bill expands the Safe Commercial Corridors Pilot Program citywide, which, as a reminder, gives grants to BIDs and Main Streets for things like improved lighting and hiring private security patrols.
  - The second bill increases cameras and emergency communications in public spaces. This is similar to blue lights on college campuses that I

think a lot of people are familiar with. And this would be around public transit stations, including bus stops.

- The third is Councilmember Robert White's legislation, which calls for a number of things like requiring DC to collect and publish firearm tracing data requiring the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE) to develop public metrics to gauge the effectiveness of the violence intervention programs that we always talk about and then creating a recruitment and retention program at the Department of Forensic Sciences.
- At last week's legislative meeting, the Council also passed a new bill that Councilmember Henderson introduced that seeks to address the staffing shortages at the Office of Unified Communications by allowing retired firefighters and police officers to be eligible to be rehired as temporary employees.
- If you feel strongly about improving public safety, please sign up to be a witness at any of these legislative hearings or you can contact your at-large councilmembers to express your support.
- Councilmember Pinto is going to be holding her Annual Ward 2 Budget Forum virtually on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. In the coming days we will be sharing an RSVP link for that event.
- Now is a great time to submit 311 requests for potholes or cracks in the roads. Cracks in the roads tend to get worse in the winter when water gets in there and freezes, so please submit those now, and they are filling them generally in 3 business days, so it is one of the fastest services you can request on 311 and hopefully it will save somebody some car damage or bike damage or worse.
- Update on the Wizards and Capitals relocating to Virginia: The news yesterday was not welcome. Councilmember Pinto's top priorities have been and continue to be improving public safety and downtown recovery and since being elected, Councilmember Pinto has had consistent communication with Monumental Sports and their leadership to support them and address issues that they have raised to us. When it became clear that they were considering relocating this summer, Councilmember Pinto took that extremely seriously. She advocated to her colleagues on the Council about the importance of keeping the teams, and she worked to make sure the Council was unanimous in their support for a strong offer to keep the teams in DC. Monumental has said that they were swayed by the 70 acres of land to build new facilities on. Obviously, that is not something that DC can match but we do feel that our existing infrastructure is superior. Our transportation access is superior. Our neighborhood amenities are better and superior, and that DC teams should be playing in DC. The Council is planning to hold a hearing in January to approve the offer that was presented on Sunday. Councilmember Pinto again is focused on making sure the DC Government is united. As the legislative process plays out, Councilmember Pinto will also continue her work to drive down crime and make Chinatown a safe and desirable place to live, work and do business, because we know that a safe and active Capital One Arena is still essential to Councilmember Pinto's vision.

A question-and-answer period followed

- Commissioner Nigro stated everyone is totally distraught about the Wizards and Capitals potentially leaving but why isn't your office and Councilmember Pinto distraught about a jail coming downtown? Response: Well, we definitely hear you. I think we are worried and that is why Councilmember Pinto has worked to address a lot of the concerns that you have raised to her like people being released from the site and noise issues and so we will continue to address any of those concerns that you raise. Commissioner Nigro stated we never asked for her compromise, so again, why is she not opposed to this jail that is going to affect downtown? We have yet to receive that answer. She needs to stop with the story about compromise. Response: He will take that back to her.

**[Commissioners Padro and Berry join the call].**

- Commissioner Watkins stated there is a part of the crime bill that Councilmember Pinto put out, and to her it sounds a lot like stop and frisk, and while she is definitely in favor of doing things to lower crime, this is not something where it looks like we are over policing. Response: He thinks what is being talked about is part of the ACTIVE Amendment (Addressing Crime through Targeted Interventions & Violence Enforcement Amendment Act of 2023) which would allow police officers to stop people that have previously been convicted of a crime and are not completely exonerated. That is one of the more controversial pieces that other Councilmembers also have brought up and some advocacy groups as well. He believes that the way that the legislative process works is they are going to have a markup on the bill so they can make changes to it before they actually take any votes. So, even though the committee has not voted on any of these bills yet, that markup is likely when you will see changes to that specific bill. Thank you for flagging that and he will let the Councilmember know that, too.

**D. REPORT FROM EVENTS DC**

Solana Vander Nat, Senior Manager of Community Engagement, Walter E. Washington Convention Center

- Visit: [eventsdc.com](https://eventsdc.com); please sign up for Events DC electronic mailing list.
- Regarding the December event calendar, this month we hosted 4 events at the Convention Center.
- For the rest of this month, we have one more upcoming event. This is the 2023 DC Chamber Annual Meeting and Chairman's Inaugural Breakfast which will be held tomorrow with an estimated attendance of 300.
- We want to extend our sincere appreciation to all volunteers who contributed to the success of the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Safeway Feast. Their efforts enabled us to serve a full Thanksgiving meal as well as provide coats, hats, gloves, personal care items, and fruit for attendees to take home.

- We also hosted a Health and Information Expo for the attendees to receive flu and Covid inoculations, cancer screenings, and a variety of information around social services and training.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Commissioner McCarty asked if there were any timelines for the grand opening of some of the kiosks and especially if we will have another new coffee shop in the neighborhood. Response: The strategic initiatives team is working on this. As we know, the Gentleman's Closet is open, Oak Barry received their building permit and are finishing their build out and then the Bridge Coffee House and DC Chi Pie are continuing to work on their permits as well. Commissioner Nigro stated she received some additional information regarding the Coffee House, and so it seems to be more than the permit, it seems to do with the actual Department of Health and the lack of a bathroom, and where that bathroom is. Commissioner Nigro asked what the thought process was for having food entities there, and not considering where the restroom facility is. Response: She is not part of strategic initiatives team. She would be more than happy to follow up with them far as what the next steps are for that.

**5. SPECIAL GUEST: ALLISTER CHANG, WARD 2 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVE: PRESENTATION ON LITERACY [ALL SMDs]**

Did not join the call.

**6. DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REPRESENTATIVE(S): QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT DDOT PROJECTS AND ISSUES IN ANC 2G [ALL SMDs]**

Representative Present: Christophe Wassmer, Communication Specialist, Ward 2 Liaison, DDOT, 202-809-8453

Slide presentation provided. Highlights include:

**S Street Revitalization Project:**

- Going from Florida Avenue to 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW
- Project Objectives:
  - Improve safety for all modes of travel
  - Enhance pedestrian connectivity
  - Discourage speeding
  - Upgrade sidewalks to ADA standards
  - Improve crosswalks, lighting, curbs, pavement and walkways
  - Add greenspace

**Traffic Safety Inputs (TSIs) prioritized in 2G for Quarter 1 of FY 2024**

- TSIs prioritized around the Convention Center
  1. #22-00537550, Hard to See Traffic (Daylighting alley entrance at 1118 9<sup>th</sup> Street)
  2. #23-00024521, PaveDC (Request for displaced curve on 9<sup>th</sup> Street)
  3. #23-00147020, Traffic Calming (Restriping current configuration of 9<sup>th</sup> Street)

4. #23-00225931, Hard to See Cross traffic (Daylighting alleyway at 919 L Street NW)
5. #23-00174063, Traffic Calming (Motorists not following lane and pavement markings on 9<sup>th</sup> Street NW)
6. #23-00265300, Traffic Calming (Events DC moved bike lane one step away due to construction; working with Events DC on how to make this safe)
7. #23-00355719, Pavement Markings (Pavement markings for 9<sup>th</sup> Street NW intersection onto Mass Avenue and Mount Vernon Place)
8. #23-00447414, Traffic Calming (Taxi Stand along 9<sup>th</sup> Street before the intersection of Mass Avenue)
9. #23-00370279, Traffic Calming/ATE (Red light cameras along Mass Avenue)

### **TSIs Pending Installation/Completed**

1. ATE camera and roadway restriping at 9<sup>th</sup> and Mt. Vernon Place NW
2. Request for signal timing changes at New York Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW
3. Proposed Crosswalk at Marion and P Street
4. Installed High Visibility Crosswalk at Rhode Island Avenue and Marion Street NW
5. Installed new stop signs at S and 8<sup>th</sup> Street NW
6. Speed bumps at S and Wiltberger Street NW

### **TSI 2.0 Process**

- o DDOT services about 800 locations per year and 200 locations per quarter. Once it has been prioritized, the TSI's traffic safety input that are adjacent to that location will be all bundled together and then our engineers have 130 days to post an explanation, then conduct an engineering evaluation, which will then be posted to our TSI Dashboard.
- o For prioritized TSIs, DDOT will post an explanation of next steps to the TSI Dashboard under the tab "Pending Installation" following the completion of an engineering evaluation.
- o If a safety mitigation is necessary, DDOT will provide the details of the proposed improvements. If no changes are recommended, we will provide an explanation for our decision.
- o Lastly, if recommendations change existing traffic control and/or on-street parking, a Notice of Intent (NOI) will be required. The NOI includes a 30 business day public comment period.

### **Q&A**

- o Commissioner Padro asked what is meant by daylighting alleyways? Response: Removing parking spaces if necessary. Part of daylighting would be including flex posts or bollards.
- o Commissioner Nigro stated ANC 2G wants as many speed cameras as possible. She asked where is the data for the one she requested for the 600 block of New York Avenue and where is the data for all these speed cameras? Response: He is working with their ATE (Automated Traffic Enforcement) team and sometimes it can be challenging. He is trying to get everyone the data they are requesting. Commissioner Nigro asked about the camera that was requested for the 1200 block of 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW. Response: He will get more information on that.
- o Commissioner Watkins stated on #3 of the TSIs Pending Installation/Completed, it was her understanding a traffic light was supposed to be installed there. Response:



It was his understanding the request was for a crosswalk, not a signal. A new traffic safety input request can be filed for a signal or a stop sign to be considered at this intersection. We have different engineering teams. There's a safety team, and then there is a signals team. Our signals team would be the one that would be responsible for reviewing a stop sign installation or a Hawk signal. Commissioner Padro asked Commissioner Watkins to check her email. The team had decided that because there was a tree that would be interfering with the landing of a crosswalk as we had requested it to be relocated to the west side of the intersection of Marion and P Street, they have decided that the crosswalk is going to be on the east side instead but the resolution did include the request for a Hawk signal or for a stop sign and apparently that was ignored. Response: Mr. Wassmer said he would be happy to submit the request for a Hawk signal or a stop sign on behalf of 2G.

- o Commissioner Berry stated there have been problems with DDOT when resolutions and requests are submitted and there does not seem to be any follow-up or quality control and the like. She would like to see a new process of follow up in the New Year. She also stated she is not a proponent of speed cameras and a lot of her constituents have complained about them. She is pro safety and parking and just recently took over the Transportation Advisory Committee and has received complaints from constituents about the flow of traffic on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. There need to be signs put up in various places to let people know that there is a new traffic pattern because it is still relatively new and also it just needs to be more defined. She asked about the possibility of making 9<sup>th</sup> Street a one-way street. She also stated putting just a crosswalk at Marion & P Street is just not safe for pedestrians and there needs to be a signal there.
- o Commissioner McCarty thanked Mr. Wassmer for including so many of his constituency requests in the TSI Map. He had a constituent who is a disabled veteran who waited over a year for their resident handicap parking permit in front of their home, and that is absolutely unacceptable. It is a disgrace. He cannot imagine treating any constituent like that, let alone someone who has honorably served our country. He has been on that thread with them for over 6 months trying to get DDOT to come out and install this sign. You were over 130 days past your original 130 day service level agreement, so what went wrong? Response: He is glad that we were able to finally get that RPP parking sign installed this week and he apologized for the delay on getting that. We understand your frustration. We hear you and he is sure he is not the first one to tell you that our system is not perfect. But in this case the RPP was sent out as a Notice of Intent and then in our system it got stuck as a pending NOI. So, in our system, once a Notice of Intent is sent out and that 30 business day period ends, it should go to our signage shop to be fabricated and then installed. But in this case, it got stuck in our system as a pending NOI, and it did not get sent through to our signage shop so our signage shop never received that work order to then fabricate the sign or install it. He sincerely apologizes for the delay and for that mishap.

Commissioner McCarty asked if this an automation issue? Does someone in your office have to physically move that from pending to fabrication? Response: He is not aware of other issues like this.

Commissioner McCarty stated one of the larger resolutions 2G passed and sponsored by him was aimed directly at Blagden Alley. He would like to know if any physical modifications, changes, or adjustments have actually made their way to Blagden Alley and, more importantly, what is DDOT working on to keep delivery trucks out of Blagden Alley? As you should be aware, and hopefully are aware, there have been 3 incidents in which historical structures in Blagden Alley have been damaged by delivery trucks since this resolution was passed and Blagden Alley resides in the Shaw Historic District and he really wants to make sure that we do not continue to allow that denigration of our history, our black history at the expense of inaction from DDOT. So, what is DDOT doing to prevent this from continuing to happen? Response: He believes two signs have been put up. A No Outlet sign and a No Parking sign that were installed on eastern side of Blagden Alley. He knows that this is not enough, and they are continuing to work on this. And he has a team that has done an evaluation of speed humps earlier this year. He knows that Councilmember Pinto's office recommended a No Through Traffic sign, and so this would be a tactical closure of the alley, so we would just install No Through Traffic signs at the entry and exit portals of Blagden Alley. But he warned there is no enforcement of this. It would just disincentivize delivery trucks and drivers to go through. He would love to hear what the ANC thinks about that solution but that is a possible solution that we could have.

- o Commissioner Nigro stated there is zero Project Management within DDOT and why is that? No one takes ownership of these problems, and they go on and on and on and this is a perfect example.
- o Commissioner Padro stated – **(1)** when we did our walkthrough a couple of weeks back, he pointed out a number of pedestrian pylons that were down near Wilbur, Florida and T Streets. They are still down. DDOT has never been there or repositioned them. They are very flimsy. They keep getting knocked down, put up again, and then knocked down two weeks later. Is there a way to come up with something that is a little sturdier that will perhaps cause some more vehicular damage and inspire people to be more careful about not running them over? Response: Surprised to hear they were never replaced. He will reach out to the bridge team to see how, maybe, to secure these to the ground a little bit better; **(2)** the Shaw Heritage Trail was the second Heritage Trail to be installed in DC. It is now failing because the signs were attached with adhesive that did not end up being very weather fast. He actually has 4 panels from the trail, as well as an entire sign that fell over at his office waiting to get picked up, and he has been trying for the past 2 years to get some of these signs picked up and returned to their locations and reaffixed. He has been told that DDOT is responsible for their maintenance, and that there is a budget to do so but he cannot seem to get anyone to come and pick up this equipment; **(3)** from the last walkthrough, he just wanted to share that those ceremonial alley signs along Wilbur Street have still not been repositioned to their correct location. He would like to get a sense of how long you think it is reasonable to wait for those

- to be corrected. Response: I hear you. That's our signage shop. He will follow up to see what the problem is.
- o Commissioner Berry asked can you give us some tips on what would be the best way to get things accomplished? Response: If you have put in a request, most requests will get closed out, and they will get completed. If you feel like it has not been addressed, please forward him the service request number. You can do this once you put it in and he can see if he can try and get it prioritized with the responsible team or you know this is after it has been closed out and completed but it was not done to your satisfaction. Then he will reach out with the team to get this done to a higher standard. We have different processes. We have our traffic safety input process, our TSI process, and then we have our sidewalk repairs and roadway repairs, and roadway restriping. He highly recommends that Commissioners reach out to him because he knows the personnel in these different teams, and he will be able to reach out to them.
  - o Commissioner Padro encouraged Mr. Wassmer to attend Transportation and Public Space Committee Meetings so you can hear directly from some of the constituents that are raising some of these issues in the future. Commissioner Berry stated the Transportation and Public Space Advisory Committees meets the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Response: Please send him an invite and he will be happy to attend.

**7. 932 O STREET NW: REQUEST FOR BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO RENOVATE AN EXISTING SINGLE FAMILY TWO-STORY SEMI-DETACHED RESIDENTIAL BUILDING (REID STRATTON RESIDENCE) [2G04]**

Representative Present: Ken Dawson  
Jonathan Kuhn

Commissioner McCarty stated he attended the meeting yesterday, the Committee was in support, and none of his constituents had any concerns. Commissioner Nigro shared what Commissioner McCarty said and stated there were no concerns.

Mr. Kuhn stated the project in question is about an existing accessory structure that includes a garage at the lower level and conditioned space above. What they are proposing to do is add to the existing structure, but towards the house, not on the alleyway side. The reason for the BZA application is they are seeking relief because the existing property is over 60% lot occupancy altogether, so they are nonconforming. We are adding about 6 feet to the garage to provide actual space that someone can pull a car in and we are widening the garage door and adding some windows. So, they are at about 65% with the ask on the relief on the lot occupancy. Renderings were provided.

**MOTION:** Commissioner McCarty moved and Commissioner Nigro seconded that ANC 2G **support** the lot percentage exception from 60% to 65.87% to renovate an existing single family two-story semi-detached residential building at 932 O Street NW and that said support be communicated in writing to the Board of Zoning Adjustment. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

**8. 501 NEW YORK AVENUE NW: APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FOR LEGAL EXPERTISE FOR ZONING APPEAL [2G06]**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Brown seconded that ANC 2G **support** the request for funding for legal expertise via the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions specifically for the 501 New York Avenue NW appeal. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

**9. 1541 7<sup>th</sup> STREET NW: APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL PROTEST FOR CLASS C TAVERN ABCA LICENSE (PLAY DC RESTAURANT & LOUNGE, LLC t/a PLAY DC) [2G03]**

Representative Present: Cameron Mixon, Attorney, Veritas Law

Mr. Mixon stated he represents Play DC and has been in discussion with Commissioner Padro over the last few months to reach an agreement imposing slightly modified hours for Play DC's Sunday night operations, and also stating that they will maintain a standing order with the Metro Police Reimbursable Detail Officer (RDO) program to patrol the surrounding area on any night that they are open, that they will place timely requests and receive RDP when available.

Commissioner Padro added that Play DC was never approved in this form. Originally it was going to be an all-day breakfast lounge which never opened under that license. The licensee sold the license and the business to the virtual operators of Play DC with the result that we basically have a nightclub that is not sitting well with residential neighbors. There have also been a number of incidents, including a shooting on the premises, and there have been numerous complaints from adjacent residents of patrons of Play DC lingering along Marion Street and Q Street having car parties, being noisy and boisterous, and in general being disruptive. So that is why we have asked for and the applicant has agreed to seek an RDO that would hopefully help to reduce the frequency of these negative outcomes from after-hours activities. They also conducted a sound test and are making adjustments to their sound in the establishment to try to reduce the amount of bass that is felt by the adjacent neighbors.

Commissioner Nigro stated this is the same establishment where we have had numerous concerns before ad nauseum. Response: Mr. Mixon stated he personally wrote their new security plan which ensures that they have taken extensive measures to prevent incidents like the ones you're referencing. They perform metal detecting, using wands and pat downs every time a patron enters. With the front door security, they are more than prepared to prevent anything like this from happening. There will be no firearms inside the establishment, and for the surrounding premises the use of the RDOs will ensure that any of the rowdiness in the surrounding premises is dealt with and contained. Commissioner Padro responded they have had a less than ideal history. Initially, they had opened without a proper licensure, they still are operating a valet operation that is not properly licensed, there are still significant concerns, but the reality is that that the ABC Board, if we go to a full protest, is not going to do anything like shutting them down. Ideally, we'd like them not to be there anymore.

Mr. Mixon responded that the incidents that have been described have served as great learning opportunities for which they are going to ensure that they do completely better in the future. They will be there literally asking police to be on premises during all late night hours of operation. They are going to be abiding by the rules.

Commissioner Watkins asked are they not going to court in January? Commissioner Padro responded that what she saw was the Protest Hearing which is the ABCA proceeding. If we approve the settlement agreement, then that proceeding will not move forward.

Commissioner McCarty asked do we know if they are supportive of the Settlement Agreement? Commissioner Padro responded that if 2G approves the Settlement Agreement this evening, the Protest Hearing would not move forward.

Mr. Mixon provided the results from the sound engineer that show that they can have a measurable reduction in bass and resulting vibrations, such to the point of no unreasonable disturbance in audible bass to surrounding premises by lowering subwoofer frequencies at the 40, 50 and 60 hertz levels to no more than 95 decibels. This creates a level of sound that still is functional for the operation of the business without creating vibration to neighboring properties.

Commissioner Berry asked if the affected residents were invited to participate in the noise testing. Commissioner Padro responded, yes, they communicated with them and the Settlement Agreement was shared with them and they made modifications to it. They were advised it was going to be on the agenda for tonight.

Commissioner Nigro asked what happens if 2G does not support the Settlement Agreement. Commissioner Padro responded 2G would have to go to the Protest Hearing at which the concerns would be presented to the ABC Board and the ABC Board will deliberate and decide what, if any, action they will take. He knows that they will renew the license. They are not going to suspend or terminate the license because this is not what they do and at this juncture we have taken it as far as we are likely able to take it.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Padro moved that ANC 2G approve the Settlement Agreement for License Renewal Protest for Class C Tavern ABCA License for Play DC, 1541 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW, withdraw the protests of the renewal of the establishment license and communicate this to ABCA. The Motion **failed** for lack of a second.

Commissioner Watkins will take the lead in preparing the protest information forms and submitting them with assistance from commissioners.

**10. 400-500 BLOCKS OF RHODE ISLAND AVENUE NW: PROPOSAL TO REMOVE MEDIAN PARKING ON SUNDAYS [2G03]**

Commissioner Berry stated there are some parking signs on the 400-500 block of Rhode Island Avenue NW that were originally put there because there was a church. That church is now a private residence. The Transportation and Public Space Advisory Committee met and did not see the need to continue to keep that parking. Additionally,

it is also very dangerous for people who are exiting cars onto the street. The Transportation and Public Space Advisory Committee recommended that ANC 2G submit a resolution to DDOT to have the median parking signs removed.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Berry moved and Commissioner Watkins seconded that ANC 2G request DDOT to remove median parking on Sundays in the 400-500 blocks of Rhode Island Avenue NW and that this be communicated in writing to DDOT. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

**11. 512 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE NW: PROPOSAL TO REPLACE CURB CUT WITH SIDEWALK, CURB AND PARKING [2G03]**

Commissioner Berry stated this location is actually at Electric Kool Aid. There is a curve cut there that is no longer needed and could be used for parking. The owners were contacted and they advised they do not use the curb cut.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Berry moved and Commissioner Watkins seconded that ANC 2G request DDOT to replace the curb cut with sidewalk, curb and parking at 512 Rhode Island Avenue NW and that this be communicated in writing to DDOT. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

**12. 1400 BLOCK OF 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET NW: REQUEST FOR INSTALLATION OF SPEED BUMPS IN THE ALLEY BETWEEN RESIDENCES AND BUNDY FIELD**

Commissioner Berry stated residents have complained about people speeding excessively through the alleyway. It is a two-way alley, so residents have made the suggestion that they would like to see speed bumps/humps installed. The Transportation and Public Space Advisory Committee met last night and voted to request DDOT to install speed bumps in the alley behind the residences in the 1400 block of 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW and Bundy Field.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Padro moved and Commissioner Berry seconded that ANC 2G request DDOT to install speed bumps/humps in the alley behind the residences in the 1400 block of 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW and Bundy Field and that this be communicated in writing to DDOT. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

**13. 500 BLOCK SOUTH OF S STREET AND FLORIDA AVENUE AND 1800 BLOCKS OF 5<sup>TH</sup> AND 6<sup>TH</sup> STREETS NW: MODIFICATION OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION REGARDING NAMING OF ALLEY TO INCLUDE NAMING A BLOCK AS HARMONIUM SQUARE WITH ALLEY TO BE NAMED COLUMBIAN HARMONY WAY**

Commissioner Padro stated this is to modify a previously approved resolution regarding the naming of the alley to include the naming of the block as Harmonium Square with the alley to be named Columbian Harmony Way.

He provided some history and stated there was an historic African American cemetery on this block that was called the Harmonium. It was the predecessor to the Colombian Harmony Cemetery over by the Rhode Island Avenue shopping center and the Metro Station and then subsequently was removed and moved to Maryland. But we

discovered several years ago that this was an historic African American cemetery from 1829 to 1857.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Berry seconded that ANC 2G support the resolution that was previously approved in July supporting the ceremonial naming of Columbian Harmony Way to include the square between the 500-600 block of S Street NW between Florida Avenue NW to Harmonium Square with the alley to be named Columbian Harmony Way and that this be conveyed to DDOT. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

#### **14. ADOPTION OF ANC 2G COMMISSION MEETING CALENDAR FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024**

Commissioner Padro stated that if 2G continues to meet on the second Thursday, the 2024 dates would be: January 11, February 8, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, (No Meeting in August), September 12, October 10, November 14, December 12.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner McCarty seconded that ANC 2G adopt the above-noted ANC 2G meeting calendar for calendar year 2024. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

#### **15. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:**

##### **A. Approval of Minutes of 11/9/23 Meeting**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Padro moved and Commissioner McCarty seconded to approve the Minutes of the November 9, 2023 ANC 2G Public Meeting with any corrections to be submitted to the Recording Secretary. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

##### **B. Quarterly Report – Quarter 3**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner McCarty seconded that ANC 2G approve the ANC 2G Quarterly Financial Report for Quarter 3 as submitted and that it be forwarded to the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

##### **C. Treasurer's Report**

Commissioner Brown stated for the period ending November 30, 2023, there was an opening statement balance of \$937.28, we have one debit charge of \$100.69 for the November Zoom invoice, and five checks totaling \$569.63 leaving an ending balance of \$367.65. There is a pending debit charge of \$100.69 for the Zoom call that we are on tonight, and a \$75.00 fee for stop payments on three checks (#1025, #1029, #1034), we have one check (#1039) for \$9.65 that has not cleared the bank as well as Check #1041 for \$79.18 leaving an ending balance of \$103.13.

We are waiting for our new money so that we can pay more bills.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Nigro seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

**D. Approval of Expenses**

- 1) **MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Watkins seconded to approve payment of the invoice in the amount of \$275.00 submitted by Karen Jehle for Minutes of the December 14, 2023 ANC 2G Public Meeting. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.
- 2) **MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Watkins seconded to approve the credit card charge of \$100.69 for the Zoom expense this month that was charged on 12/4/23. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.
- 3) **MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Watkins seconded to approve the three stop payment charges (\$25.00 each) totaling \$75.00 that were charged to the ANC 2G FBC bank account. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner McCarty moved and Commissioner Brown seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** January 11, 2024, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,  
**(Transcribed from Recording)**

Karen Jehle  
Recording Secretary  
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