

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2G
Virtual Public Meeting
Thursday, February 9, 2023**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2G convened via Zoom Video Conference and/or Telephone on Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Tony Brown, (Treasurer), ANC 2G01
Alex Padro, (Chair), ANC 2G02
Alex Lopez, (Secretary), ANC 2G03
Steven McCarty, 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 6 out of 6 Commissioners present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Lopez moved and Commissioner Brown seconded to approve the Agenda as submitted. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

3. POLICE REPORT: METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, 3RD DISTRICT

Lt. Fleming reported that most crimes are down. **(1)** 1/21/23, 9th & P – shooting – closed with an arrest; **(2)** 1/9/23, Robbery - 800 block of R Street NW – jacket stolen; case still open; **(3)** 1/26/23 – Robbery – 500 block of Q Street NW – stolen Air Pods – case still open; **(4)** 2/7/23 – Stolen Auto – 800 block of P Street NW – vehicle recovered – case still open. Trending down in most crimes except for Motor Vehicle Theft and Thefts – mostly occurring on Saturday and Sunday night – vehicles left running unattended and the TikTok Challenge. 7 arrests have been made for Stolen Auto and 4 arrests for Thefts; Dispatched Mountain Bike Unit to stops Thefts from Auto.

A question and answer period followed.

- o Commissioner Nigro stated she has not seen any Mountain Bike Units. She was informed their shift is from 3:00 pm to 1 am a few days a week.
- o Chat: A resident asked about a shooting yesterday at 7:30 pm at 10th & M Streets NW. They were informed spent shell casings were recovered, but nothing else.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

No report.

B. REPORT FROM COUNCIL CHAIRMAN PHIL MENDELSON'S OFFICE

Declan Falls, Constituent Services, dfalls@dccouncil.gov, 202-724-8158

Declan Falls introduced himself and stated The Council is just starting Performance Oversight season and the chairman will be holding agency oversight hearings on the Department of Buildings and a few other agencies on February 23, 2023. There will also be agency oversight hearings on the education agencies on March 1, 2023. To hear more about upcoming hearings for the Committee of the Whole or the other committees, go to: dccouncil.gov and to sign up for testifying, visit: chairmanmendelson.com.

A question and answer period followed.

- Commissioner Nigro asked when Chairman Mendelson will hold his meeting where constituents can report horrific development projects.
Response: He does not believe that is on the schedule yet.

C. REPORT FROM WARD 2 COUNCILMEMBER PINTO'S OFFICE

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

Pablo Velasco Rodriguez filled in for Brian Romanowski and stated Councilmember Pinto will be hold three public roundtables on gun violence, prevention and reduction initiatives. The first will be on Friday, March 3, 2023 at 11:00 am on Zoom. The second will be in person at the Anacostia Library on Saturday, March 4, 2023 at 11:00 am, and the third will be for government witnesses on Monday, March 6, 2023 in the Wilson Building. All three events will be broadcast on Channel 13, the Council website and our Youtube page.

The Council's Performance Oversight Hearings for the entire DC Government are going on now and Councilmember Pinto is attending as many hearings as she can to bring your concerns forward. DPW's Oversight hearing is Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 2:00 pm. The instructions vary by committee for how to sign up to testify. For the Public Works Committee, you have to complete a form on Councilmember Pinto's website or call the committee by close of business 4 days before the hearing date to sign up. All information can be found at: dccouncil.gov

Councilmember Pinto hosted her annual Budget Forum a couple of weeks ago and was happy to hear from many residents and a few commissioners about priorities for the next Fiscal Year.

Legislative Information can be found at brookepintodc.com. Councilmember Pinto Introduced the Expanding Access to Public Restrooms Act which will increase access to public restrooms in all 8 wards. The bill would require that all new and substantially renovated parks include restroom facilities and also provide grants to the BIDs and Main Streets to maintain and clean these facilities.

Legislation introduced includes the following:

- The Vehicular Noise Reduction Act that would create a two-year pilot program to use a combination of noise detection devices, video cameras, and automated ticketing to hopefully cut down on vehicles with purposely loud or bad mufflers on DC roads.
- Councilmember Pinto also introduced legislation to incentivize the use of electric bicycles by establishing an instant rebate for DC residents to use at DC businesses.
- Also introduced was the Prior Authorization Reform Amendment Act of 2023 which will hold health insurers accountable so DC residents can receive medical care in a more timely manner.

DPW Update: Leaf collection and holiday tree collection coming to a close. If you notice any areas or blocks that were missed, call 311. Leaves must be in paper bags and a 311 request for yard waste removal must be completed. Leaves in plastic bags should be placed in residential trash cans.

A question and answer period followed.

- Commissioner Nigro stated the noise camera pilot program is a complete waste of time. No one in her area has complained about any of this. Response: Our legislative team is working on trying to see what can be done about noise from ATVs and dirt bikes. The bill was brought to us by constituents about a year and a half ago. A similar program was introduced in New York which has seen good results and we want to try to implement that here on more specific streets, but we do hear more often from constituents about where vehicle noise is a big issue.

D. REPORT FROM EVENTS DC

Theresa DuBois, Director of Community Engagement (tdubois@eventsdc.com)
No report.

E. INSPECTOR HAROLD DAVIS, SOLID WASTE INSPECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

hdavis@dc.gov, 202-359-2345

Inspector Davis introduced himself and stated he has 16 years of experience. He stated an all-out effort will be made to service those areas that need attention. Some of DPW's counterparts will be invited, like DOH, so that we can attack some of the areas. Educational information was also distributed regarding trash cans being out on wrong days and wrong times. He sees a lot of trash cans out in the alleyways. Information is put into the system and sometimes it may not seem like anything is being done because some residents, especially renters, don't care. The key thing is to educate residents and work with them.

A question and answer period followed.

- Commissioner Nigro stated she will send Inspector Davis offline specific addresses where she would like to see residents re-educated, one of them being a small construction site.
- A question was raised as to trash can replacement. Damaged trash cans are replaced. Call 301 for cans that have been hit by vehicles.
- Commissioner Brown asked if there is a limit on the number of cans you can have in a single home? There is one home that has 16 trash cans and another that had 11 trash cans. Response: Email him the address and he will go to the address and check the can number. If the can number doesn't belong at the address, he will move them and take them to where they belong or have them collected.
- A resident stated there continues to be a handful of neighbors who insist on dumping their private trash in the public bins instead of using their own bins.

F. APRIL KING, MANAGER, SHAW PUBLIC LIBRARY

April King stated she has been the Manager at Shaw Public Library for two years. She wanted to share two programs that are coming up: **(1)** One is happening this Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 4:00 pm and it is a discussion about the history of the Shaw and Le Droit neighborhoods; **(2)** The second is the city has started a program called the Chrome Laptop Program where Chrome Books are given out to DC residents who are receiving District services. There has been some confusion as to how people can get the devices and get access to learning how to use them. They are being given out at the Department of Human Services and the Department of Aging and Community Living, the Mayor's Office of Returning Citizens Affairs, and the DC Child and Family Services Agency. If someone is receiving services from any of these agencies, they can speak to their case manager and they will put them in contact with how to get a device. After they have gotten the device, they can come to the library and make an appointment to learn how to access and to use the device.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Commissioner Lopez asked about the date for the Shaw/Le Droit discussion. A resident asked that the story time go back to two days a week.

G. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner Berry – **(1)** asked for community input regarding resident parking issues when the Convention Center is holding events. Commissioner Nigro stated a resolution can be drafted and presented to the ANC and offered her assistance; **(2)** stated DPR will be here next month to discuss how the Kennedy Recreation Center can be better utilized.
- Commissioner Nigro stated she attended a meeting today about the Convention Center map for parking.

5. ANC 2G COMMITTEES

The ANC is looking for volunteer members to join the following committees:

- A. Transportation Advisory Committee:** Commissioner Lopez stated the committee looks at issues related to everything from transit service in our neighborhood, to transportation safety, to public space, and public space design issues. The Committee reviews a lot of proposals around streetscape projects, street improvements, and notices of intent. It makes recommendations to the ANC for Commission action. The date of the next meeting is TBD. Contact Commissioner Lopez: 2G03@anc.dc.gov
- B. Zoning, Planning, and Historic Preservation Committee:** Commissioner Nigro stated the committee looks at how the historic buildings look in the area and also deals with parcels of land that are going to be developed, what the developers want, and impacts to the neighborhood. The Committee meets currently on the Thursday before the regular ANC 2G Public Meeting. She is currently serving as Chair and is looking for volunteers to assume that position. Contact Commissioner Nigro: 2G06@anc.dc.gov; 202-236-3329.
- C. ABC Licensing Committee:** Commissioner Padro stated the Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the full Commission related to new licenses for ABC establishments that include liquor stores as well as restaurants and bars and also for the renewal of those licenses and whether there are any concerns about the operations of the licensee so we can take them into consideration. The Committee meets on the Thursday before the regular ANC 2G Public Meeting. Contact Commissioner Padro: 2G02@anc.dc.gov;
- D. Public Safety:** No Chair.

**6. CARTER G. WOODSON HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE UPDATE
(NATIONAL PARK SERVICE) [2G02]**

Representative Present: Vince Vaise, Program Manager, Visitor Services, NPS
National Capital Parks-East

Vince Vaise stated work on the Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site is progressing. Three adjacent row homes are being reconfigured on the inside and we will have offices for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and there will be a range of permanent exhibits. Looking at the fall of 2023 to be completed. On the home stretch now. Some of the rooms will be furnished like they would be in Dr. Woodson's time.

He provided information on a number of events related to Black History Month :
(1) Frederick Douglass Birthday Celebration, Saturday, February 11, 2023, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Capital Turnaround, 770 M Street, SE; **(2)** Walk with Woodson, Saturday, February 18, 2023, 11:00 – 12:30, email WoodsonNHS@nps.gov for reservations; **(3)** NCNW and Local Leadership in Depression-Era and Wartime Washington DC Lecture, Saturday, February 25, 2023, Noon to 1:00 pm, Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS, 1318 Vermont Avenue, NW, email WoodsonNHS@nps.gov for reservations.

**7. NORTHEAST BOUNDARY TUNNEL PROJECT UPDATE (DC WATER)
[2G03]**

Representatives Present: Hadiyah Jordan, Senior Public Outreach Officer, DC
Water, 202-787-4717, email:
dccleanrivers@dcwater.com

Hadiyah Jordan narrated a slide presentation that dealt with the following topics:

Clean Rivers Project Background
NEBT Project Overview
DC Flood Task Force
R Street NW Construction Site
NEBT Claims Process
Main Street Partnerships
NEBT Contact Information

*Full presentation will be uploaded to the website.

**8. MAYOR'S OFFICE OF NIGHTLIFE AND CULTURE PRESENTATION:
BLAGDEN ALLEY ABC ESTABLISHMENT ISSUES [2G04]**

Representative Present: Director Salah Czapary
Email: salah.czapary1@dc.gov

Commissioner McCarty introduced the topic and stated there are many shared concerns in regard to establishments specifically relating to nightlife and culture and making sure that businesses are being good neighbors with the community. The Mayor's Office of Nightlife and Culture has been proactive and has been reaching out to some of the businesses that neighbors have had concerns about and we are excited for Director Czapary to share a little bit about what they are working on.

Director Czapary stated we operate in 3 buckets. **(1)** The first one is our Constituent Services. We work with both the operators and residents and the consumers of the nightlife economy to navigate through the bureaucracy; **(2)** upgrading of signage in the alley for parking enforcement and then getting the associated enforcement; **(3)** trying to activate our spaces and attract new businesses. We have a Nightlife Task Force that operates on Friday and Saturday nights. The Task Force has addressed concerns in Blagden Alley when there have been noise complaints at night. We are helping out with coordination and seeing what type of interventions we can come up with because, while we want a lively nightlife culture, it also needs to co-exist with the neighbors who live there.

There is another Budget Forum on Saturday. You can call in and leave a voicemail or email your budget priorities.

A question and answer period followed.

- o Commissioner Nigro asked about usage of vacant commercial retail space.
Response: Looking at how to use them to do events and to bring people downtown. Looking at doing a Go-go festival downtown. Looking at doing activations and festivals with a focus on downtown.
- o Commissioner Lopez asked if MONC is able to provide technical assistance or grant funding to businesses to work on sound mitigation issues.
Response: Yes, the District Government does have an agreement with 14 organizations that provide technical assistance for businesses that are applying for grants. He will provide the link.

9. 1507 9TH STREET, NW: NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE AN APPLICATION FOR A ZONING MAP AMENDMENT (MONARCH URBAN) [2G02]

Representative Present: Nick Jessee, Monarch Urban

Nick Jessee stated Monarch Urban is partnering with Shiloh Baptist Church to redevelop the site at 1507 9th Street NW. In early January they mailed out a Notice of Intent to nearby neighbors and the ANC about the MAP amendment. They plan on formally filing the MAP Amendment application around February 23, 2023 and they are filing the HPRB Concept package next week. They are looking forward to coming back to the ANC in March.

The current site is presently split-zoned Mixed Use (MU)-4 and Residential Flats (RF)-1. The Applicant will file an application seeking the Zoning Commission's approval of a Zoning Map amendment to rezone the property, in its entirety, to the MU-5B zone. The MAP Amendment is based on the District's Comprehensive Plan and the Future Land Use maps. This site aligns with those designations that have been set out for this site. It is a residential project. He noted one clarification and corrected a statement made last month that this would be a rental project. It is intended to be a for sale building. It will be all residential. They have not finalized a unit mix or total amount yet, but there will be somewhere between 40 and 45 units.

Commission and community input was received relating to parking availability. Parking will be provided in the building with off-site parking provided at nearby parking garages if needed.

10. 1245 5TH ST NW: REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD APPROVAL OF RENOVATION PLANS (MOHAMMED SEID) [2G06]

Representative Present: Catarina Ferreira, Architect
Mohammed Seid

Commissioner Nigro introduced the topic and stated it is basically a renovation of the current building and the Commission will only be considering their submission to HPRB. The Commission will not be talking about what is going on inside.

Architect Caterina Ferreira narrated a slide presentation and stated they are only seeking Historic Preservation Concept approval. There is no BZA relief involved. Alterations to the building are fairly limited. There is no change to the footprint. There is no top addition and no rear addition. The uses will also remain pretty much the same. It is currently a 2-unit building that has a commercial component on the ground floor and residential above.

Commission and community input was received regarding the look of the bay windows. Ms. Ferreira responded they have had ongoing discussions with HPO regarding the project and recently shared the revised drawings with their office. We will discuss the proposed changes, including the opening up of the interior of the bay window, and will take your concerns into consideration.

MOTION: Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Padro seconded that ANC 6E **support** HPRB approval of renovation plans for 1245 5th Street NW with the consideration that changes be made to reduce the perceived massing on the bays on the north side with color and materials, discourage the removal of any historic fabric related to the bays, and that said support be communicated to HPRB. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

*Full presentation will be uploaded to the ANC 2G website.

11. PLAYDC RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE, 1541 7TH ST NW: REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR RENEWAL OF EXISTING CLASS C TAVERN LICENSE [2G03]

Representatives Present: Sidon Johannes, Attorney
Dana Jones
Leuel Mengestie, Owner

Commissioner Lopez introduced the topic and stated the establishment obtained a license through a license transfer which initially does not require the ANC to weigh in one way or the other. They are going through a renewal process. This is a nightclub establishment. The neighbors in the community have complained several times to him as well as the establishment that the bass can be heard or felt in their homes. A sound test was done at the residence of 640 Q Street where music was played at approximately the volume that the music would be played later in the evening and we could clearly hear and feel the bass vibrating from within this neighbor's bedroom. He has heard complaints about the bass from residents all the way over on Marion Street. He noted that the owner and their counsel have been very communicative and have offered to correct this issue by retaining the services of an acoustical engineer. However, the situation is incredibly bad and residents and their children are not able to sleep at night. He has instructed residents to call ABRA as soon as they start hearing bass within their homes to start establishing a case record for noise violations.

Community input was received and there was consensus that the volume of bass was excessive.

MOTION: Commissioner Lopez moved and Commissioner McCarty seconded that ANC 6E **protest** the renewal of the existing Class C Tavern License for Play DC Restaurant and Lounge, 1541 7th Street NW on the grounds of peace, order and quiet and that said protest be communicated to the ABC Board. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

A. Approval of Standard Office Procedures (SOPs)

MOTION: Commissioner McCarty moved and Commissioner Brown seconded to **table** this matter. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

B. Approval of Minutes of 01/12/23 Meeting

MOTION: Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Lopez seconded to approve the Minutes of the January 12, 2023 ANC 2G Public Meeting as submitted. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

C. Approval of Expenses

- 1) **MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Berry seconded to reimburse Commissioner Nigro in the amount of \$16.96 for printing costs. The Motion **passed** 5 yeas – 0 nays – 1 abstention (Commissioner Nigro).
- 2) **MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Berry seconded to reimburse Commissioner Nigro in the amount of \$20.89 for Uber rides. The Motion **passed** 5 yeas – 0 nays – 1 abstention (Commissioner Nigro).
- 3) **MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Nigro seconded to approve payment of the invoice in the amount of \$275.00 submitted by Karen Jehle for Minutes of the February 9, 2023 ANC 2G Public Meeting. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.
- 4) **MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Berry seconded to reimburse Commissioner Padro in the amount of \$99.63 for the February Zoom invoice. The Motion **passed** 5 yeas – 0 nays – 1 abstention (Commissioner Padro).
- 5) **MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Berry seconded to reimburse Commissioner Padro in the amount of \$432.00 for the rental of the Post Office Box for this year. The Motion **passed** 5 yeas – 0 nays – 1 abstention (Commissioner Padro).
- 6) **MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Nigro seconded to reimburse Commissioner McCarty in the amount of \$234.05 for the Squarespace, Inc. website hosting for 2023. The Motion **passed** 5 yeas – 0 nays – 1 abstention (Commissioner McCarty).
- 7) **MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Nigro seconded to reimburse Commissioner Berry in the amount of \$79.18 for waterproof 11"x17" meeting notices. The Motion **passed** 5 yeas – 0 nays – 1 abstention (Commissioner Berry).

13. ANC 2G MEETING FORMAT

There was Commission consensus to keep the current Webinar meeting format, but utilize the “Chat” feature.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Lopez stated there will be a Committee of the Whole meeting between now and the next ANC 2G Public Meeting. This meeting does not require a 7-day notice.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Nigro seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions. The meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 9, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,
(Transcribed from Recording)

Karen Jehle
Recording Secretary
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Email: karen-jehle@outlook.com