

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2G  
Virtual Public Meeting  
Thursday, February 8, 2024**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2G convened via Zoom Video Conference and/or Telephone on Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

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

Absent:

Tony Brown, (Treasurer), ANC 2G01

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum of 5 out of 6 Commissioners present.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Padro seconded to approve the Agenda as amended to correct the numbering issue at the end of the Agenda. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

**3. PRESENTATION BY WARD 2 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKE PINTO**

- o Secure DC passed first reading on Tuesday, February 6, 2024. The bill makes over 100 different interventions to improve public safety. 3 primary categories: **(1)** how to prevent crime; **(2)** how to improve accountability when crime occurs, and **(3)** how to improve government coordination and oversight for the DC agencies that do the work.

**1) Prevention:**

- Grants for Commercial Corridors: Shaw was one of the recipients of the pilot program that she started in last year's budgets – those funds should be out soon. This expands to all commercial corridors of the city.
- Creating a Blue Light Pilot: For example, if you are alone at a bus stop late at night, you would be able to tap a blue light for a first responder to come immediately and the incident would be caught on camera.
- Create a Hospitality Training Program at the DC Jail: When individuals come home, they have additional skills and resources to be employed. This includes requirements for partnerships with employers before the individuals get out.

## 2) Accountability

- New Firearms Offenses: We have an unacceptable proliferation of illegal weapons and an out of control level of shootings. We are making sure our prosecutors have the tools to bring effective cases for gun violence.
- Changing the definition of carjacking to address misinterpretation by the DC Court Appeals.

## 3) Government Coordination

- Improvements at our 911 Call Center – have a staffed and accurate expeditious response.
- Additional supports for victims  
Tracing of firearms – second vote of that bill will be on March 5, 2024.

Downtown – Monumental Sports: Bad news – DC should be the home of our sports teams and it also really important for economic development. She is working hard to make sure the environment around the arena is safe and that we can be the best partners we can be as a city for Monumental Sports and hopefully convince them to stay. The process in Virginia is long and drawn out. We are simultaneously working with Mayor's Task Force on Chinatown/Gallery Place on immediate ways to stabilize the area and also a longer term vision that is more vibrant and inclusive.

WMATA Budget Cliff: Need to have a full service transit system that is fully funded and we have been working hard with neighboring jurisdictions to make sure they are paying into this budget shortfall – will keep this funding as a top priority for the District.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- o Commissioner Nigro stated the hearing against the permit for the jail at 501 New York Avenue NW is coming up on March 13, 2024. She knows Councilmember Pinto is not opposed to the jail coming, but asked if she would be willing to sign the petition against the permit. Response: She has not seen the petition against the permit but she would be happy to look at it. One of her concerns is that conditions at the Central Cell Block are absolutely unacceptable and so renovations at the Central Cell Block have to take place there. During those renovations, there needs to be a temporary placement of a Central Cell Block and so part of the deal when she was made aware that the Mayor and City Administrator planned to put this temporary location at 501 New York Avenue was there had to be conditions tied to it: (1) soundproofing; (2) no one can be released from the site. Both of these conditions have been signed and agreed to in writing by the City Administrator. She will not support any project that she is not absolutely sure will be temporary and that requires full funding to be placed in the budget. She will not support a permit unless there is confirmation that funding is included in the budget for the Central Cell Block and that it be moved expeditiously – temporary – 18 months.
- o Commissioner Berry stated she is not in support of the Secure DC bill as it stands until there are adjustments to the following: **1)** brief neck restraint by police; **2)** creation of drug free zones; **3)** hiding of IDs of police officers under investigation. Response: She believes every item of Secure DC is important; **1)** neck restraints – there is a lot of misinformation about this; choke holds have

been banned since 1985 and they absolutely should still be banned; people should not be choked; **2)** drug free zones – yes, it is illegal to do drugs in DC. We do have a few hot spots in the city where there is repeated criminal activity – drugs, weapon sales, multiple homicides and people congregating in these areas for the purpose of breaking the law. This provision says there will be notice provided - signs will go up for 5 days in a 1,000 square foot area -- and for those 5 days, people cannot congregate; **3)** hiding of IDs of police officers under investigation: Secure DC does not reveal the names of officers when allegations are just allegations until they are sustained. She thinks this is a fair balance so the public has access to what is going on and also balancing employment rights – this was an attempt to get that balance right. Congress passed on Tuesday a complete prohibition of DC's adverse action hearing process.

- o Commissioner Padro congratulated Councilmember Pinto on getting the first reading through on Secure DC. He is gratified that the drug-free zones provision was maintained.
- o Commissioner McCarty had a question about the pre-trial detention material in the bill. He is grateful the Council is taking steps to amend that portion of the bill. He is glad that amendments were made that after 225 days everyone should be assumed innocent until proven guilty. He is looking to understand what key factors you will be asking for in a report on the pre-trial detention clause and what are the non-negotiables? Response: This is part of what we passed this summer; it is extremely rare to hold someone in the District pre-trial, so we changed the presumption so that only for our most violent crimes – homicides, arson, terrorism -- that the presumption is that you are held pre-trial but that presumption can be overcome if you can prove that you are not a danger to the community or that you are not a flight risk. But we have seen since passage of that bill this summer two things: **(1)** in the 30 days right before the passage of the emergency bill and the 30 days right after, as well as the 60 days before and after, we saw a reduction of violent crime of about 26%; she wants to be very clear that violent crime is up over the course of the year, but in that period we saw reductions; **(2)** we had at least two cases of people who committed homicides that were held under this presumption that would not have been able to be held for it. Other metrics being looked at are: population in the jail; people who are released and who have overcome the presumption, and if they are going to reoffend.
- o Howard Garrett asked – **(1)** What are we going to do to hold our agencies accountable to ensure that accountability is going to move forward? As we know, data came out yesterday that MPD arrests per officer are down; there are issues with the crime lab, and convictions are down with the US Attorney; the US Attorney is not convicting people and that percentage is down as well; **(2)** what are we doing for our young people as for opportunity? Young people not going to school – what are we going to do to ensure our agencies are holding our young people accountable – truancy rates up, after school programs are ineffective to meet the needs of our young people, etc. Response: **(1)** agency oversight - this is a huge component of Secure DC – 911 call center; creating a public dashboard to share incidents/mistakes, answer time, dispatch time; MPD – making sure that they are held accountable whether that is for incidents in which

they are involved or with other investigations into MPD; **(2)** US Attorney's Office – we have an interesting relationship with the US Attorney's Office because they are a Federal prosecutor handling our local crimes; that is why she partnered very closely with them in the development of Secure DC to figure out why those rates are so low. When they share with us cases and cases of examples where, if we had been like the vast majority of states in the U.S. that analyze DNA evidence, we would have proven those cases and they would have been successful. Other states and countries that have expanded DNA databases have seen reductions in recidivism of 42%, so that is a commonsense intervention to drive crime down. She was disappointed that this provision came out and she will work to get it back in; **(3)** Opportunities for young people: Every year she has been on the Council, she has sought to quadruple the out-of-school time programming funding; she is working on increased transportation options for young people; with this bill, we are trying to stop the bleeding. We need to invest in our young people and our vulnerable residents to make sure that they have access to opportunity and this will be a big priority in next year's budget.

- o Mr. Hunt thanked Councilmember Pinto for the work that she does and for being the only Councilmember that really cares.

**Closing Remarks:** Councilmember Pinto stated it is impossible to respond to all the misinformation that is out there. There were some very inaccurate and upsetting posts going around saying that we were outlawing hijabs. That is absolutely not true, it will never be true; it is absolutely legal to wear a religious headscarf and to wear a mask of any kind in the city. What Secure DC will make sure of is that you cannot wear a mask for the purpose and intent of intimidating, harassing or attacking somebody. That is really important because so many of our violent crimes are being done with a full face covering which is preventing law enforcement from proving these cases.

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

Lt. Tarr (PSA 307) reported on crime per the following:

- o Robberies: (1) 626 F Street NW, 1/24/24, high-end Canada goose coat; (2) 515 Q Street NW, 1/31/24, Noon, armed carjacking (Jaguar sedan) – case still open; (3) 600 P St NW 3 Feb – case also open.
- o Last 30 days:
  - 4 Motor Vehicle Thefts
  - 9 Thefts from Auto
- o Stats: YTD, overall crime down 12%; last 30 days down 14%; Violent Crime up 25%.  
Last 30 days 4 MVT and 9 Theft from auto  
Stats: YTD overall crime down 12%; last 30 days down 14%; Violent Crime up 25%

A question-and-answer period followed.

- o Commissioner Watkins raised issues of people playing at the Bundy Soccer Field trespassing into neighboring yards to retrieve soccer balls and confronting the residents of the homes nearby. She asked how MPD is addressing these concerns.

Response: If the intent is to get a ball, arrest is not the answer. He has not heard about these issues before and will pass this on to the officers in that area to be more cognizant of this issue.

- o Commissioner Nigro stated this is a real problem, so we have to get the entities together including the police to address this issue. Someone has to take ownership of this issue – it has been going on for ten years.
- o Brian Romanowski stated Kipp is adding taller netting on both sides of the field and they are engaging with DGS, DPR and Kipp to work out a better management system. He advises calling the police and to not engage people when they enter residents' yards.

## 5. 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 cut the ribbon on the new Stead Park Recreation Center which is DC's first Net Zero Ready Recreation Center. The Recreation Center was built in partnership with the Friends of Stead Park, the Department of General Services and the Department of Parks and Recreation. The Stead Park Recreation Center will generate enough renewable energy to offset its annual energy consumption.
- o Mayor Bowser launched Be Downtown Specials during her recent visit to Roasting Plant, an innovative new coffee shop in Downtown DC, to encourage residents, workers, and visitors to explore Downtown's diverse landscape of coffee shops, restaurants, and local businesses. As part of the visit, Mayor Bowser announced that many local coffee shops and restaurants will offer "Be Downtown Specials" throughout February and March.
- o Mayor Bowser, Chair Mendelsohn and the Chair of the Committee on Transportation and the Environment sent a letter to the WMATA Board and General Manager Randy Clark committing to pay DC's fair share to help close the projected WMATA operating deficit.
- o Mayor Bowser encourages residents to attend the Downtown Winter Hiring Event on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at MLK, Jr Library.
- o Mayor Bowser partnered in an announcement with the Department of Employment Services (DOES) to officially launch the application period for the Marion Barry Summer Youth Employment Program.
- o Mayor Bowser is inviting residents to join her to celebrate the Year of the Dragon for the 2024 Lunar New Year Parade on February 11, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. at 6<sup>th</sup> and I Streets, NW.
- o Mayor Bowser is making a significant public safety announcement on Monday, February 12, 2024.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- o Commissioner Berry expressed concerns about the Secure DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2024 that unanimously passed the Council on Tuesday, February 6, 2024. She feels that some of its provisions would disproportionately target black and brown residents in the District. What is the Mayor's stance on

this? Response: There are two parts to this – **1)** a lot of misinformation that went out about the bill before the first vote on Tuesday – a lot of things were not accurate. Councilmember Pinto will speak more about this bill in depth on this later; **2)** public safety is a really big concern to the Mayor and one of the biggest things we saw last year was that victims of violent crime were people of color. These were things taken into account when writing these policies and meeting with community members.

- B.** Commissioner Nigro stated Metropolitan Community Church of Washington, DC is doing a People of Faith Addressing Gun Violence Gathering/Spiritual Colloquium on Saturday, March 9, 2024 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 p.m.
- C.** Commissioner Berry stated the Transportation Advisory Committee will meet next Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. She has been working with Christophe Wassmer at DDOT who has been very helpful.

**D. REPORT FROM EVENTS DC**

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

- o Visit: [eventsdc.com](https://eventsdc.com); please sign up for Events DC electronic mailing list.
- o February 17-19, 2024: 2024 Capitol Hill Classic Volleyball Tourney – estimated attendance 37,000.
- o February 24-25, 2024: 2024 Travel and Adventure Show - estimated attendance 10,000.
- o March 7, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Embassy Chef Challenge at Union Station. Embassy chefs from around the world will showcase the unique flavors of their home countries.
- o March 8-12, 2024: 2024 CAA Men’s and Women’s Basketball Championships.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- o Commissioner Nigro commented on the upcoming Volleyball Tourney and stated ANC 2G is not the Convention Center’s parking lot.
- o Commissioner Padro raised the issue of the retail kiosk tenants who have not been able to occupy their spaces and asked if there were any updates on this. Response: Events DC is helping the retail tenants respond to comments from DOH about employee restroom access and Events DC is working to determine which restrooms in the building meet DOH requirements.

**6. 933 N STREET NW: REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD [2G04]**

Representative Present: Jenny Crawford, ABG+D Architects

Commissioner McCarty stated he received overwhelming letters of support for the project that he will read into the record. We were hosted by Seylou Bakery & Mill last week where we had 20 constituents come by and express their support for the project.

Ms. Crawford stated the project is a subdivision of the current Henrietta lot into two separate lots and the development of a two-unit building on this new lot which is currently an empty side yard to Henrietta. Slide presentation provided. Trash will be stored inside the parking garage.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- o Commissioner Padro expressed his appreciation for taking into consideration the historic cornice of the adjacent building at 937 and he looks forward to seeing it become a reality.
- o Commissioner McCarty stated he received a letter of support from Dr. David Sulter on Naylor Court which he presented to the meeting.
- o Commissioner Nigro read a statement from John Shaw.
- o Frank de Lima stated he lives at 927 N Street NW and strongly supports what is being proposed by the architect. He raised an issue and stated DC Water tore up the streets in the front of his building and is there anything that can be done to repair the sidewalks? Commissioner McCarty responded that DDOT is the next line of defense for sidewalk repairs. He stated the owners are really looking to enhance the curb space and are working with Jenny and the team to reach out to the owner to see if there are any private partnerships that can be formed with the owner for the sidewalk repairs.
- o Commissioner Berry stated requests to DDOT take at least 130 days.
- o Chat: Robert Goldberg stated he is very excited about the project.

**MOTION:** Commissioner McCarty moved and Commissioner Padro seconded that ANC 2G **support** the application for HPRB for 933 N Street NW located in 2G04 based on the application's alignment with the community's historical preservation standards as well as their feedback. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

#### 7. 1322 9<sup>th</sup> STREET NW: REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD [2G04]

Representative Present: Catarina Ferreira, Archi-Textual Architects

Commissioner McCarty stated this project was presented about a year ago but was withdrawn because of some community concerns. This is a revised HPRB application that has addressed those community concerns.

Catarina Ferreira stated the design was revised to successfully address the concerns of Darryl Carter, Inc. Presentation provided. There is a trash room in the building and there is also a designated trash area adjacent to parking in the rear. There may be a need for a compactor. Letters of support were received from neighbors.

ANC 2G's Zoning, Planning and Historic Preservation Committee met last week and supported the application.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- o Commissioner McCarty read a lengthy letter from four neighbors expressing concerns about the height of the building.
- o Commissioner Berry asked about parking.
- o Commissioner Padro raised the following: **(1) Parking Relief:** This Commission has been very firm in insisting on other alternative parking being provided rather than relief being granted; **(2) Design:** Thanks for being sensitive to Darryl Carter's concerns. Congratulations on putting up something that works for the block and for getting HPRB to put it on their agenda.

- o Robert Goldberg stated this building fits right in for a residential opportunity and he absolutely supports this project.
- o Commissioner McCarty stated four letters of support have been received.

**MOTION:** Commissioner McCarty moved and Commissioner Padro seconded that ANC 2G **support** the revised HPRB application for the site at 1322 9<sup>th</sup> Street NW and that said support be communicated in writing to HPRB. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

**8. YOUR ONLY FRIEND, 1114 9<sup>TH</sup> STREET NW: REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR RENEWAL OF CLASS C TAVERN LICENSE [2G04]**

Commissioner McCarty stated he has done a lot of community outreach and received a lot of support. He is excited to have them in the community. They are part of the Marriott Courtyard and their trash gets picked up through them. They currently have a Settlement Agreement on file but if there are any community concerns, they will amend the Settlement Agreement accordingly.

Commissioner Padro stated ANC 2G's Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Licensing Committee met and did recommend support for the renewal but did ask that the name of the business be corrected on the existing Settlement Agreement.

**MOTION:** Commissioner McCarty moved and Commissioner Padro seconded that ANC 2G **support** the renewal of the Class C Tavern License for Your Only Friend at 1114 9<sup>th</sup> Street NW and that said support be communicated in writing to ABCA. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

**9. CHILL TOBACCO, 1314 9<sup>TH</sup> STREET NW: REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR MEDICAL CANNABIS RETAILER LICENSE**

Representative Present: Barry Doyle

Commissioner McCarty stated Chill Tobacco has been operating as an I-71 gifting shop in 2G04 for a number of years now. We conducted community feedback and in general received no complaints. He did, however, receive a comment about toning down the neon signs in the window but, overall, everyone said their business operations have not negatively impacted the neighborhood. They are applying to transition from an I-71 gifting shop to an ABCA certified and regulated medical cannabis retailer. Chill Tobacco has agreed to enter into a Settlement Agreement similar to the one that ANC 2G recently entered into with Don Fuego.

Commissioner Padro stated the ABC Licensing Committee met and the applicant agreed that sales would end at 9:00 pm. He asked Commissioner McCarty if this was reflected in the Settlement Agreement and was informed yes. The Committee recommended support for this application.

**MOTION:** Commissioner McCarty moved and Commissioner Padro seconded that ANC 2G **support** the request for support for a new Medical Cannabis Retailer License for Chill Tobacco, 1314 9<sup>th</sup> Street NW, and that said support be communicated in writing to ABCA. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.



## 10. UPDATE FROM THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ON THE CARTER G. WOODSON HOME

Representative Present: Vince Vaise, National Park Service (NPS)

Mr. Vaise stated NPS is in the home stretch with the renovation and is looking at some time in the Fall for the grand opening of the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site.

We are in Black History Month and here are some upcoming events:

- o Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at THEARC, 1801 Mississippi Avenue SE, Frederick Douglass Birthday Celebration
- o Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.: Annual "Walk with Woodson" from the Mary McLeod Bethune Council National Historic Site through the Logan Circle and Shaw Neighborhoods. Noted actor Darius Wallace will portray Dr. Woodson and highlight noted figures and landmarks relating to Black History on this tour. Our own ANC 2G historian, Alex Padro, will be part of this event.

Commissioner Padro thanked Mr. Vaise for providing the update and is looking forward to welcoming tens of thousands of visitors this Fall to this historic site.

## 11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

### A. Approval of Minutes of 1/11/24 Meeting

**MOTION:** Commissioner Padro moved and Commissioner Watkins seconded to approve the Minutes of the January 11, 2024 ANC 2G Public Meeting with any corrections to be submitted to the Recording Secretary. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

### B. Approval of Expenses

- 1) **MOTION:** Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Padro seconded to that ANC 2 approve the use of the debit card for the Zoom expenses for the February 8, 2024 and March 14, 2024 ANC 2G Public Meetings in the amount of \$100.69 for each month. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.
- 2) **MOTION:** Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Padro seconded that ANC 2G pay \$1,500.00 via the debit card to the law firm of Donohue, Themac and Miller, PLC for the retainer for the case against 501 New York Avenue NW. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.
- 3) **MOTION:** Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Padro seconded to approve payment of the invoice in the amount of \$275.00 submitted by Karen Jehle for Minutes of the February 8, 2024 ANC 2G Public Meeting. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Padro seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions. The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** March 14, 2024, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

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

Karen Jehle  
Recording Secretary  
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