

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2G
Virtual Public Meeting
Thursday, June 8, 2023**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2G convened via Zoom Video Conference and/or Telephone on Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

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

[Secretary, ANC 2G03 – Vacant]

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum of 4 out of 5 Commissioners present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Brown seconded to approve the Agenda as submitted. The Motion **passed** unanimously 4 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions. [Commissioner Berry had not yet joined the call].

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

Lt. Matthew Romeo (matthew.romeo@dc.gov) reported on crime for the last 30 days per the following:

- o Several robberies in the 200 block of N Street NW involving juveniles. Closed two of them. Robbery at 226 N Street NW still open.
- o Shooting at 401 N Street NW on 5/31/23 - arrest warrant for an individual that lives in that area.
- o Other robberies are actually carjackings - seeing an issue where a group of juveniles in a car come up behind a potential victim's car, tap the back of the car and when the driver gets out, they steal the car. He recommended getting wheel locks for Kias and Hyundais.
- o Burglaries are down;
- o Thefts from Auto are down;
- o Thefts up.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- o Commissioner Nigro thanked MPD for their continued patrols; asked about the shooting at 401 N Street NW. (The 200 block of N Street is actually Ward 5.)
Response: **(1)** The case is still open; arrest warrant; BOLO; **(2)** Loitering at 9th & P liquor store – will get units over there in the evenings.

- Commissioner McCarty stated at 933 N Street NW (Henrietta Condominium), there is drug dealing going on between 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.; tenants are being evicted – there is new ownership. Do you have recommendations for residents? There is no security being provided by the new owners of the building. Response: Call 911 and give specific details. Will check this out.
- Commissioner Brown asked if there were any updates about noise issues from ATVs; Commissioner Nigro added ATV noise happens constantly at 395 and 5th & Florida Avenue NW in early evenings on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Response: Have a task force now; went into effect 6 months ago. Take video and share it with him.
- Sranda Watkins (srandaw21@gmail.com) – **(1)** reiterated her concern about the uptick in drug traffic at 1319 5th Street NW and 403 N Street NW; she emailed Commander Kane and has not heard back. She sees officers in their cars in these areas but they appear to be on their phones; Response: Will get Crime Suppression Team (CST) involved; **(2)** asked how she can participate in the Camera Rebate Program. Response: The Metropolitan Police website has information on the program which he will provide to her.

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

- This morning, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and District Department of Energy and Environment issued a Code Purple alert for air quality. Suspended several city-wide services – DPR, DMV, DDOT, DOE, DPS.
- Mayor Bowser's Safer, Stronger DC legislation: Hearing on June 27, 2023.
- Mayor Bowser launched Downtown Action Plan to revitalize the Downtown – monthly meeting on June 15, 2023, 2:00 p.m., 950 New York Avenue NW.
- Vision Summit later in July. <https://www.reimaginedowntowndc.com>
- Capital Pride Parade, Saturday, June 10, 2023.
- Chief of Police Town Hall, Thursday, June 15, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Commissioner Nigro stated she sent an email on June 5, 2023 to Lindsey Parker, Chief of Staff for the Mayor, requesting a meeting with key stakeholders in regard to the Department of Corrections (DOC) proposed Holding Cell Block at 501 New York Avenue NW and has not had a response. Response: Been engaging with the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice (DMPSJ) and other agencies to make sure you get a response. Hope they will be at the July meeting.
- Commissioner Padro stated all affected constituents are getting radio silence on this issue and it is unacceptable.

B. 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

- Final vote on FY2024 Budget on Tuesday, June 13, 2023.
- Starting to receive requests for FY 25 Budget – Kennedy Recreation Center gym needs and outdoor tennis courts resurfacing.

- Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety Public Hearing on Mayor Bowser's Safe Streets DC bill on June 17, 2023 at Noon.
- Hearing this afternoon on Metro Safety bill that would enable civil enforcement of fare evasion on the Metro.
- Councilmember Pinto toured the Forensic Sciences Lab – it is critical that the lab gets reaccredited.
- Proposed DOC Holding Cell at 401 New York Avenue NW: DOC should have been here tonight; June 16, 2023 deadline for written answers to your questions.
- Capital Pride Parade, Saturday, June 10, 2023.
- Sign up for our newsletter at www.brookepintodc.com; Brian Romanowski, bromanowski@dccouncil.gov

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Commissioner Nigro stated she sent an email dated May 19, 2023 to Councilmember Pinto requesting a meeting with her and asking her support in opposition to the Proposed DOC Holding Cell at 401 New York Avenue NW to which she has still not received a response.

C. REPORT FROM EVENTS DC

Solana Vander Nat, Senior Manager of Community Engagement

- Visit: eventsdc.com; please sign up for Events DC electronic mailing list.
- June 16-18, 2023: Awesome Con; Estimated attendance: 30,000
- June 21-24, 2023: American Optometric Association Annual Meeting, Expected attendance: 3,600
- June 27-29, 2023: Modern Day Marine 2023; Estimated attendance: 5,500.
- FY 24 Community Grants: Announcing this month; informational sessions next month; application deadline August 1, 2023.

5. PRESENTATION: SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND TRASH CAN MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE (DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION) [All SMDs]

Representative Present: Inspector Harold Davis (harold.davis@dc.gov)

Commissioner Brown introduced Inspector Davis.

- First round of alley cleaning has started; team will be cleaning and cutting the overgrowth back.
- Second round will be done just before leaf season.
- All alleys will be done.
- All trash cans should be returned to the owner's property/driveway by 8:00 pm the night of collection.
- There will be citations for cleanliness of trash cans; also tops of trash cans should always be closed to prevent rain from getting inside.
- To replace trash cans due to rat damage, call 311. There is also an app – please add the word "rat" to your request. Not all replacements are because of rats.
- On holidays, trash collection will slide.
- Plastic bags of trash should not be placed on the ground – they should always be placed inside the trash container.

- Recycled materials should not be placed in plastic bags but placed directly in the recycling container. All recycling containers should be rinsed and kept clean.
- Dog Parks: All owners should pick up their pets' waste.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Commissioner Padro asked how trash will be picked up on weather alert days, for example, today? Per Grace Reeder, anything not picked up by 10:00 a.m. will slide.
- Commissioner Berry stated that at 1301 7th Street NW there are huge holes in the ground due to rat burrowing. Is it possible for you to visit the site? Response: This is a commercial property – he will contact DOH. Rats like bushes to hide in.
- Sranda Watkins stated she noticed the same thing at Bundy Field and 5th & O Streets NW and that the holes are right by the fence. Response: He will reach out to DOH. Commercial Property: 4 units or more; Residential: Single family homes and apartment buildings with three or few units.

6. PRESENTATION: FLORIDA AVENUE BUS PRIORITY PROJECT (DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION) [2G01]

Representatives Present: Melanie Marino, Transportation Planner, DDOT
melanie.marino@dc.gov
Jamie Carrington, Supervisory Transportation Planner, DDOT
james.carrington@dc.gov

PowerPoint presentation provided. Highlights include:

- #20 Florida Avenue- 9th Street NW to 1st Street NE
- 1.1 miles in length
- Goals:
 - Improve bus speeds and reliability
 - Improve safety, especially for vulnerable road users like people walking and biking
 - Smoother pick-up and drop-off
 - Maintain and support freight accessibility, delivery and loading for businesses
- Other Projects:
 - Bus Priority Project #15: U Street (16th Street to 9th Street NW)
 - S Street NW Revitalization
 - DC Water Project – Under Construction
 - New York Avenue/Florida Avenue NE
 - Bus Priority Project #46
 - WMATA Bus Network Redesign (regional)
- Florida Avenue Buses: 90 + 92 + 96 = 14,700 daily riders
- Bus Priority Tools and Potential Treatments:
 - Transit signal Priority (TSP)
 - Bulb-outs/Curb extensions
 - Curbside Bus Lanes
 - Offset Bus Lanes
 - Curbside Management
 - Bus Stop Rebalancing

- Pedestrian Safety Measures
- Queue Jumps
- Timeline – Florida Bus Priority
 - Spring 2023 – Kickoff and Initial Planning
 - Summer/Fall 2023 – Concept Development
 - Winter 2023-2024 – Begin 30% Design and Issue NOI
 - 2024 – Final Design
 - 2025 – Construction

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Commissioner Brown – **(1)** stated there are pros and cons to every project. Buses block traffic – this needs to be part of the planning process; we need to make sure we take care of handicapped individuals for safer passage up and down the streets; **(2)** the S Street Revitalization Project: The S Street portion between New Jersey and Florida Avenue is going to be taken away which means that the 4th Street traffic will be diverted into the neighborhoods causing even more congestion.
- Commissioner Berry stated she feels Vision Zero is a disaster, especially on 9th Street NW. She has been hearing a lot of complaints about what is happening there. She wants to make sure that real community engagement is done by DDOT.
- Commissioner Padro stated Florida Avenue is unsafe and some real safety improvements should be made. He likes the queue jumps tool, as it is working well in other areas. He is looking forward to seeing safety improvements on this dangerous corridor.
- Brian Romanowski stated the Dave Thomas Circle redesign project will also help alleviate a lot of traffic for everyone and help traffic move a lot smoother.

7. TG CIGARS, 1120 9TH STREET NW: APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND WITHDRAWAL OF PROTEST OF ABCA CLASS C TAVERN LICENSE RENEWAL [2G04]

[Commissioner Padro recuses himself from voting on this matter and drops from the call.]

Commissioner Nigro introduces the topic and turns the floor over to Commissioner McCarty. Commissioner McCarty stated that the Settlement Agreement has been in the works since before 2G. We have been working diligently with TG Cigars and the protest group of five individuals from the Whitman Condominium building. The Settlement Agreement has been signed by the protest group. The key points were: noise mitigation, closing hours for the summer rooftop garden, and parking.

MOTION: Commissioner McCarty moved and Commissioner Brown seconded that ANC 2G endorse the Settlement Agreement reached with TG Cigars, 1120 9th Street NW, and the group of 5 protesting from the Whitman Condominium, sign on as an additional party and withdraw the protest before ABCA and communicate same to ABCA. The Motion **passed** unanimously 4 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

[Commissioner Padro rejoins the call.]

8. UNNAMED ALLEY CONNECTING 500 BLOCKS OF S STREET AND FLORIDA AVENUE NW: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NAMING OF ALLEY AS “HARMONEON ALLEY, NW” [2G01]

Commissioner Brown stated this had previously been undertaken by ANC 6E and this is a new pursuit by ANC 2G to rename the alley as “Harmoneum Alley, NW.” Commissioner Padro added that 6E’s action was to recognize the loss of the African American cemetery that existed there from 1829 to 1857 and to ask the DC Government to pursue a commemorative work that could be installed in association with the S Street Revitalization Project, so this resolution is to name the alley that does not have a name so that there is additional recognition for this historic feature in 2G01. Additional information can be found at: <https://harmoneonshawdc.com>

MOTION: Commissioner Padro moved and Commissioner Brown seconded that ANC 2G approves the resolution requesting that the DC government officially name the alley on Square 475 as “Harmoneon Alley, NW” and communicate this to the DC Council, Ward 2 Councilmember Pinto, and the Office of Planning Historic Preservation Office. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

9. STATUS OF SPECIAL ELECTION FOR ANC 2G03 COMMISSIONER [2G03]

Commissioner Padro stated Alex Lopez resigned his office in order to relocate. That seat is currently empty. The Board of Elections has received petitions from three potential candidates for this office. The challenge period for those petitions ends tomorrow, after which the Board of Elections will determine how many candidates are eligible to compete for the vacancy. The election for that seat will be conducted by the Office of Neighborhood Advisory Commissions (OANC) at a Public Meeting of 2G and we have been asked by OANC not to get into any further details until we are able to determine that there is more than one candidate that has passed the requirements and at that point we will move forward with scheduling a meeting. We may have to hold a special in-person meeting. We will provide notice in about a week’s time.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

A. Approval of Minutes of 05/11/23 Meeting

MOTION: Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner McCarty seconded to approve the Minutes of the May 11, 2023 ANC 2G Public Meeting as submitted. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

B. Approval of Expenses

1) MOTION: Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner McCarty seconded to reimburse Commissioner Berry for Meeting Agenda copies for the June 8, 2023 Public Meeting in the amount of \$45.10. The Motion **passed** 4 yeas – 0 nays – 1 abstention (Commissioner Berry).

- 2) **MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Berry seconded to reimburse Commissioner Nigro for Meeting Agenda copies for the June 8, 2023 Public Meeting in the amount of \$28.62. The Motion **passed** 4 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 June 8, 2023 ANC 2G Public Meeting. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.
- 4) **MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner McCarty seconded to reimburse Commissioner Padro for the monthly Zoom One Pro fee for the June 8, 2023 ANC meeting in the amount of \$15.95. The Motion **passed** 4 yeas – 0 nays – 1 abstention (Commissioner Padro).
- 5) **MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Berry seconded to reimburse Commissioner Padro in the amount of \$83.74 for Zoom Webinar 500-1 for the June 8, 2023 ANC meeting. The Motion **passed** 4 yeas – 0 nays – 1 abstention (Commissioner Padro).

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Commissioner Berry – (1) stated she had her in-person Single Member District meeting at the Kennedy Recreation Center on May 15, 2023 and seven people attended. She provided committee sign-up sheets as handouts and had some people sign up. Her meetings are held on the third Monday of each month. There will be no meeting in June, as her June meeting falls on June 19, 2023 (Juneteenth) which is a federal holiday; (2) expressed interest in chairing the Transportation Advisory Committee and was informed this will be added to the agenda for the July 13, 2023 ANC 2G Public Meeting.

12. 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 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: July 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom and possibly In-Person

Respectfully submitted,
(Transcribed from Recording)

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Recording Secretary
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