

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2G
Virtual Public Meeting
Thursday, June 13, 2024**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2G convened via Zoom Video Conference and/or Telephone on Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Tony Brown, (Treasurer), ANC 2G01
Alex Padro, ANC 2G02 [joined at 6:32 p.m.]
Sranda Watkins, (Secretary), ANC 2G03
Steven McCarty, (Vice Chair), ANC 2G04
Sheena Berry, ANC 2G05 [joined at 6:32 p.m.]
Rachelle Nigro, (Chair), ANC 2G06

Absent:

None

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 6 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. [Commissioners Padro and Berry had not yet joined the call].

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

Lt. Alan Herring (PSA 308) reported on crime for the period 5/13/24 to 6/13/24.

- o There were 33 fewer crimes compared to the same period last year.
- o Violent Crime:
 - Carjacking, 5/19/24, 600 block of Florida Avenue NW. Case still open, however vehicle recovered.
 - Robbery, 5/17/24, 6th & S Streets, NW, robbery of cell phone with a handgun. Case still open.
 - ADW, 5/24/24, Case closed.
 - Robbery, 6/9/24, 9th & N Streets, NW, 2 suspects, robbery of Rolex watch.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- o Commissioner McCarty asked about a police chase yesterday that resulted in an accident at the intersection of 9th & N Streets NW around 5:00 p.m. Lt. Herring will follow up with Commissioner McCarty offline.
- o Commissioner Padro stated during the United House of Prayer Memorial Day Parade, officers were giving contradictory information to the public about how they could

navigate and get out of the neighborhood. He raised this issue with the Commander as well. Lt. Herring responded he will reach out to the Special Operation Division (SOD) who worked that event to try and get an explanation.

- Commissioner Nigro stated the NATO Summit coming up in July so we need to make sure MPD and the Secret Service are on the same page.
- Commissioner Watkins raised issues with noise associated with the DC Bike Party rides and asked what days of the month these bike party rides take place. Lt. Herring will look into this. Commissioner Nigro suggested she contact the Washington Area Bicycle Association.
- Commissioner Berry stated she watched a podcast about a shooting that occurred at Dunbar High School and the young person passed away. With summer here and kids out of school, are there any programs for kids to occupy their time? Lt. Herring stated he will follow up on that.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. 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 reported the following:

- The Council took their first vote on the FY 2025 budget on May 29, 2024 and their second vote was yesterday. The third and final vote is expected to be before the end of this month.
- Councilmember Pinto worked extremely closely with the Chairman and her Council colleagues to restore, find, and protect funding for public safety needs, downtown investments, small business supports, education and youth initiatives, affordable housing, and our Senior and LGBTQ communities. The budget does include two noticeable tax increases, both of which Councilmember Pinto did not support.
- To improve safety, Councilmember Pinto funded critical components of our Secure DC Omnibus Act, funded more sworn officers for MPD to help ensure faster response times, fully restored funding for access to Justice and Victim Services Grants which provide low income residents with legal services and protections during housing and unemployment crises, invested in our Safe Passage and Violence Interruption Programs to prevent violence before it occurs and prepare for the merging of our Violence Intervention Programs, funded the Violence, Prevention and Response team through the Office of LGBTQ Affairs and funded the enforcement provisions of the STEER Act, which promotes accountability for the most dangerous drivers on our streets.
- To support the revitalization of our downtown, she fully funded her bill, the Business and Entrepreneur Support to Thrive (BEST) Amendment Act to completely revamp and streamline our business licensing process, funded office to residential and office to mixed, use conversions from her bill, the Rediscover Equitable Central Occupancy Vitality and Encourage Resilient Yield (RECOVERY) Act to bring people and attractions downtown. She continued funding for the Retail Recovery Grants she established in the

budget last year to activate vacant spaces, and invested in WMATA to ensure safe and reliable transit across our region to ensure our young people and families can thrive.

- She helped restore the Pay Equity Fund which ensures our early childcare educators received adequate and dignified compensation for their vital work, funded literacy, training and coaching for kindergarten teachers to improve literacy outcomes for students, restored the ATTEND program under OAG and Show Up Stand Out truancy programs to ensure kids have the support they need to stay in class and bolstered our Safe Passage programs to ensure kids can safely get to and from schools.
- Additionally, she ensured that our Ward 2 schools specifically have the staffing and resources they need to address our homelessness challenges, she helped to restore a meaningful number of permanent housing and local rent subsidy vouchers that were previously cut and funded repairs to the Aston CAT non-congregate bridge housing which will be opening in the West End hopefully sometime this year.
- She was able to secure \$30 million for a future award to a Senior Wellness Center that will include housing for LGBTQ seniors, \$1 million for the completion of the LGBTQ Center which is moving from 14th and U to 7th and S Streets, NW, and increased money for Main streets and Clean teams.
- The Council is still working with WMATA to absorb the circulator routes that are likely going to be cut, and if you are concerned about any circulator route being ended, please submit feedback to WMATA through their Better Bus Network Survey and ask them to take over those routes that the circulator covered.
- We have been advocating as well to DPW to step up their booting and towing of vehicles that are illegally parked with high rates of unpaid tickets.
- DC Health will be hosting another two-day Free Rodent Control Academy at George Washington University on July 10th and 11th. Registration is limited to a hundred people, but you can also join virtually the week of June 17th.
- Next week DPW will also be conducting a Great Graffiti Wipeout in Wards 2 and 3, so please be sure to submit any photos or locations of any graffiti that you see to 311 before Monday of next week, so that they can get to that.
- Councilmember Pinto's next office hours will be on Wednesday, June 26th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at The Little Gay Pub off Logan Circle.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Commissioner Nigro – **(1)** stated she sent an email to Councilmember Pinto on May 2, 2024 requesting a phone call concerning the proposed jail at 501 New York Avenue NW. Pablo will follow up with the scheduler on this; **(2)** asked if Councilmember Pinto is going to do anything official with the Call Your Mother bagel store controversy with the BZA. She was informed no, not at the moment.
- Commissioner Padro – **(1)** offered a correction and stated the new LGBTQ Center is going in on Wiltberger Street, so it is going to be in 2G01, not 1B; **(2)** stated he is getting complaints almost daily about the My Tax DC website and the one portion that is most broken is the “Reset your Password”. Apparently, it can take months and can even necessitate a visit to the office to reset a password. He asked that the Constituent Services Team take a look at this.

- Commissioner Berry stated the NATO Summit is scheduled for July 9-11 and one of those days is Street Cleaning Day. She asked if Councilmember Pinto could pause ticketing for those days for her constituents. Pablo responded he thought this could be arranged.
- Commissioner McCarty stated you were talking about getting funding for DPW for more towing and booting. His constituents would love to see that. As a reminder, he stated the ANC passed a resolution for DPW a year ago asking them to provide regular, consistent enforcement in our alleys and, in fact, he continues to get footage from video from buildings showing DPW Parking Enforcement simply ignoring illegally parked cars with fake tags. DPW is not doing their job. He asked that this be taken back to the Councilmember to work this into the budget to make sure that we actually see that funding. The ANC has been waiting for over a year now.
- Commissioner Watkins asked if Councilmember Pinto is going to step in regarding the issues raised previously with the soccer balls, because for some reason no one seems to want to give us any dates or set aside any time for us to meet to find out how to resolve this issue. One of the soccer balls actually broke someone's sunroof. Pablo responded we are still working with DGS, the Committee on Recreation, and the KIPP school to talk about how we can get a net put up there, and to potentially renegotiate the MOU that they have between KIPP and the District for the use of that field and the maintenance of that field because, clearly, the status quo is not working for neighbors right now, and we want to continue to work on that until we can come to a resolution. He will make sure to mention to the Councilmember as that we are still seeing issues and that it potentially is getting worse lately.

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

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

Did not join the call.

C. REPORT FROM EVENTS DC

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

- Visit: eventsdc.com; please sign up for Events DC electronic mailing list.
- June 26-27, 2024: Amazon Web Services Summit, estimated attendance 13,000.
- Announcing the FY 25 Community Grant Program later this month. We will host informational sessions in July, with dates forthcoming, and the application deadline is August 1, 2024.
- NATO Summit, July 9-11, 2024 is a national special security event that places Secret Service in charge of all elements of security and safety planning. Thanks to those who were able to attend the U. S. Secret Service community meeting on Tuesday. This was an opportunity for community leaders, residents, and business operators to learn more about the upcoming Summit and ask the Secret Service

questions. In the coming weeks, a comprehensive traffic plan and map to include street closures and parking restrictions will be available at: <https://mpdc.dc.gov/nsse>. We strongly encourage the community to sign up for the District and Federal public safety agencies, free opt in text service to provide public safety street closures, weather and transit updates throughout the NATO Summit. Residents, businesses and visitors are encouraged to **text NATODC to 888-777** to sign up for real time updates.

- o June 21-25, 2024: Clipper Race Fleet Week at The Wharf. Over 700 amateur sailors are participating in the 40,000 nautical mile race around the world and the next stop is Washington, DC. Meet the crews, tour boats, experience, live art, and celebrate the culture of the Nation's Capital.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- o Commissioner Berry thanked Ms. Vander Nat for all the community engagement work done regarding the upcoming NATO Summit.
- o Commissioner Padro stated there was very active engagement on the part of this Commission with the Secret Service. This time there was a meeting that was scheduled with us where we laid a lot of stuff on the table. We just basically told them everything that went wrong in the past. And they do have an agent in charge who actually lives in the neighborhood and they have pledged to do better. They have already hired additional manpower resources, they are looking at doing additional training, and so we are hopeful it will not be as bad as it has been in the past. We have been told that all the businesses will be able to stay open and will be reachable including the ones that are on the facade of the Convention Center. He encouraged the community to keep checking that website because often things do change during the course of the event. Ms. Vander Nat again strongly encouraged residents to sign up for real-time text alerts.

D. Commissioner Announcements:

- o Commissioner Nigro provided an update on the proposed jail at 501 New York Avenue NW and stated the Government has chosen to come before the community instead of going to the courts concerning the placement of this Temporary Central Cell Block at 501 New York Avenue. She will be negotiating with them about when they are going come before ANC 2G, but definitely more information to come.

Commissioner Padro stated once DGS has filed their applications and given proper notice, then we can have them come before the Commission. He asked whether it is known for a fact what the funding status is for the renovation of the Daly Building. He knows that there is some funding that was supposed to be in the budget process being approved for FY 25 but he does not believe that it is complete funding.

- o Commissioner Padro made two announcements: **(1)** Wednesday, June 19, 2024, Eat Drink Shaw returns to the Howard Theater 7 to 9 pm. About 20 different bars and restaurants in the neighborhood will be offering samples of the things that have made them famous. There is a limited number of free tickets. If anyone would like to be put in for a drawing for some free tickets, they can send an email to:

info@shawmainstreets.org; **(2)** Saturday, June 22, 2024, Shaw Open House. This is an event where businesses in the neighborhood offer free samples of things to eat and drink and special offers. The first 250 people that come to the welcome center will receive \$20 in Shaw Bucks to spend at participating businesses on that day, so more information available at shawmainstreets.org.

- o Commissioner McCarty made two announcements: **(1)** ANC 2G04 is going to be doing an Alley Safety Walk on Monday, June 17, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Will be meeting at the 9th Street entrance to Naylor Court. It is for residents, businesses, neighbors will be talking specifically about alley safety; **(2)** 933 N Street NW (The Henrietta): His constituents are having issues with the construction company and wanted him to provide an update with that. He has already taken enforcement action with the appropriate agencies which were the Department of Buildings, DPW, and the Department of Health because there were many violations, including lack of rodent abatement, improper disposal of trash, not securing trash, and not keeping their construction site secure. Unfortunately, the construction part of that project is not going well but we are working with the constituents on that and they wanted him to have that read into the record at this meeting.
- o Commissioner Berry stated the Kennedy Recreation Center gym is now open to the public. If residents want to use the gym for free, all they have to do is show their ID and they will give you a QR code to your phone that can be scanned.

Commissioner Watkins asked if the Kennedy Recreation Center field is being used for anything. Commissioner Berry responded that in the past it was used for youth softball and baseball. Commissioner Padro stated we are still waiting for DPR Director Freeman to hold a meeting with the community, the ANC, and the Friends of Kennedy Recreation Center as she pledged to do during the ribbon cutting events back in April. He has sent about a dozen emails trying to schedule that. Brian Romanowski from Councilmember Pinto's office has also been following up, so we are finally getting some light at the end of the tunnel. They have actually acknowledged Brian's email that the Councilmember wants to see a meeting take place. Right now, when you ask what programming is being offered at the center, the answer is there is no programming being offered, so they are still working on it.

Commissioner Berry stated eventually she would like to see the Kennedy Recreation Center used as a community resource for everyone in the community and that the community can become involved in offering ideas for programming and activities.

5. 510 FLORIDA AVENUE NW, LITTLE BIG BOUTIQUE LLC: REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR NEW MEDICAL CANNABIS LICENSE [2G01]

Representative Present: Amanda Sharman, Owner

Commissioner Brown introduced the topic and asked Ms. Sharman to make opening comments. Ms. Sharman stated she will be living upstairs in the residence and only about 400 square feet of the space will be a cannabis shop. It is going to be family-owned and run. It is going to be just a small grab-and-go shop. The shop has not opened yet. She and her husband swept up the

alley, purchased a hose, and had a company come out to clean up all the litter in the tree boxes, plants were replanted in the tree boxes, and well as cleaning up weeds on the block. She also put in a request with DC Forestry to put in an additional tree box outside to keep the street attractive. A company came out and restocked the rodent boxes. In regard to parking, they will have a camera to monitor that customers are not parking where they are not supposed to park during business hours and signage will be placed on the exterior of the building.

Mitch O'Brien stated neighbors are supportive of the application. They understand that the application is for a retailer license, but there is also a delivery endorsement on top of that. There is collective concern around the delivery endorsement for three reasons. First, there is literally no place for someone to stop in front for curbside pickup or for delivery operations. Second, there is a DDOT plan for the bus priority lanes that run along Florida Avenue. One of the primary proposals is to have a bus lane that runs through there, so granting a license and an endorsement for delivery operations would run contrary to the proposals put forward by DDOT which they are very supportive of. The third is that by default you cannot legally operate, pick up curbside, or have delivery operations from the front of the block, so you would have to be running from the back, which means you would have to use that very narrow alleyway.

Ms. Sharman responded her brother will be doing the deliveries and he lives in the space now. She and her brother each have a parking spot. She also stated there is no access from the shop to the back. That is private living quarters, so if you are in the shop, you are only exiting from the front. Deliveries would not affect the alley at all.

Commissioner Padro stated a number concerns have been addressed by Commissioner Brown and incorporated into the Settlement Agreement. Contrary to the information on the placard, the space that is dedicated to the retail is only going to be 400 square feet, not 1,722 square feet. The rest of square footage is going to be residential, so that is a very significant difference from what was set initially established. Ms. Sharman provided a security plan. On the issue of deliveries, this could also be clarified by having language in the Settlement Agreement that describes the operations and restricts the operations to those of not allowing the type of delivery operations that that Mr. O'Brien was concerned about. Based on the operator agreeing to enter into a Settlement Agreement, the Committee voted unanimously to support this application.

Chat: Where is the product being sourced from: Response: From local growers.

Chat: Are the growers going to be inspected to ensure the drugs are safe? Response: Yes.

Mr. O'Brien stated another issue was operating hours. The application states to have the dispensary operating until 9:00 p.m. Their preference would be for operating hours that are consistent with the majority of other dispensaries which is until 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Padro stated the ABCA regulations have 9:00 p.m. as the latest that dispensaries can be open, and the other applications that we are hearing and approving are open until 9 p.m.

Ms. Sherman responded she does not plan on making any changes to the hours. She had worked with ABCA about them and so they were already approved.

MOTION: Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Padro seconded that ANC 2G **support** the Request for Support for a new Medical Cannabis License for 510 Florida Avenue NW, subject to the execution of a Settlement Agreement and that said support be communicated in writing to ABCA. The Motion **passed** 4 yeas – 0 nays – 2 abstentions (Commissioners Berry and Watkins).

6. 1612 7TH STREET NW, THE GROVE SHOP: REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR NEW MEDICAL CANNABIS LICENSE [2G02]

Commissioner Padro stated the applicant has been in operation as a gifting establishment previously. Hours of operation for the retailer are Sunday 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday, through Saturday, 11:30 to 9:00 p.m. Hours of retail sales are Sunday 12:00 to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, 12:00 to 9:00 p.m. The initial application also includes a Safe Use Treatment Facility which is an opportunity to consume marijuana on the premises, and also a Summer Garden which, due to community opposition, the applicant has agreed to withdraw.

The concerns raised related to the Safe Use Treatment Facility and that individuals who would be consuming cannabis on the premises would be leaving the premises in a potentially intoxicated state, and that could represent a danger to the public and to themselves. Secondly, regarding the Summer Garden proposal, because there is no consumption of cannabis in public space allowed in the District of Columbia, the Summer Garden could not operate from the sidewalk in front of the establishment. It would have to be at the rear and directly across the alley there are residential properties that would be negatively impacted by noise as well as potential smoke wafting over onto the property across the alley.

The applicant stated he withdrew the application for the Summer Garden and sent an email to ABCA. He physically visited ABCA this morning and submitted a written one and he has a receipt that they received it. He is only going to move forward with the Retail and Delivery.

Based on this information, the Committee recommended that the Commission support this application. There were no issues noted that were felt to be requiring a Settlement Agreement for this particular establishment. Commissioner Nigro asked why this was the case. Commissioner Padro stated the hours of operation and the nature of the operation did not indicate that there would be a likelihood of a negative impacts to neighboring properties or the public.

MOTION: Commissioner Padro moved and Commissioner Brown seconded that ANC 2G **support** the application for The Grove Shop, trading as The Grove Shop, 1612 7th Street, NW, for a new medical cannabis license, with the provision that the Safe Use Treatment Facility and Summer Garden endorsements are not approved and have been withdrawn by ABCA, and that said support be communicated in writing to ABCA. The Motion **passed** 5 yeas – 0 nays – 1 abstention (Commissioner Watkins).

7. 1550 7TH STREET NW, GRAND CATA: REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR RENEWAL OF LICENSE CLASS/TYPE: A/RETAIL – LIQUOR STORE [2G02]

Representative Present: Julio

Julio stated they are looking for the support to continue operating at 1550 7th Street NW.

Commissioner Padro reported that there have been no investigative actions against this establishment in the last two years and there are no proposed changes in their hours of operation, sales, or service. They do have a tasting endorsement. The Committee recommended that the Commission support the renewal of this License.

MOTION: Commissioner Padro moved and Commissioner Watkins seconded that ANC 2G **support** the renewal of the Class A Retail Liquor Store license for Grand Cata, 1550 7th Street NW, and that said support be communicated in writing to ABCA. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

8. 1606 7TH STREET NW, JAKES TAVERN: REQUEST FOR SUPPORT TO EXPAND OPERATIONS TO THE SECOND FLOOR. EXPANSION INCLUDES A RENOVATION INCORPORATING THE FULL-SERVICE BAR, DINING AREA, TWO BATHROOMS, AND A BACK DECK WITH EGRESS STAIRS TO THE EXISTING SUMMER GARDEN [2G02]

Representative Present: Todd Ciuba

Commissioner Padro stated the applicant is seeking approval for a Substantial Change to allow the extension of operations to the second floor and, in addition, they are also asking for a slight change in hours on the second floor so that they are able to stay open until closing.

Mr. Ciuba stated they have been in business since 2019. They operate currently on the first floor with a back patio summer garden. The idea has always been to have a second floor as an additional service area both for busy days and particularly for special events. They get a lot of event requests that they try to accommodate within the confines of their current space without disrupting normal service, so this will give them an event space in addition to overflow. There will be a back deck with egress stairs to the existing summer garden. They have their permits approved.

Commissioner Padro clarified that the extension of hours is for the entertainment endorsement on second floor, so entertainment would be extended until closing time. The committee voted unanimously to support the application, including the extension of hours for entertainment on the second floor.

MOTION: Commissioner Padro moved and Commissioner Brown seconded that ANC 2G **support** the application for a Substantial Change, the Class C Tavern License, trade name KT LLC, for Jake's Tavern, 1606 7th Street NW, with the additional provision that the hours for live entertainment on the second floor be extended until closing time on each day, and that said support be communicated to ABCA. The Motion passed unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

9. 901 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE NW, STK STEAKHOUSE: REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SPACE APPLICATION [2G05]

Representative Present: Alex Tabolsky
Ilias Saoukbaev

Alex Tabolsky stated ANC 2G previously approved an enclosed sidewalk café for STK Steakhouse. DDOT is taking issue with the footings that are a part of the proposed enclosed sidewalk café. DDOT's position is that they never approve footings for a structure permitted through the sidewalk cafe program. They are still working through those issues.

While this issue is sorted out, they have designed an unenclosed sidewalk cafe so their patrons can enjoy their outdoor patio this summer.

Ilias Saoukbaev presented drawings and reviewed the concept design.

MOTION: Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Brown seconded that ANC 2G **support** the Public Space Application for STK Steakhouse, 901 Massachusetts Avenue NW, for their unenclosed patio and that said support be communicated in writing to the Public Space Committee of DDOT. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

10. 1613 5TH STREET NW: REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR BZA APPLICATION [2G03]

Representative Present: R. Michael Cross

Mr. Cross stated this is a BZA Special Exception case. They are seeking two areas of relief, one for lot occupancy relief and one for the removal of an architectural rooftop element. The first area of relief being requested is to construct a rear addition which would bring the overall lot occupancy to 70. The proposed rear addition will only extend roughly seven (7) feet past the adjoining neighbors and is not anticipated to have any significant effect on the light and air of the adjacent property. The second area of relief they are seeking is for the removal of an architectural rooftop element. They are seeking to remove the existing cornice and propose to replace it with a new cornice that is consistent with the adjacent structures in the neighborhood but raised up slightly to allow for larger windows at the lower level while keeping the architectural proportion and scale of the front facade. Solar studies were prepared to show the effect of the rear addition. The owners have been working overseas for the State Department and have not had an opportunity to meet with the neighbors.

Commissioner Nigro stated the Zoning Committee met and was in support of the two areas of relief. Commissioner Padro reiterated that this is not a Historic Preservation case. There is no design review that takes place. Mr. Cross stated the hearing date is September 25, 2024.

The Commission **tabled** a decision on this matter until its July 11, 2024 Public Meeting.

11. PRESENTATION: LINCOLN-WESTMORELAND HOUSING AND 801-811 R STREET NW PROJECT'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING CREATION AND PRESERVATION PLANS [2G01]

Representatives Present: Rosana Torres, GTM-DC Architects
Susan Mentus, GTM-DC Architects
Nadim van de Fliert, Key Urban
Dahn Warner, Key Urban

*Dahn Warner provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights:

- Lincoln-Westmoreland Housing is represented by two owner representatives, Key Urban and Equity Plus. Key Urban has been the Owner's Representative for Lincoln-Westmoreland House for more than 15 years and Equity Plus is Key Urban's financing and city agency consultant who helps Key Urban obtain the sources for this project.
- Key Urban partnered six years ago with Capital Area Asset Builders to launch a matched savings program for the residents of the two buildings on 7th Street and Shaw. They offer a 4 to 1 match for our residents up to a total match of \$3,000, so if a resident invests \$750 in a savings account through this program, they will be matched 4 to 1 with a gift of \$3,000 from Lincoln-Westmorland Housing.
- Proposed Development Plan - 801-811 R Street NW:
 - Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) Rights Assigned;
 - 100% Permanent Affordability
 - 200-230 New Apartment Homes
 - 30% Three Bedrooms
 - Guaranteed Replacement Units
 - Timelines: Close on financing by October 2026; Begin construction Fall of 2026.
 - Zoning and Design Approach Visuals Presented.

They are not requesting any official action from ANC 2G. They are required to attest to having met with ANC 2G prior to submitting their Zoning Application.

A question-and answer period followed.

- Commissioner Padro – **(1)** stated this is a great opportunity to increase affordable housing, availability and permanent availability in the neighborhood. He thanked the entire team, including the architects, for listening to some of the feedback from the meeting that was conducted last week before the Zoning, Planning, and Historic Preservation Committee where concerns were raised about the loss of green space along 8th Street and R Street. The addition of the green buffer along 8th Street directly addresses that and alleviates that concern. However, there is still the matter of R Street. Though there is no green space on R Street and, as the Office of Planning has previously noted and will attest to, this neighborhood suffers from the least percentage of green space in the entire District of Columbia. He thanked the developers and the architects for meeting us along the 8th Street side and now let us get to R Street so that we can move forward with having a great addition to this community which continues to provide green relief along two of the principal facades of what otherwise would have been a completely monolithic building;
- **(2)** asked what are the numbers for parking for this project and was informed the minimum number of spaces that can be provided is one for every six residents that would result in approximately 35 below ground spaces in one level of garage parking. The maximum that DDOT prefers for this location is 55, so somewhere between 35 and 55 spaces, and their preference is to provide somewhere on the lower end of that scale.
- Commissioner Berry asked where residents will live during the transition and was informed they will be relocated to comparable units in the area and there will be no expense incurred.

12. DISCUSSION ABOUT GIANT FOOD'S NEW BAG POLICY [2G02]

Commissioner Padro led a discussion about Giant Food's new Bag Policy and stated it is unfortunate that Giant has taken a stance related to not allowing customers to bring backpacks or other items that could potentially be used to conceal shoplifted items in order to try to address their losses with shoplifting. He received a number of concerns not just from his constituents, but from constituents of other SMDs, as well as from other parts of the city because this is a very popular supermarket that serves much more than just the ANC 2G area. Commissioner Padro invited Giant Food to attend tonight's ANC 2G meeting but they declined.

Commissioner Padro read two emails he received from Jonathan Arons, External Communications and Community Relations Manager for Giant Food Headquarters (Email: jonathan.arons@giantfood.com). The first email stated, in part, the decision to restrict certain bags, particularly backpacks and oversized bags, was not taken lightly. These measures were put in place in response to the significant levels of shrinkage that their stores have been experiencing, leading to unsustainable product loss and impacting their ability to operate safely and profitably. The selection of stores where this policy is being enforced was based on data showing exceptionally high levels of theft and damage to inventory. It is important to note that while backpacks and oversized bags are restricted under this policy, customers are still welcome to use open reusable bags or lined push carts for their shopping needs.

Commissioner Padro responded to the first email and asked them again to make an appearance at this meeting.

He received a second email from Mr. Arons that stated, in part, that they have taken decisive action over the past few months to mitigate store theft. This decision was not made lightly but was necessary to uphold their commitment to operating their stores safely and profitably to combat the rising incidence of theft. They have made significant investments in various security measures across their stores. These include deploying additional security personnel, restricting exits to control entry and exit points, collaborating closely with local law enforcement to enhance the presence in and around their premises, and securing high targeted theft items behind lock and key. Furthermore, in a proactive effort to deter theft and uphold a safer shopping environment, they have recently implemented an oversized bag policy in their stores. In pursuit of safeguarding their stores and contributing to the well-being of the community, they are engaged with key stakeholders, including the Mayor's Office and the Police Chief to foster collaboration and strengthen their collective efforts in combating criminal activities. He politely declined Commissioner Padro's invitation to join this meeting at this time.

Commissioner Padro stated he checked with the Mayor's Office and they supported Giant's actions in this instance. He noted on several visits to Giant in the past several weeks that security is allowing customers to leave their backpacks in shopping carts, which they monitor at the vestibule to the store. Commissioner Padro stated that ANC 2G has an opportunity to make recommendations to Giant if there are some that ANC 2G feels would be helpful in trying to come up to a more win-win situation than what is currently being experienced by our constituents and other customers at the store.

Commissioner Brown stated there was brief discussion about placing some lockers at the entrance of the store that the customers can use as they come and go.

Commissioner Berry stated she did not think Giant will remain in business if customers are not allowed to have backpacks, etc. especially if they are coming directly from the Metro or are on bicycles.

Commissioner Watkins stated the store needs to have better security if they are asking customers to leave their bags, shopping carts, at the door where someone could walk out with someone else's bag.

Community feedback was received. There was consensus for having lockers and added security.

Commissioner Padro added that when this store first opened, Giant had proposed allowing people to also enter and exit from the tower entrance at 7th and O streets. The ANC told them their liquor license will not be approved because that is going to allow people to snatch and grab exponentially. Additionally, they wanted to have no security at all at the entrance, and the ANC forced them to lock that entrance. It has never been opened because we would not approve their liquor license unless they did not lock that entrance. So, if we come up with something that we feel needs to be done, they need to come back to us to get their liquor licenses renewed, for example, and that would give us some leverage.

MOTION: Commissioner Padro moved and Commissioner Brown seconded that ANC 2G send a letter to the CEO of Giant Food raising community concerns about the new Bag Policy at the Giant O Street Market and recommending that they institute lockers in order to be able to at least partially address the community's concerns while still meeting their loss prevention objectives, and to work with the community to get other ideas. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

13. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

A. ANC 2G Quarterly Report

MOTION: Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Padro seconded to approve the ANC 2G Quarterly Report Q2 for submission to the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC). The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

B. Treasurer's Report

For the period ending May 31, 2024, there was an Opening Balance of \$6,697.47; OANC Legal Assistance Allocation: \$13,956 bringing the balance to \$20,652.47; two checks that cleared in the total amount of \$354.18 bringing the balance to \$20,298.29. There were four checks approved for the legal litigation in the amounts of \$2,352.00; \$3,168.00; \$3,696.00; and \$3,936.00 for a total of \$13,152.00 that were sent to Donohue, Themac and Miller, PLC for an ending balance of \$7,146.29.

MOTION: Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Padro seconded that ANC 2G approve the Treasurer's Report. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

C. MOTION: Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Brown seconded that ANC 2G approve the payment of \$1,008.00 to the law firm of Donohue, Themac and Miller, PLC for services provided on May 1, 2024 for the BZA Hearing for the case against 501 New York Avenue NW. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

D. MOTION: Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Padro seconded that ANC 2G, when it is needed, apply to the Expert Assistance Fund of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC) for 501 New York Avenue NW and their future BZA case against the Department of General Services. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

E. Committee Meetings (Rescheduled)

Zoning, Planning and Historic Preservation Committee Meeting changed to Tuesday, July 2, 2024 due to the July 4th Holiday.

Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Licensing Committee Meeting changed to Tuesday, July 2, 2024 due to the July 4th Holiday.

14. 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 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions. The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
(Transcribed from Recording)

Karen Jehle
Recording Secretary
Cell: 703-606-2010
Email: karen-jehle@outlook.com