

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2G
Virtual Public Meeting
Thursday, October 12, 2023**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2G convened via Zoom Video Conference and/or Telephone on Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Tony Brown, (Treasurer), ANC 2G01
Alex Padro, (Chair), ANC 2G02
Sranda Watkins, ANC 2G03 (joins at 6:40 p.m.)
Steven McCarty (Secretary), ANC 2G04
Sheena Berry, ANC 2G05
Rachelle Nigro, (Vice Chair), ANC 2G06

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner McCarty moved and Commissioner Berry seconded to approve the Agenda as submitted. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions. [Commissioner Watkins had not yet joined the call].

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

Did not join the call.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

Ms. Reeder had technical issues joining the call and placed the following information in the Chat:

- o From Tuesday, October 3, 2023, to Thursday, October 5, 2023, Operation Trident targeted violent offenders with outstanding warrants. Many of these violent offenders were on supervised release or probation for other offenses.
- o Mayor's Disability Tech Summit taking place on Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.
- o Mayor Bowser presented the 2024 Teacher of the Year Award to Beth Barkley from Cardozo.
- o Mayor wanted to note \$4.5 million in grants to support student mental health.
- o Mayor wanted to note that the former Dave Thomas Circle at the intersection of New York Avenue, and Florida Avenue NE is going to be renamed Mamie

Peanut Johnson Plaza in honor of Mamie Peanut Johnson. Ms. Johnson was an early professional baseball player. Commissioner Padro added that on the alley side of the building facing Ben's Chili Bowl there is mural of Ms. Johnson.

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

Pablo Velasco Rodriguez filled in for Brian Romanowski who was unable to join the call.

- Councilmember Pinto recently announced her Secure DC Plan a few weeks ago, and that plan is going to drive her work in the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety's work this fall.
- There is a pretty comprehensive package of bills and initiatives that build on the emergency legislation the Council passed in July and fills gaps in our current laws.
- Overview of these bills:
 - There are three main priority areas for these bills. The first is accountability. The plan will require judges to provide a written explanation if they decide to release someone who is accused of committing a violent crime pre-trial and ensures that repeat offenders are held pre-trial. It will create a new felony offense for firing a gun in public and for illegally discarding a firearm. It makes it more difficult for people convicted of a gun offense to carry a firearm. Again, it increases the types of cases that can be charged as carjackings. It establishes a task force to develop new pre-arrest diversions for low level offenses that may not require a police arrest, and we know these low level offenses can often tie up the courts from working on more serious crimes.
 - The second area is prevention and ending cycles of violence. This includes safer public spaces which includes establishing security patrols, increased lighting and cameras around our bus and metro stations recreational spaces, schools, and commercial corridors. This expands a pilot program that Councilmember Pinto funded in the budget to all wards of the city. This would also include job training which could have some robust hospitality industry training for individuals serving sentences at DC Jail to set them up for successful re-entry and reduce recidivism rates. There is also a transgender Fatality Review Board included which could increase protections for transgender people by establishing a first in the nation Review Board to investigate the deaths and make policy recommendations on how to improve protections.
 - The third area of the Secure DC plan focuses on government support and oversight. The Councilmember will hold round tables on improving coordination of our various violence interruption programs and on strategies to curb retail theft which has been in the news quite a bit lately. We have talked before about hiring and retention challenges at MPD. Now this adds hiring and retention incentives to fill critical positions at MPD's partner agencies like the Department of Behavioral Health, the Department of Corrections, Youth Rehabilitation Services, and the Office of Unified Communications.
 - The Office of Unified Communications, which runs our 911 Call Center, has also been in the news a lot lately. In July, the Council passed Councilmember

Pinto's emergency bill to increase transparency, accuracy, and accountability at the OUC. Last week, Councilmember Pinto held a hearing on OUC oversight and on a permanent version of the July legislation. This would require OUC to have a public dashboard documenting errors, reasons for errors, the time it takes them to answer calls, and their staffing levels. Councilmember Pinto is going to continue to work with OUC and FEMS to improve response times and eliminate mistakes. We know each second matters when lives are on the line and emergency response is just too important to not get right.

- Councilmember Pinto wants to hear from residents as the committee works to schedule hearings and markups of the various bills, and he will make sure to post links in the chat and an email to send questions or comments as well.
- Lastly, Councilmember Pinto's office is hosting Public Safety Walks with each Ward Councilmember in their wards. This month our Ward 2 walk will take place in Shaw on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. It will start at the Kennedy Recreation Center, making stops at Fifth and O Streets, 8th and N Streets, and eventually end at 12th and M. Streets.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Commissioner McCarty asked a question about the Councilmember's work on OUC. He knows she hosted her first hearing and the Committee is marking things up. But one of the things he has heard concerns about from constituents is the after-the-fact reporting and not providing all the details. A lot of folks have really tried to get hands-on information like transcripts of calls, and he knows that the Mayor's office and OUC keep those very tight but they can be helpful in understanding where things went wrong. So, he is just curious if she is really working to release as much data as appropriate and possible for folks to have.
Response: That is certainly the goal. A big focus of the legislation related to OUC is increasing their transparency. And you know, obviously, we do not want people's private information being made public. But as much as is safe and responsible to be made transparent is what we would like to be made transparent because we really want to ensure accountability of OUC to make sure it is performing to the level that it should be.

[Commissioner Watkins joins 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.
- For the rest of this month, we have 4 upcoming events at the Convention Center – 2 single day and 2 multi days.
- Friday, October 20 through Tuesday, October 24, 2023, the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition will be held with an estimated attendance of 15,000. This is the second largest event of the month.
- Wednesday, October 25 through Saturday, October 28, 2023, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Meeting and Exposition will be with us with an estimated attendance of 6,000.

- To everyone who was able to attend A Night Circus presented by Events DC on the Carnegie Library lawn this past Saturday, September 30, 2023, our community engagement team was thrilled to welcome more than 2,000 people to this exciting program, which was part of the annual Art All Night Shaw activations. We look forward to learning about residents' experiences at A Night Circus. Please let us know how we did and what we can improve on by completing a survey. She will include a link in the Chat.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Commissioner Nigro expressed the need for traffic control officers for large conventions to aid both participants and neighbors. Commissioner Padro echoed Commissioner Nigro's suggestion.
- Commissioner Brown stated the Art All Night function was outstanding.

5. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner McCarty extended an invitation to everyone on the call that the Friends of 10th Street Park in 2G04 are hosting their fall festival in the Park at 1119 10th Street, NW on Sunday, October 15, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. It is family-friendly and there is going to be a live band, face painter, pumpkin painting for the kids, candy and treats, so everyone is invited to come out to 2G04 and hang out with the friends of 10th Street Park on Sunday.

6. 1400 7th STREET NW: REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR RENEWAL OF CLASS B ABCA LICENSE, GIANT OF MARYLAND LLC T/A GIANT #2376 [2G02]

Commissioner Padro stated the Hours of Operation are Sunday through Saturday, 24 hours. Now the store is not open 24 hours, but they are able to sell alcohol 24 hours a day, if they were ever to resume 24 hour operation. Hours of sales and service are 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. They do have a tasting license as well. In terms of investigative history, in the last renewal period there was an instance of no ABC Manager on Duty; this is a secondary tier violation. They paid a \$200 fine and this occurred on April 8, 2021.

MOTION: Commissioner Padro moved and Commissioner Brown seconded that ANC 2G **support** the renewal of the Class B ABCA License for Giant of Maryland, LLC t/a Giant #2376, 1400 7th Street NW and that said support be communicated in writing to ABCA. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

7. 901 L STREET NW: REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR RENEWAL OF CLASS B ABCA LICENSE, SQUARE 369 HOTEL TRS, LLC T/A COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT & RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT WASHINGTON DOWNTOWN [2G04]

Commissioner Padro stated Hours of Operation are 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. seven days a week. Those are also the hours of sales and service. They also have a tasting license. We reached out to the General Manager to participate in tonight's proceedings but did not get a response.

Commissioner McCarty made the following comments. For this particular licensee, there were a couple of complaints in late spring, early summer about delivery noises. That was the precipice for an earlier resolution he introduced that was adopted by the committee in

the summer to address that. He checked in with residents about that and they told him they felt things were in a good place and they actually noticed that Marriott hired new vendors that come at appropriate times. He feels comfortable about 2G support for their renewal license.

MOTION: Commissioner McCarty moved and Commissioner Nirgo seconded that ANC 2G **support** the renewal of the Class B ABCA License for Square 369 Hotel TRS, LLC t/a Courtyard by Marriott & Residence Inn by Marriott Washington Downtown, 901 L Street NW, and that said support be communicated in writing to ABCA. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

8. DISCUSSION OF TRANSITION TO HYBRID MEETINGS

The team discussed the potential transition to hybrid meetings, with some members in person and others joining via Zoom. Commissioner Nigro expressed support for keeping things as they were, while Commissioner Watkins raised the point that commissioners could choose whether to attend in person or remotely. Commissioner Berry expressed concern about engagement and asked for more feedback from those who had attended in-person meetings. Commissioner Padro reported that in-person meetings often had low attendance, outside of hot topics, but agreed to facilitate a hybrid meeting if that was the majority's preference. Commissioner McCarty expressed uncertainty about the best way forward and highlighted concerns about the potential clunkiness of hybrid meetings. There was discussion that if there were a hot topic, consideration could be given to holding in-person or hybrid meetings. Commissioner Watkins stated she was leaning toward a hybrid option. Commissioner Padro suggested the decision could be made to have an in-person or hybrid meeting when the agenda for the monthly meeting is being developed.

There was no clear consensus on whether to proceed with the hybrid option.

9. ANNOUNCEMENT

- o Linda Greenan, External Affairs Manager from Pepco, stated they are having an Open House on Saturday, November 4, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Pepco Edison Place Gallery, 702 8th Street NW, to talk about Pepco's multi-year plan to raise rates for 2024, 2025 and 2026. The Open House is for Wards 1, 2, 3 and 6. The whole purpose of having a multi-year plan starting in 2024 and then 2025 and 2026 is that it gives some predictability about what the rates will look like.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

A. Approval of Minutes of 09/14/23 Meeting

MOTION: Commissioner Padro moved and Commissioner Brown seconded to approve the Minutes of the September 14, 2023 ANC 2G Public Meeting with any corrections to be submitted to the Recording Secretary. The Motion **passed** 5 yeas – 0 nays – 1 abstention (Commissioner McCarty).

B. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Brown provided the Treasurer's Report and stated the Opening Balance in the Checking Account as of 10/1/23 was \$2,482.36. We had the \$100.69 debit charge for last month's Zoom invoice which brought the balance down to \$2,381.67. There are three outstanding checks: #1025 for \$91.80; #1029 for \$58.04; and #1034 for \$44.10 totaling \$193.94 for a balance of \$2,087.04. There are six (6) previously approved pending checks to be written totaling \$1,147.88 which will bring the balance down to \$939.16.

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

C. Approval of Expenses

- 1) **MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Nigro seconded to approve the Zoom expense in the amount of \$100.69 to be taken from the ANC 2G checking account. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.
- 2) **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 October 12, 2023 ANC 2G Public Meeting. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

D. Quarterly Report

Commissioner Brown stated he will be finalizing the 4th Quarter Report that will need to be approved at the November 9, 2023 Public Meeting.

11. CENTRAL CELL BLOCK UPDATE

Commissioner Nigro stated she filed a FOIA appeal this past weekend without actually seeing the Department of Buildings permit. The catch is that you have to actually see the permit in order to appeal. Commissioner Padro stated if the appeal were to move forward, we would need to get some actual legal guidance from the OANC. Commissioner Nigro responded that the OANC has not hired a legal person yet. Commissioner Padro suggested asking the OANC if they would be able to fund outside legal guidance.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner McCarty seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
(Transcribed from Recording)

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