

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2G
Virtual Public Meeting
Thursday, September 14, 2023**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2G convened via Zoom Video Conference and/or Telephone on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Tony Brown, (Treasurer), ANC 2G01
Alex Padro, (Chair), ANC 2G02
Sheena Berry, ANC 2G05
Rachelle Nigro, (Vice Chair), ANC 2G06
Sranda Watkins, ANC 2G03

Absent:

Steven McCarty (Secretary), ANC 2G04

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. with a quorum of 5 out of 5 Commissioners present. Chair Padro welcomed newly elected Commissioner Sranda Watkins to the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Nigro seconded to approve the Agenda as submitted. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

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

Unable to 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

- o The District launched an enhanced Juvenile Curfew Enforcement Pilot Program was launched on September 1, 2023 to ensure that our young people are safe, and to proactively connect youth and families with critical support and services. This pilot is different from the standard Juvenile Curfew Enforcement Program that the District had prior to September 1st. Typically, before this pilot program was launched, when MPD encounters the youth in violation of curfew, an officer brings the youth to the MPD District station, where the officer then remains with the child until a parent or guardian is located. But in the enhanced Juvenile Curfew Enforcement Program, MPD is bringing the youth to the Department of Youth and Rehabilitative Services (DYRS) instead of a District Station which

allows MPD Officers to return to patrol during critical overnight hours, and DYRS is then able to connect with the youth and their families who may need services and support.

- The Deputy Mayor for Education is doing a Family Focus Group. They're collecting feedback about 2023 school funding. So, they're asking residents to share their experiences with DC Public Schools and DC Public Charter schools.
- The DC Public Library is also doing a survey about how they can better serve their communities.
- Yesterday, Mayor Muriel Bowser and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) cut the ribbon on the new headquarters for Virtru, an innovative cybersecurity company and the District's first Vitality Fund awardee. Created through a \$10 million investment by Mayor Bowser, the Vitality Fund is a multi-year, performance-based incentive program designed to support companies in target industries that are actively planning to relocate, expand, or retain their physical location in Washington, DC.
- Tuesday, September 19, 2023 is the Mayor's Sixth Annual National Maternal and Infant Health Summit. Mayor Bowser launched the National Maternal and Infant Health Summit in 2018 as an opportunity to bring together elected officials, health experts and community members to have a focused conversation regarding prenatal health in the district and racial disparities and birth outcomes.
- September is also 202Creates Month. Mayor Bowser launched 202Creates in September 2016. It is a city-wide effort that amplifies, celebrates and highlights the District's dynamic creative community.
- The 38th Annual Mayor's Arts Awards will be held Thursday, September 28, 2023. The night will feature unforgettable performances, shout outs and awards presented in 14 diverse categories.
- This morning, Mayor Muriel Bowser joined Theatre Washington in announcing the launch of Theatre Week 2023, which will run from Thursday, September 21 through Sunday, October 8, 2023.
- Tomorrow, September 15, 2023, is the kickoff for Hispanic Heritage Month at LaMont Plaza at 4:00 p.m.
- Residents can request meetings with Mayor Bowser online. Meeting and event attendance requests can be submitted that go directly to the Mayor's Office of Scheduling.
- We have reactivated our social media and you can follow MOCRS on Twitter and Instagram.
- Community Walkthroughs are on Tuesdays and Fridays.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Commissioner Nigro stated there have been some problems with DPW in that people are being fined for illegal dumping but they are not the right people. She will follow up with Inspector Davis offline
- Commissioner Berry raised an issue with DPR regarding fines relating to posting of notices, specifically ANC Public Meeting Notices.
- Mike Ferguson, father of teenaged daughter Mikeya Ferguson, who was shot and killed two weeks ago, demanded to know why there has been no outreach or response to him from the Mayor's Office and Councilmember Pinto's office.

Response: Grace Reeder will reach out to him following the ANC meeting.

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

- Our office took advantage of our legislative recess over the summer, and we spent a lot of time out and around the ward meeting with residents with small business owners, and most recently, touring all of our schools and meeting with principals just before the new School year began. To make sure they have everything that they need for a successful start to the school year.
- Councilmember Pinto is continuing her focus on improving public safety with a hearing on a package of bills, seeking to address carjacking to improve security for local businesses, to increase protections for seniors and children when they are victims of crime, to increase protections for victims of sexual and domestic violence, and to ensure safer handling of evidence in sexual assault cases. He will post the link in the Chat.
- We're also going to be working on permanent versions of the Emergency Public Safety measures that the Council passed in July and on other new public safety legislation.
- On September 26, 2023, the Council is going to be holding a confirmation hearing for MPD Chief nominee Pamela Smith, so if you're interested in giving testimony, he will also post a link in the Chat.
- On October 5, 2023, the Councilmember is holding a public hearing on the Office of Unified Communications (OUC) which runs our 911 Dispatch center. The Councilmember's Bill on OUC transparency passed in July as part of the emergency package in July. And she's going to be working on passing a permanent version of that bill this fall.
- The new fiscal year starts on October 1st, so we're closely tracking our key budget investments around Shaw. To make sure that they're implemented as quickly as possible.
- Finally, he wanted to give residents an early notice about leaf season. It's going to begin on November 13, 2023. He thinks all the Elm trees on Q. Street have already dropped their leaves. DPW announced that they're going to be giving residents one week's notice before their leaves are actually going to be collected, either via social media, their website or weekly messages to the ANCs to distribute so, again, trying to give residents more direct notice of when they're picking them up after some weather and staffing delays last year and it is hoped that that makes for a more successful collection season.
- He will follow up with DPW regarding posting of notices.
- He will reach out to Mr. Ferguson tomorrow as he had dropped from the call.

C. REPORT FROM DPW – Inspector H. Davis

- Alley cleaning. street cleaning and our grass and cutting weeds is seasonal, so that ends on September 29, 2023.
- Snow season is coming. Older residents 65 and older have an exemption for snow removal. Normally after the snowfall ends, you have 8 hours to remove snow from your sidewalks, but if you have an exemption, that will prevent you from getting a citation. These older residents can go through 311 to let them know they want to have an exemption.

- o Fines will be assessed for trash cans being left out after collection and cleanliness. Keep your trash cans clean.
- o Fines will be assessed for household trash found in litter cans.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- o Commissioner Nigro stated there have been no fines. Response: We have issued a few \$25 fines, but some people just don't care.
- o Commissioner Watkins stated for those 65 and older who have an exemption, will DPW come out and remove the snow? Response: No. We do sometimes have volunteers to help. Grace Reeder added the MOCRS are part of the volunteer team to do this.
- o Commissioner Berry stated there is a significant amount of trash at the Kennedy Recreation Center playground inside the gate that still needs to be maintained better even though the recreation center is under renovation. Do we still need to contact 311? Response: Yes. The Department of General Services responsible for all the parks and recreation centers.
- o Commissioner Brown stated a lot of people lease their properties and their renters are lackadaisical about their trash cans. Response: It is the owner's responsibility to let their tenants know about the proper procedures.
- o Commissioner Watkins asked if DPW offers any workshops for residents to use for fighting rats? Response: Simple Green helps to keep the trash cans clean and odor free. Commissioner Watkins requested the contact information for the Department of Health.
- o Diane – the street cleaning machines are not working; when going over speed bumps, the trash falls out.
- o Commissioner Brown stated the trash collectors leave more trash on the street than is being collected. (900 block of S Street)

D. REPORT FROM EVENTS DC

Solana Vander Nat, Senior Manager of Community Engagement

- o Visit: eventsdc.com; please sign up for Events DC electronic mailing list.
- o For the rest of this month, we have 7 upcoming events at the Convention Center – 2 single day and 5 multi days. No additional security measures are expected.
- o Tuesday, September 19, 2023, Mayor Muriel Bowser's Sixth Annual Maternal and Infant Health Summit will be held with an estimated attendance of 850.
- o Next Wednesday, September 20-23, 2023, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation will host their Annual Legislative Conference, with an estimated attendance of 4,000.
- o On Tuesday, September 26-29, 2023, the Green Build International Conference and Expo will be with us, with an estimated attendance of 5,000. This is the second largest event of the month.
- o Art All Night "A Night Circus at the Square" is back at the Carnegie Library lawn on Saturday, September 30th during the city's art all night festivities. Beginning at 7:00 p.m., this free event will feature flame artists, jugglers, magicians, unicyclists and aerialists. We will also have many interactive art activities. Carnival games, glow in the dark lawn games, a live DJ, light fare, and a 360 degree photo booth to capture your memories.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- o Commissioner Nigro – **(1)** stated she is amazed that 3 of the kiosk businesses on 9th street are still not open. Response: The businesses have been working to get their

space permits. Been in conversations with DOB to help them move this along; **(2)** people complaining about the trees you took down. Response: This is part of the streetscape construction.

5. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner Padro added to what Grace Reeder said earlier and art all night is coming back to Shaw, the neighborhood where it all started. On Saturday, September 30, 2023 from 7:00 p.m. on; some locations are going until midnight, others later than that. It's all free. The welcome center for the festival in the neighborhood will be on the West Plaza at Banneker Academic High School. There will be free music there, there will be Do-It-Yourself art opportunities, there will be fire dancer shows, a fiftieth anniversary of Gogo celebration, DJs dance parties, photographic exhibitions, projections, and the Shaw Skate Park will be activated for the first time as part of the festival. You can go to: <https://artallnightdcshaw.com> for additional information.
- Commissioner Berry stated – **(1)** Residents would like to have a crosswalk installed at P and Marion Street. She reached out to Commissioner Watkins because this area falls within her Single Member District. Commissioner Berry requested community input regarding this. She hopes to have a Transportation Advisory Committee meeting soon. But in the meantime, this issue was brought to us to discuss. We went out there yesterday, knocked on doors, and spoke to residents and people who parked in the area, and it seems that people do want a crosswalk but it appears that the place where they want the crosswalk installed would require them to take away some of the parking that is on that block. Commissioner Watkins informed her that there is construction that is set to start soon across from the Kennedy Recreation Center and there are some issues with hawks living in trees. She will post information on the ANC 2G website relating to the date for the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting; **(2)** requested that if anything happens in 2G05 that she be contacted. Apparently, there was news of a crime in 2G05 and she was not contacted. Her constituents did not understand why she was not speaking out for them regarding this crime.

6. URBAN GRAPE, 13010 9TH STREET NW: REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR NEW CLASS C TAVERN LICENSE FOR PREVIOUSLY LICENSED CLASS A RETAIL STORE [2G05]

Representative Present: Cameron Mixon, Veritas Law

Mr. Mixon stated residents may know Urban Grape as a wine store. Their intention is to hold educational wine tasting events that are about 2 hours long, usually from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., always ending before their closing time of 9:00 p.m. It is not a bar or restaurant or anything of that sort. They have a kitchen, but it's entirely just prepared plates. They are going to be purchasing charcuterie and maybe the occasional catered item but it will essentially be a place for corporate events. People attending conventions can schedule 2 hours there to learn about wine and perhaps find things they want to take home.

Commissioner Padro asked Mr. Mixon to explain why the applicants are applying for a Tavern License and was informed it was in order to facilitate the on-premises consumption, which is not currently covered by the existing retail license, so it is something that is beyond what a tasting license will allow. Commissioner Padro stated the ABC Licensing Committee did not meet due to technical difficulties.

MOTION: Commissioner Berry moved and Commissioner Brown seconded that ANC 2G support the request for support from Urban Grape, 1301 9th Street, NW for a new Class C Tavern License for a previously licensed Class A Retail Store, provided that Urban Grape complete the execution of the previously agreed upon Settlement Agreement and that said support to be communicated to the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (ABCA). The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

7. 501 NEW YORK AVENUE NW: APPEAL OF PERMITS RELATED TO USE OF BUILDING AS A TEMPORARY CENTRAL LOCKUP [2G06]

Commissioner Nigro introduced the topic and stated for people who don't know what this is, The DC Government wants to move the central cell block to what is currently the traffic management station at 501 New York Avenue. No notice was given to the community whatsoever, nor were we ever going to be told about this. Constituents, developers, businesses, this Commission, the Commission across the street, are all opposed to it. And we're trying to fight it. Even though the permit has been issued by the Department of Buildings, we actually cannot see any of the documents that they used to issue the permit. She was informed that potentially the zoning reviewer erred and it should have been a change of use from Government, Local to Government, Large Scale that requires BZA approval. Examples of Government, Large Scale include, but are not limited to: airports, jails, truck dispatch facilities, or police/fire training facilities. This is all about what is said on the application that we currently can't see. As for the "Type of Use," they are claiming that it is currently being used for this purpose (jail) but per the police, those cells have not been used since 2016, so she needs to see those documents and then we can move forward with an appeal. Commissioner Padro added depending on what those documents say, we could have a case. Commissioner Nigro wrote to Director Hanlon, Acting Director of the DC Department of Buildings, saying this is a publicly funded project and we should be able to see those documents.

MOTION: Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Brown seconded that ANC 2G support the appeal of the permit for 501 New York Avenue NW with the proper documentation. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

8. 600 BLOCK OF P STREET NW: PROPOSAL TO INSTALL NORTH/SOUTH CROSSWALK ON EAST SIDE OF MARION STREET INTERSECTION [DDOT] [2G03]

Commissioner Berry stated a DDOT engineer visited the area and they proposed adding the crosswalk on the side of the street where homes are. She and Commissioner Watkins polled the neighborhood and residents were in support of having a crosswalk. However, Marion Street is a one-way street and residents park their cars on the side of the street where homes are located and do not want to lose their parking spaces. Commissioner Berry proposed putting a crosswalk on the opposite side of Marion Street and also a stop sign. Chris Malafis, a resident, supported the crosswalk and stop sign.

MOTION: Commissioner Berry moved and Commissioner Padro seconded that ANC 2G recommends to DDOT that the proposed crosswalk be relocated to the west side of the Marion Street intersection of Marion and P Streets, that consideration be given to installing a HAWK signal, and that said recommendation be communicated in writing to DDOT. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 years – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

9. RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS AT THE OFFICE OF UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS (OUC)

Commissioner Padro stated the resolution that Commissioner McCarty has asked the ANC to consider is one that has been approved by a number of other commissions around the city asking for hearings which now have been scheduled by our Ward 2 Councilmember, who chairs Committee on Public Safety and Judiciary, as well as a number of other measures, including reporting statistics so that there is a better understanding of how the agency is handling its business.

MOTION: Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Padro seconded that ANC 2G support the resolution that has been drafted by Commissioner McCarty recommending certain actions and reforms related to the Office of Unified Communications (OUC). The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 years – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

10. APPROVAL OF FY24 ANC 2G BUDGET

MOTION: Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Nigro seconded that ANC 2G approve the FY24 ANC 2G Budget as presented, moving the additional \$322.71 to the “Other” category and keeping all the other remaining categories from the 2023 calendar year the same. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 years – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

Commissioner Brown stated there were really no expenses until July. He provided a financial update for the period ending August 31, 2023 and reported an ending balance of \$2,482.36. He advised two more allotments are expected in the amount of \$3,865.41 each.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

A. Approval of Minutes of 08/03/23 Meeting

MOTION: Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Nigro seconded to approve the Minutes of the August 3, 2023 ANC 2G Special Public Meeting as submitted. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 years – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

B. Approval of Expenses

- 1) **MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Berry seconded to approve the Zoom expense dated 9/5/23 in the amount of \$100.69 to be taken from the ANC 2G checking account. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 years – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

- 2) **MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Berry seconded to reimburse Commissioner Brown in the amount of \$9.65 for Priority Mailing of checks to Karen Jehle. The Motion **passed** 4 yeas – 0 nays – 1 abstention (Commissioner Brown).
- 3) **MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Berry seconded to approve payment of the invoice in the amount of \$275.00 submitted by Karen Jehle for Minutes of the July 13, 2023 ANC 2G Public Meeting. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.
- 4) **MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Watkins seconded to approve payment of the invoice in the amount of \$275.00 submitted by Karen Jehle for Minutes of the August 3, 2023 ANC 2G Public Meeting. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.
- 5) **MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Watkins seconded to approve payment of the invoice in the amount of \$275.00 submitted by Karen Jehle for Minutes of the September 14, 2023 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 Berry moved and Commissioner Watkins seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: October 12, 2023, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,
(Transcribed from Recording)

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Recording Secretary
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