





Monthly Public Meeting  
Monday, November 13, 2023 at 7:00 pm  
Washington, DC 20002

[Register](#) and enter: ANC5D

or

Dial: 301-715-8592 and enter: 889-3119-8671#

- Adoption of the [Minutes](#) Comm. May 07:10 PM

ANC 5D voted 7-1-0 (motion: May; second: McCullum; opposed: Henderson) to adopt the October 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

- Treasurer's [Monthly Report](#) Comm. Cobb 07:15 PM

Comm. Cobb reported an opening balance of \$31,134.63 and expenses of \$60.02, resulting in a closing balance of \$31,074.61. The primary expenses were for page protectors.

Comm. Blacknell joined the meeting at approximately 7:20pm.

Standing Presentations (5-8 minutes; 2 minutes for questions)

- Commissioner Reports (3 min each) ANC 5D Commissioners 07:20 PM

- 5D01: Comm. Arbuckle has been working with DDOT on pedestrian safety concerns and is working to schedule a walkthrough of the Union Market area in November. Comm. Arbuckle also offered kudos to a constituent (Reginald Shaw-Richardson) who has been advocating for park space in Union Market.

- 5D02: Comm. Rhodes noted that the 150th birthday celebration in Ivy City was a success and also shared some information about Councilmember Zachary Parker's new environmental justice legislation, which specifically seeks to address issues with the National Engineering Products facility in Ivy City.

- 5D03: Comm. Roblin met a group of people who frequently spend time on Montello Ave. near Florida Ave. NE and offered to introduce them to other neighbors. Comm. Roblin is also expanding her SMD meetings to be general Trinidad meetings. The next meeting is on December 4th at Joe Cole recreation center. These meetings will typically occur on the first Monday of the month.

- 5D04: Comm. Cobb did not report any updates.

The next regularly scheduled, public meeting will begin at 7PM on Monday, January 08, 2023.

ANC 5D Commissioners 2023-2024	5D01: Hector Arbuckle	5D02: Sebrena Rhodes	5D03: Anna Roblin
	5D04: Stephen Cobb	5D05: S. Saucedo-Guzman	5D06: Kathy Henderson
	5D07: Juan McCullum	5D08: Reid May	5D09: Bernice Blacknell

With 9 Commissioners in-office, 5 constitute a quorum.





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● Executive Office of the Mayor Christopher Ingram 08:00 PM

No members of the Mayor’s office were present for the meeting.

● Ward 5 Councilmember’s Office Oliver Stoute 08:10 PM

Oliver Stoute joined from Councilmember Zachary Parker’s office. Mr. Stoute shared that he and his family enjoyed the fall festival hosted by Comms. McCullum and Blacknell. He also shared that CM Parker’s office is hosting a holiday turkey giveaway on November 20th at the Langston Golf Course parking lot. Mr. Stoute reported that the Council will be hosting a hearing on CM Parker’s School Improvement Act and that CM Parker recently introduced the Environmental Justice Act of 2023. Finally, Mr. Stoute shared that the Ward 5 holiday party takes place on December 14th at City State Brewery.

**COMMISSION ACTIONS**

Requested Presentation (5-8 minutes; 5 minutes for questions)

● PEPCO Benning Rd. Citizens Ad. Grp. Ronald Lester 08:20 PM

PEPCO was not present for the meeting.

● Phyto Management LLC Grace Hyde 08:30 PM

Grace Hyde joined from Phyto Management LLC. Ms. Hyde is the Director of Operations for Phyto Management LLC, which is a medical cannabis retailer in Ward 7, with plans to expand its retail presence to Union Market. Phyto’s cultivation and manufacturing operation is located in Kenilworth and employs 28 full-time employees. She also provided a brief overview of the regulations covering cannabis dispensaries, which are licensed by ABCA. Ms. Hyde took some questions from the Commission and the public.

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Voting Actions (10-15 minutes; 5 minutes for questions)

- ~~[ABRA Hours Extension](#)~~ Lunas de Buenos Aires 8:45 PM

Removed from the agenda per the amendment during the adoption of the agenda.

- EDENS - HPRB/Support Request Will Couch 9:00 PM

Will Couch joined to present on behalf of EDENS, a developer based in the Union Market area. EDENS' offices are located on 5th St NE north of Morse St NE, above Politics & Prose and the Village Cafe in Union Market. EDENS has an outdoor terrace that they are eager to repurpose, making it more tolerant of various seasonal conditions by constructing an all-season aluminum and glass structure on the existing terrace. The structure will partially obscure the historic facade on their building, including historic concrete medallions, though EDENS is attempting to mitigate the effect of the obstruction by making it semi-transparent. EDENS asked ANC 5D for a letter of support for their request to the HPRB.

Members of ANC 5D expressed concerns about the obstruction of the facade and potential establishment of precedent, which might allow other businesses along the 5th St NE corridor to construct similar structures that might further obstruct the facade.

ANC 5D voted 1-7-1 (motion: Arbuckle; second: Cobb; opposed: Roblin, Rhodes, Saucedo-Guzman, Henderson, McCullum, May, Blacknell; abstention: Cobb) AGAINST offering a letter of support to EDENS.

- Trash Committee Request Comm. Roblin 9:15 PM

Commissioner Roblin requested that the Commission consider purchasing tools for the Trash Committee and also that the Commission consider providing food for volunteers. Comm.

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Sauceda-Guzman noted that ANCs are not able to purchase food for limited community events and that the Trash Committee should instead seek donations from local businesses.

Comm. Henderson questioned whether ANC 5D can properly purchase tools for the Trash Committee and Comm. Cobb clarified that based on his understanding, that sort of expenditure is permissible.

Comm. McCullum suggested that the ANC seek community contributions from local hardware stores, including Home Depot, Lowe’s or Jenk’s Hardware on Bladensburg Rd. NE. Comm. Cobb agreed with that suggestion. Comm. May suggested the Trash Committee put forward a list of tools or supplies that are needed and Comm. McCullum suggested that members of the Commission send suggestions to Comm. Roblin.

[UPDATE: after the meeting, the Office of ANCs informed ANC 5D that tool purchases are permissible, but seeking donations is not permissible]

ANC 5D agreed to revisit Trash Committee resource requests at the January 2024 public meeting.

- Stipulated Liquor License Request      Jinya Ramen

Tahmina joined from Jinya Ramen to request support for a stipulated liquor license. Tahmina shared that Jinya is an authentic Japanese ramen chain with locations throughout the D.C. area. Tahmina provided a brief overview of Jinya’s locations and renderings for their planned location in Union Market, where they will be able to seat up to 143 guests. Jinya does not yet know its opening date in Union Market, nor do they have all details about security plans, etc.

ANC 5D voted 9-0-0 (motion: Saucedo-Guzman; second: Arbuckle) to table the request from Jinya Ramen until a future meeting when they have more details regarding their timeline to open, security plans, and so forth.

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- Chesapeake Climate Action Network Naomi Cohen-Shields

Naomi Cohen-Shields joined from the Chesapeake Climate Action Network to discuss her organization's opposition to PROJECTpipes, a 40-year-long Washington Gas initiative to replace all of the city's gas lines (currently cast iron) with new pipes (primarily plastics). PROJECTpipes repairs are paid for by Washington Gas ratepayers—in short, ratepayers pay for more than consumption, they also pay for infrastructure. Washington Gas is currently asking the D.C. Public Service Commission for approval to institute significant rate increases.

In total, PROJECTpipes will cost \$4.5 billion, approximately \$27,000 per ratepayer over the life of the project. According to Ms. Cohen-Shields, the project will prolong D.C.'s reliance on methane gas and limit D.C.'s ability to make a transition to electric energy supplies. Chesapeake Climate Action Network is advocating for a solution that prioritizes critical repairs, but otherwise focuses on an electrified future. Ms. Cohen-Shields also noted that this is a financial equity issue because wealthier households will transition to electricity faster than low-income households, thus exacerbating rate increases for the lowest income families.

Ms. Cohen-Shields requested that ANC 5D consider passing a resolution opposing PROJECTpipes.

Community Feedback & Questions (10-20 min) 9:30 PM

Adjournment 9:45 PM

ANC 5D voted 9-0-0 (motion: Saucedo-Guzman; second: Rhodes) to adjourn the monthly public meeting at 9:40 pm.

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