



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1A
Proudly Serving Columbia Heights

3400 11th St NW
Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20010

1A@anc.dc.gov
(202) 430-6847
@ANC1A

COMMISSIONERS

[Vacant]
SMD 1A01
1A01@anc.dc.gov

Dieter L. Morales
Chair
SMD 1A02
1A02@anc.dc.gov

Carlo Perri
SMD 1A03
1A03@anc.dc.gov

Jeremy Sherman
Vice Chair
SMD 1A04
1A04@anc.dc.gov

Stephen Coleman Kenny
SMD 1A05
1A05@anc.dc.gov

Anthony Thomas-Davis
Secretary
SMD 1A06
1A06@anc.dc.gov

Mukta Ghorpadey
SMD 1A07
1A07@anc.dc.gov

David Segall
SMD 1A08
1A08@anc.dc.gov

James A. Turner
Treasurer
SMD 1A09
1A09@anc.dc.gov

Billy Easley
SMD 1A10
1A10@anc.dc.gov

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

December 4, 2023

Nyasha Smith
Secretary to the Council
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: ANC 1A 2023 Annual Report

Dear Secretary Smith:

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1-309.10(j)(1) and § 1-309.10(n-1), please find enclosed the 2023 Annual Report of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A, which details activities of the Commission from October 2022 through December 2023, covering Fiscal Year 2023 and the calendar year. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at 202-855-8550 or 1A06@anc.dc.gov.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION,

Anthony Thomas-Davis
Commissioner, Single Member District 1A06 & Secretary

Cc: Members, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A
The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Brianne K. Nadeau, Councilmember, Ward 1
Mr. Kent Boese, Executive Director, Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions

Enclosure



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ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1A

23

ANNUAL REPORT

A YEAR OF TRANSITION & PROGRESS

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Leveraging Community, Embracing the Future of Columbia Heights

Welcome to Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A's Annual Report, a showcase of our achievements, progress, and commitment to the residents and community of Columbia Heights and the District throughout the year. On September 12, 2023, at a properly noticed regular meeting of the Commission, with a quorum present, this report was authorized for submission to satisfy the requirements of D.C. Official Code § 1-309.10(j)(1) and § 1-309.10(n-1).



INTRODUCTION

It is with great pleasure that we present the Annual Report for Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A, showcasing the significant strides and accomplishments made throughout the past fiscal year. Reflecting on the past 12+ months, we are proud to report substantial progress in fulfilling our commitment to the residents of the Columbia Heights community.

A Year of Collaborative Achievements:

In 2023, the Commission continued to serve as a vital bridge between the local government and our diverse community. Through collaborative efforts, we tackled key issues like public safety to small business support to transportation improvements, fostered greater collaboration with community partners to advance vital community goals, and promoted a more transparent, accessible, and reliable operating environment for the Commission. Our focus on community engagement and outreach remained unwavering, ensuring that every voice was heard and considered in the decision-making processes.

Navigating Challenges, Embracing Opportunities:

2023 presented its share of challenges, yet our dedicated Commission members and community partners have worked tirelessly to address and overcome them. Through collaborative efforts, we have not only navigated uncertainties but have also transformed challenges into opportunities for growth and positive change. We continued to challenge our thinking about longstanding issues facing Columbia Heights and consistently collaborated with longtime community-based organizations and groups with knowledge of where we have been as a community and ideas about where we can go, together.

Community Engagement and Outreach:

One of our primary objectives this year was to strengthen community engagement and outreach initiatives. We established a standing committee, the Committee on Outreach & Events, to focus on it and, because of that, have fostered open dialogue and active participation among residents, community organizations, and businesses. This increased engagement has empowered us to better understand our community members' evolving needs and aspirations. The cornerstone of our success will always rely on robust engagement with our constituents. Our commitment to ensuring that every member of our community feels represented and valued has been reflected in every aspect of our work and will continue to be in the years to come.

Public Safety and Well-being:

The safety and well-being of our residents remain paramount. In partnership with law enforcement agencies, community organizations, and local businesses, the Commission has put forward comprehensive strategies and recommendations to enhance public safety across Columbia Heights. From pushing for a greater focus on behavioral and mental health to better connect residents to resources to ensuring a more robust on-foot police presence to encourage constitutional, community policing, we are committed to creating a secure and supportive environment for all residents.

Financial Stewardship:

We take our responsibility as stewards of public resources seriously. In 2023, the Commission diligently managed its budget, allocating funds strategically to address community priorities. Transparent financial reporting and accountability measures underscore our commitment to responsible fiscal management, which has allowed the Commission to maintain and grow its reserves to better address the needs of Columbia Heights.

Looking Forward:

As we celebrate the achievements of 2023, we look forward with optimism and determination to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. ANC 1A remains committed to serving as the voice of Columbia Heights and working collaboratively to ensure a bright and prosperous future for all residents as their representatives.

Leading with Vision, **Focused on Success**

A Message from the Chair



Dear Residents, Neighbors, and Friends of Columbia Heights,

I am honored to address you as Chairperson of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A (ANC 1A). Reflecting on the past year, we are at a pivotal moment in our community's history. The challenges and opportunities brought by the pandemic and now with our continued recovery, the ambitious but achievable vision for a reinvigorated Columbia Heights, coupled with our commitment to serving you, have driven our actions and initiatives. In this message, I want to highlight some key themes that have defined our past year and outline the path forward for ANC 1A.

DC Home Rule and ANCs Turn 50. District of Columbia Home Rule turns 50 years old this year. The District of Columbia Home Rule Act (officially the “District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act” was signed into law by President Richard Nixon on December 24, 1973, and it came into effect on March 1, 1974. Home rule refers to the ability of the residents of Washington, D.C., to govern themselves locally and have control over their own affairs, including the election of the Mayor and Council. The Home Rule Act marked a significant milestone for District residents at the time of passage, as it granted greater autonomy and the ability to manage our local government independently of the United States Congress. Prior to home rule, Washington, D.C., was governed by a federally appointed commissioner. This anniversary provides us all an opportunity to reflect on the progress made, the challenges faced, and the ongoing campaign to secure statehood as the 51st state and to enhance the political and civic life of the District of Columbia.

Relatedly, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) were established as a part of the District of Columbia's Home Rule Act but would not officially come into effect until 1974. ANCs are generally considered to be a part of the District's legislative branch and have been an integral component of D.C.'s home rule, helping to bring hyperlocal governance to communities across the city. As we celebrate Home Rule and the approaching 50th anniversary of the 1974 elections of the first ANCs, we celebrate the role ANC 1A and other Advisory Neighborhood Commissions in fostering community governance and providing an unparalleled platform for civic and political engagement. ANC 1A has used this milestone to

reflect on the evolution of ANCs, our achievements, and our ongoing significance in shaping the governance of the District. We wish our fellow Advisory Neighborhood Commissions continued success as we all share in the responsibility of governing the District of Columbia.

A New Cohort of Commissioners. The Commission welcomed a new cohort of commissioners in 2023 following the implementation of redistricting changes from the 2020 Census, each bringing a unique set of skills and fresh perspectives. The Commission did retain three commissioners from the previous term, enabling a continuity of knowledge and experience. We value the contributions of our fellow commissioners, past and present, whose dedication to the community drives our collective success. We are excited to work together to achieve our shared vision of an even more vibrant and connected Columbia Heights for years to come.

Return to In-Person and Hybrid Meetings. We are thrilled to announce the return to in-person and hybrid meetings. Our commitment to open, accessible, and inclusive governance remains unwavering. We recognize the importance of face-to-face interactions and the convenience of virtual participation. This flexibility allows all members of our diverse community to actively engage with us, no matter where they are or their circumstances.

The Road Ahead. Looking forward, ANC 1A remains steadfast in our commitment to the well-being and growth of the Columbia Heights neighborhood. We will continue advocating for safe, inclusive, well-maintained public spaces, improved transportation and community infrastructure, more affordable housing, and robust economic development that strengthens our neighborhood businesses. We will also focus on sustainability and environmental initiatives that ensure a greener, more resilient Columbia Heights.

I want to express our deepest gratitude to the residents and stakeholders of Columbia Heights, for your unwavering support, input, and involvement. Together, we have faced challenges head-on and will continue to do so. I encourage you to continue to actively participate in the work of ANC 1A, as your engagement is and will continue to be the driving force behind our success. We are excited to embark on this continued journey of progress and community building with you in 2024. With your continued support and involvement, I am confident that we will achieve our shared vision for Columbia Heights. Our neighborhood is a tapestry of diverse voices and perspectives, and together, we will weave a future that ensures our best days are still ahead of us.

Sincerely,



Dieter Lehmann Morales

Chairperson, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A

Uniting Talents, Fueling Solutions



Meet the Members of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A who contribute their expertise, passion, and collaboration to drive the success of Columbia Heights..



Carlo Perri
Commissioner SMD 1A03



Jeremy Sherman
Commissioner SMD 1A04
& Vice Chair *since 7/23*



Stephen Coleman Kenny
Commissioner SMD 1A05



Dieter Lehmann Morales
Commissioner SMD 1A02
& Chair



Anthony Thomas-Davis
Commissioner SMD 1A06
& Secretary *since 10/23*



Mukta Ghorpadey
Commissioner SMD 1A07
& Secretary *until 10/23*



David Segall
Commissioner SMD 1A08



James A. Turner
Commissioner SMD 1A09
& Treasurer



Billy Easley
Commissioner SMD 1A10



Max Ewart
Former Commissioner
SMD 1A01 & Vice Chair,
resigned 7/23

Driving Policy Change for Columbia Heights & the District



Delve into our policymaking success and agenda-setting progress, including resolutions passed, correspondence sent to the Council and executive branch, and community projects launched or still in development.

How We Work



ANALYSIS

We continually identify key issues or concerns and analyze the impact of these on our community. We conduct research to gather relevant data and information and engage with community members, community-based organizations, local businesses, and other stakeholders to understand diverse perspectives and formulate solutions.



STRATEGY

We establish clear goals and objectives for addressing identified issues. We develop a range of policy options to achieve the set goals and consider each option's feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and community impact. Prioritize policy options based on urgency, community needs, and available resources. Commissioners draft detailed policy proposals outlining recommended actions.



COMMITTEE WORK SESSIONS

Our committees take those recommended actions and further discuss and refine these policy proposals. We encourage and allow for public participation and input during these work sessions, which in turn produce final recommendations for the full Commission to consider further and take action on.



DELIBERATION AND VOTE

We regularly hold public meetings to discuss policy proposals, again allowing community members to express their opinions and provide feedback. We have robust debate and deliberation to ensure a thorough examination of each policy proposal, making necessary amendments or revisions. We hold formal votes to decide on adopting specific policies. We then monitor and evaluate the outcomes of policy recommendations.

Key Issues & Policy Recommendations

ANC 1A, a secondary body of the District's legislative branch below the DC Council, along with the other 45 advisory neighborhood commissions, addresses a wide range of community concerns and advises the District government on various policy issues. This year, key issues and policy recommendations from the Commission encompassed a wide range of topics crucial to the well-being and development of Columbia Heights, including matters related to public safety, education, transportation, housing, and economic development. At the center of these policy recommendations is our focus on fostering civic engagement and ensuring that the community's voice is heard in all matters of District governance. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the specific key issues and policy recommendations from the Commission this year, we encourage you to refer to our [meeting minutes](#), [committee reports](#), [official letters](#), [other correspondence](#), and [newsletters](#) released by the Commission. Below, we highlight our [standing committees](#), their mandates, and the key positions we took on many neighborhood-level and citywide issues via official action across various policy areas.

1 Business & Economic Development

The Commission's Committee on Small Business and Economic Development has focused on nurturing local businesses, fostering economic growth through more significant investments from public and private partners, and addressing the unique needs of an evolving community. The committee plays a pivotal role in shaping recommendations to the Commission about the economic landscape of the neighborhood. The Small Business and Economic Development Committee has become a catalyst for significant change through strategic partnerships and targeted initiatives that will enable the Commission to help solidify Columbia Heights as the "heart of the District" and continue to build its business corridors, like 11th Street and 14th Street, to attract new residents and visitors alike. The committee's work will continue with unwavering commitment to creating a vibrant economic ecosystem that supports local businesses and enhances the overall well-being of residents in Columbia Heights.

In the past year, the Commission has taken up a number of matters for official action on business and economic development issues, including:

- Settlement Agreement Concerning Kalu Seasoning Blends, LLC t/a Trini Vybez, ABCA-124738, approved by the Commission on October 11, 2023.
- Settlement Agreement Concerning Margots Chair, Inc. d/b/a The Coupe, ABRA-086623, approved by the Commission on October 11, 2023.
- Resolution in Support of B25-0284, Helping Small Businesses Recover and Thrive Amendment Act of 2023, approved by the Commission on July 12, 2023.
- Resolution Calling for Reform of the Vacant & Blighted Property Laws and Regulations in DC, approved by the Commission on June 14, 2023.
- Resolution Calling for 14th Street NW Latino Cultural Designation & Dedicated Economic Development Initiative, approved by the Commission on April 12, 2023.
- Resolution of Support for B25-0068 "Street Vendor Advancement Amendment Act of 2023", approved by the Commission on February 8, 2023

The Commission also facilitated the following small business and economic development-related community projects, programs, or events:

- Developed and updated a roster of businesses and business owners across the Commission area.
- Recruited small businesses on 11th St to participate in the Columbia Heights Movie Nights by offering specials and deals to neighbors.
- Reviewed and updated the settlement and voluntary agreement template for use by Commissioners when negotiating with businesses on liquor and entertainment licenses.
- Worked closely with DC agencies, including the Department of Small & Local Business Development (DSLBD) and the Department of Licensing & Consumer Protection (DLCP), community organizations, including District Bridges, and developers and property owners across Columbia Heights.
- Created an outlined forthcoming Columbia Heights neighborhood brochure and commercial space directory.
- Worked closely with the Department of Licensing & Consumer Protection on the rollout of street vendor laws, connecting them to Beloved Community Incubator.
- Attended ribbon cuttings of new business openings, including Cinco Soles restaurant, KooKoo restaurants, The Joint Chiropractic, and Lidl.

2 Education, Youth, and Recreation

The Commission's Committee on Education, Youth, and Family is at the forefront of championing holistic education policy and supports for youth and

families in Columbia Heights and across the District. In fact, ANC 1A's Education, Youth, and Family Committee is the only of its kind in Ward 1 and across all District ANCs. This dedicated committee has been instrumental in crafting and championing initiatives prioritizing resources to strengthen our public education system, positively engaging our youth, and enabling services and supports that help families sustain and thrive. From advocating for an equitable budget that reflects the needs of our students to expanded youth programming like bullying prevention to championing policies that strengthen family services, the committee has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to fostering a nurturing environment for youth and their families. Through these forward-thinking policy recommendations and a whole child, whole family, and whole community approach, the Committee on Education, Youth, and Family is actively shaping a future where every individual, from the youngest to the most experienced, can thrive and contribute to the vibrant fabric of Columbia Heights.

Throughout the year, the committee convened monthly meetings as crucial forums for community members, educators, and families to come together. These sessions facilitated open dialogue on pressing issues, allowing for the identification of challenges and the collaborative development of solutions, and aligned with our [BOY Roadmap](#).

The committee has formulated a series of actionable recommendations based on the insights gathered and discussions within the community. These included advocating for increased funding for:

- Public safety measures and improved implementation of Safe Passages;
- Establishing partnerships for youth programs;
- Increased teacher training and support staff for bullying and harassment programming;
- Enhancing Language Access support and critical services for families; and
- Staffing to support more urban agricultural opportunities in communities across the city.

In the past year, the Commission has taken up a number of matters for [official action](#) on education, youth, and family issues, including:

- Testimony to the Council of the District of Columbia regarding DC Public Schools (DCPS) FY25 Budget, Nov 14, 2023, approved by the Commission on November 8, 2023.
- Letter to Paul Kihn, Deputy Mayor for Education (DME), Concerning the FY25 Budget for Cluster Agencies, approved by the Commission on November 8, 2023.
- Letter to Dr. Lewis Ferebee, Chancellor, DC Public Schools (DCPS), Concerning the FY25 Budget, approved by the Commission on November 8, 2023.
- Letter to Thennie Freeman, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Concerning the FY25 Budget, approved by the Commission on November 8, 2023.
- Letter to Hnin Khaing, Director, Office of Human Rights (OHR), Concerning the FY25 Budget, approved by the Commission on November 8, 2023.
- Letter to Jed Ross, Chief Risk Officer, Office of Risk Management (ORM) Concerning Administrative Requirements, approved by the Commission on November 8, 2023.
- Letter to Dr. Christina Grant, State Superintendent of Education, Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), Concerning Professional Development for Teachers for Bullying and Harassment, approved by the Commission on November 8, 2023.
- Letter to Lindsey Appiah, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, Concerning the Implementation of the Safe Streets for Students Amendment Act of 2022, approved by the Commission on November 8, 2023.
- Letter to Bernice Butler, Executive Director, State Board of Education (SBOE), Concerning the FY25 Budget, approved by the Commission on November 8, 2023.
- Resolution Urging Mental Health Supports in Schools and Our Community, approved by the Commission on April 12, 2023.
- Testimony Performance Oversight Hearing Testimony Guide All Education Agencies, approved by the Commission on March 1, 2023.
- Letter to the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board (DCPCSB) Concerning the Enrollment Ceiling for The Family Place, approved by the Commission on June 14, 2023.
- Letter to Mayor Muriel Bowser Concerning Education Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2024
- Letter to Delano Hunter, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Concerning FY24 Budget Requests, approved by the Commission on November 9, 2022.

The Commission also facilitated the following education, youth, and recreation-related community projects, programs, events, and meetings:

- Hosted quarterly meetings, all conducted with simultaneous translations in Spanish and done in partnership with the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC), United Negro College Fund (UNCF), the DC Public Library (DCPL), and Councilwoman Brienne Nadeau the following dates:
 - Saturday, March 25, 2023
 - Topic: Budget and Community Input
 - Presentation of the State of DC Schools Report, Chelsea Coffin, DC Policy Center
 - Presentation of Mayor Bowser's FY 24 Budget (Spanish Version) and Community Discussion
 - Break Out Groups w/Spanish facilitators
 - Saturday, June 23, 2023
 - Topic: Community Partnerships and Support Organizations
 - Schools - Cardozo and The Family Place, an adult learning charter
 - Community organizations supporting young people with mentoring, tutoring, and storytelling opportunities: 826DC, DC Scores, and Hola Cultura
 - Office of the Student Advocate
 - Deputy Mayor of Education, Discussion on their Boundary Assignment and Master Facility Studies.
 - Saturday, September 23, 2023
 - Topic: Bullying and Harassment Prevention
 - SBOE's Office of the Ombudsman for Public Education and the Office of the Student Advocate
 - Office of Human Rights re: Language Access Rights for Families
 - Panel facilitated by DCPL Teen Librarian Monica Wilson

3 Housing, Zoning, and Community Development

The Commission's Committee on Housing Justice and Zoning has been a singular and pivotal force championing equitable and sustainable housing and development policies in Columbia Heights. With a steadfast commitment to addressing housing challenges and advocating for fairer zoning policies, this committee has played a crucial role in shaping the neighborhood's housing landscape. By focusing on issues such as affordable housing, community-driven development, and zoning regulations that prioritize inclusivity, the committee strives to create a housing environment that meets the diverse needs of residents. Through its initiatives, the committee is driving a vision of Columbia Heights, where housing is a fundamental right and a key component in building a vibrant, inclusive, and socially just community.

In the past year, the Commission has taken up a number of matters for official action on housing and zoning issues, including:

- Letter of Support to Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) for BZA Case 20901 - 1448 Fairmont Street NW., and BZA Case 20951 - 3646 13th Street NW., approved by the Commission on July 12, 2023.
- Resolution Requesting a Cap on Rent Control To Be Limited To 3%, approved by the Commission on April 12, 2023.
- Letter to Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr., Chair, Committee on Housing, Council of the District of Columbia, Concerning Emergency Legislation to Fund the Emergency Rental Assistance Program through the End of FY23, approved by the Commission on March 8, 2023.
- Letter of Support for NCBA's Carl F. West Development, approved by the Commission on February 8, 2023.

The Commission also facilitated the following housing-related community projects, programs, or events:

- In partnership with ANC 4B, hosted a Tenant Resource Fair which connected residents with governmental and non-governmental services throughout the District.
- Hosted a presentation by the Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA) to discuss tenant protections and rights and services and programs administered by OTA.
- Implemented a public education campaign to support Columbia Heights residents interested in organizing their neighbors into tenants' unions or associations and on how they can exercise their rights under the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA).

4 Public Safety & Justice

The Commission's Committee on Public Safety focuses on policies prioritizing Columbia Heights residents' well-being and security. With a steadfast commitment to fostering a safe and thriving community, the committee's policy recommendations encompass a comprehensive approach to public safety. Advocating for collaborative partnerships between law enforcement and the community, the committee emphasizes proven, data-driven community policing strategies, enhanced safety measures like security cameras, and proactive crime prevention initiatives. By championing transparent and consistent communication with government partners like the Metropolitan Police Depart-

ment (MPD), Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, Office of the Attorney General, community engagement, and strategic investments in public safety infrastructure, the committee envisions a Columbia Heights where residents feel secure, empowered, and actively involved in the collective effort to maintain a safe and resilient neighborhood.

In the past year, the Commission has taken up a number of matters for official action on public safety issues, including:

- Resolution Requesting the DC US Attorney Testify Before the House Oversight Committee, approved by the Commission on May 10, 2023.

The Commission also facilitated the following public safety-related community projects, programs, or events:

- 1A03 Commissioner Carlo Perri hosted an independent Public Safety Town Hall with attendance from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, District Bridges, and MPD.
- Pursued close and continued communication with the Columbia Heights Village Tenants Association to ensure their concerns regarding safety and potentially predatory business practices were addressed with MPD and the Office of the Attorney General, respectively.
- Successfully advocated for higher presence of parking enforcement and Department of For-Hire Vehicle (DFHV) patrol officers along the Irving and 14th St. corridors and the reimplementation of police escorts for high-priority ambulance and fire vehicles, reducing idling that caused gridlock traffic during peak times, delayed emergency services, and lowered noise levels for residents living adjacent to the corridors.
- Engaged with CVS Government Affairs with strategies to maintain their store at 14th St. and Irving St. NW in light of recent nationwide shoplifting that threatened the store's existence in the neighborhood.
- Explored policing alternatives as compliments to traditional security strategies with leaders from Metro and DC DSA to enhance security around the mall and Metro plazas.

5 Transportation, Environment, and Public Works

The Commission's Committee on Transportation, Parks, and Public Spaces focuses on creating impactful policy recommendations to shape a more accessible, sustainable, and community-centric Columbia Heights. These recommendations advocate for innovative solutions to enhance mobility, promote environmental sustainability, and foster community connectivity by

addressing the interconnected elements of transportation, parks, and green and public space. From advocating for improved transportation infrastructure like bus lanes to championing the expansion and maintenance of public spaces and parks, the committee is committed to fostering a community that prioritizes mobility, green spaces, and public space. Through these recommendations, the committee envisions a Columbia Heights that is seamlessly integrated and well-planned.

In the past year, the Commission has taken up a number of matters for official action on transportation, environment, and public works issues, including:

- Resolution Concerning Support for B25-0132, Requirement to Provide Notice of Intent to Remove Public Litter Containers Amendment Act of 2023, and B25-0412, Litter Control Amendment Act of 2023, approved by the Commission on November 8, 2023.
- Resolution of Support for DC DPR Acquisition of Reservations 309G and 565, approved by the Commission on October 9, 2023.
- Resolution Opposing the Proposed Elimination of DC Circulator Service from Woodley Park-Adams Morgan to McPherson Square Metro, approved by the Commission on April 12, 2023.
- Resolution Requesting Release of Congestion Pricing Study, approved by the Commission on April 12, 2023.
- Letter of Support for the 10th St NW, Barry PI NW & Florida Ave NW Safety Project, approved by the Commission on June 14, 2023.
- Resolution Concerning Support for DDOT in Planning to Extend Kenyon St NW Protected Bike Lane to 16th St NW, approved by the Commission on March 8, 2023.

The Commission also facilitated the following transportation, environmental, and public works-related community projects, programs, and events:

- Successfully shepherded through an agreement between DDOT and MPD to remove the MPD cruiser that regularly parked in the bus lane on 14th St NW.
- Worked with neighbors to uplift the issues relating to the dilapidated property at 3228 Hiatt PI NW. As a result of SMD 1A05 Commissioner Stephen Coleman Kenny's advocacy, the property received a hearing in front of the Board for the Condemnation of Insanitary Buildings (BCIB).

The hearing did not yield the outcome the Commission hoped for, but it elevated the issues surrounding 3228 Hiatt PI NW, which has since led to action from the Department of Buildings (DOB) at the property.

6 General Government & Operations

In the past year, the Commission has taken up a number of matters for official action on general government and operations issues, including:

- Resolution Concerning a Pause On Collection Action by the Office of Tax & Revenue Under the Street Vendor Amnesty Program, approved by the Commission of November 8, 2023.
- A Resolution Concerning the Establishment of a Special Committee on Public Life in Columbia Heights, approved November 8, 2023.
- Resolution Requesting Office Space from the Mayor, approved by the Commission on October 11, 2023.
- Resolution in Support of Sexual Harassment Investigation Integrity Amendment Act of 2023, approved by the Commission on July 12, 2023.
- Letter of Support for Mural on 3429 14th Street NW, approved by the Commission on July 12, 2023, approved by the Commission on July 12, 2023.
- Letter to the Department of General Services Concerning Notice of Intent for the Acquisition of Leasehold Interest in Real Property at 1100 Park Road, N.W., approved by the Commission on September 6, 2023.
- Letter of Support for District Bridges “Columbia Heights Day”, approved by the Commission on April 12, 2023.
- Letter to the Council of the District of Columbia Concerning the FY24 Budget and ANC 1A/Columbia Heights Priorities, approved by the Commission on April 12, 2023.
- Letter of Support for District Bridges’ “Juernes” Events, approved by the Commission on February 8, 2023.
- Letter to the Council of the District of Columbia Regarding the Nomination of Kent Boese to be Executive Director, Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, approved by the Commission on October 12, 2023.

The Commission also facilitated the following general government and operations-related community projects, programs, and events, with several led by the Commission's Community Outreach & Events Committee:

- Community Clean-Up & Coat Drive for the holiday season, in partnership with Buddy's and Ward 1 Mutual Aid.



MAJOR COMMISSION EVENTS IN 2023

Columbia Heights Movie Series

Community Events and Outreach Committee Chair Mukta Ghorpadey revived the Columbia Heights Movie Nights series after the pandemic interrupted it for 2.5 years. The series boasted three movie nights and drew an audience of nearly 100 residents each night, and had sponsorships from community organizations and businesses.

Columbia Heights Public Safety Summit

Committee on Public Safety Co-Chairs Carlo Perri and Billy Easley organized the Columbia Heights Public Safety Summit, bringing together the Metropolitan Police Department, Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, Department of Behavioral Health, and Office of Attorney General, to take crime prevention strategy and better community policing solutions.



Neighborhood Clean Ups

Commissioners and Committee Chairs organized over 5 neighborhood clean up events for the entire community and specific pockets of Columbia Heights. These clean ups were conducted in coordination with the Department of Public Work's Helping Hand program which supplies neighbors with materials needed to pick up and dispose of trash on sidewalks and streets.



11th & 14th Streets Business Walk



Small Business and Economic Development Committee Co-Chair Jeremy Sherman organized a walk of Columbia Heights' vibrant 11th and 14th Street business corridors to highlight the importance of business license renewals and ways ANC 1A could best assist their needs as a community partner.

Commissioner Outreach Day

Commissioners went door-to-door in their Single Member Districts, canvassing to drop-off information one-pagers and contact cards about how residents can connect with the Commission and ensure their concerns and requests can be addressed. They also chatted with residents to hear their ideas and answers their questions about the neighborhood.



Beyond Routine: Innovations in Operations and Administration to Achieve Transparency and Accountability



With a new cohort of Commissioner comes the opportunity to refine processes, correcting inefficiencies, and take a closer look at new ways of doing things. Delve into what the Commission has been undertaking to accomplish this.

Enhancing Operational Efficiency for Unparalleled Transparency and Accountability

ANC 1A has prioritized enhancing operational efficiency over the past year to foster an accountable and transparent governance model. The Commission undertook meticulous efforts to amplify transparency and accountability within our operations. Recognizing the pivotal role these elements play in fostering public trust (and as individual Commissioners, holding and maintaining that trust as elected officials), ANC 1A's commitment to transparency not only aligns with baseline standards prescribed in District law and outlined in the Commission's Code of Conduct but also extends into the very fabric of our mission to serve and represent the Columbia Heights community.

To accomplish this, the Commission has committed to the following:

Open Governance and Decision-making Processes. Transparency is embedded in the Commission's decision-making ethos. The Commission has embraced open governance practices, striving to make meeting and committee agendas and pertinent documents readily accessible to the public in advance of proceedings so the public can weigh in and be more involved in the agenda-setting process. The Commission has also worked to ensure the community knows when and how to engage with their Single Member District Commissioners to address their concerns and needs. This transparent approach invites community input and ensures that decisions are made collaboratively, reflecting the diverse perspectives within Columbia Heights.

Streamlining Communication Channels. To further this transparency, the Commission is revamping its communication channels, ensuring seamless and timely dissemination of information to residents and broadcasting its proceedings, including regular Commission and committee meetings. The Commission facilitated real-time updates on meetings, decisions, and actions of the Commission, as well as community initiatives throughout the year. The Commission will continue to bridge communication gaps, allowing constituents to stay informed and engaged with the Commission's activities and those of its members.

Fiscal Accountability and Financial Transparency. To bolster accountability, the Commission has consistently implemented robust fiscal practices that ensure we responsibly exercise our fiduciary duty of taxpayer funds. A dedicated focus on budgetary transparency includes detailed financial reporting and regular financial audits, conducted with the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions. By providing a comprehensive overview of financial activities, as required by law, the Commission aims to instill confidence in the community regarding the judicious use of resources for the betterment of Columbia Heights.

Community Engagement Initiatives. Transparency and accountability are most meaningful when coupled with active community involvement. ANC 1A has intensified efforts to engage residents through inclusive platforms like town hall meetings, surveys, and community forums. These engagements elicit valuable feedback and empower community members to actively participate in decision-making processes, reinforcing the Commission's commitment to responsive governance.

Technological Integration for Streamlined Information Sharing. The Commission has strategically embraced cutting-edge technologies to streamline internal operations. The implementation of a robust digital infrastructure has facilitated seamless communication, document management, and collaborative decision-making, which is, in turn, helping to advance our policymaking functions. Real-time updates and centralized data repositories have not only expedited administrative tasks but have also served to streamline our day-to-day operations.

Continuous Improvement and Adaptability. Operational efficiency is an ongoing commitment for the Commission. Through regular assessments and feedback mechanisms, the Commission adapts its operations to meet the community's evolving needs. This agile approach ensures that the Commission remains at the forefront of operational excellence, consistently striving to exceed transparency and accountability expectations and set a standard for governance excellence and a model for transparent, accountable, and community-driven operations.

Dedicated Office Space. The Commission, on October 11, 2023, passed a resolution calling on the Mayor to secure dedicated office space for our use (see [Resolution Requesting Office Space from the Mayor](#)), which will dramatically increase our ability to serve the Columbia Heights community. The Commission will utilize new offices to hold regular office hours for constituent services needs, host community meetings, and provide a hub where District government agencies can gather to assist residents with specialized services.

Recommendations on the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC)

The Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC) plays an immeasurably vital role in fostering, supporting, and representing the interests of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs), ensuring that ANCs can support and represent their constituents at the neighborhood level. Recognizing the importance of ANCs, as a part of the legislative branch, in shaping policies and initiatives both in their communities and District-wide, there is a pressing need for improvements and additional funding for OANC to amplify the impact of ANCs both at the neighborhood level and citywide.

Improvements in technology and infrastructure are essential to strengthen the effectiveness of ANCs, particularly as we transition to a hybrid environment for commission proceedings and commissions aiming to reach more residents and stakeholders in their communities. Upgrading communication tools and providing training in digital literacy will empower ANCs to better connect with their communities and enhance their ability to address neighborhood concerns. Specifically, tools and training for receiving and tracking constituent services requests, monitoring policy compliance from agencies based on ANC recommendations, and other suggested focus areas would be ideal. While OANC has made significant investments in modernized platforms for information dissemination that allow ANCs to facilitate more efficient and transparent communication with residents, they offer little flexibility to fit the needs of specific ANCs. Allowing for better adaptation to existing brand needs or ease of use for a variety of audiences would be a welcome change.

Additional funding for annual allotments is crucial to support ANCs in executing projects that directly benefit their neighborhoods. This includes initiatives related to community development, infrastructure improvement, and local events. Adequate funding will empower ANCs to take on more ambitious and impactful projects that contribute to the overall well-being of their communities and potentially enable greater compliance with District law in many areas, including the building codes and business licensing requirements.

Moreover, deepening the impact of ANCs at the citywide level – a necessary next step as the District recognizes 50 years of Home Rule and the continued march towards statehood – requires financial support for collaborative efforts and citywide initiatives. By allocating resources to facilitate inter-ANC communication, coordination, and knowledge-sharing, OANC can promote a unified approach to addressing citywide issues that ANCs are often well-positioned to address and find solutions for. This interconnectedness will strengthen the collective voice of ANCs, enabling them to advocate for policies that reflect the diverse needs and concerns of neighborhoods across the city. Expanding financial support for ANCs will also allow them to begin to take their rightful place in the anticipated legislative branch of government we will come to know as a result of statehood.

In summary, improvements and additional funding to the OANC are imperative to enhance the capabilities of ANCs, allowing them to have a more profound influence on their immediate neighborhoods and the broader District policy landscape. These investments will contribute to the overall effectiveness of community representation and grassroots involvement in local governance, the intended and continued goal of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions as we recognize their establishment with the passage of the Home Rule Act 50 years ago this year.

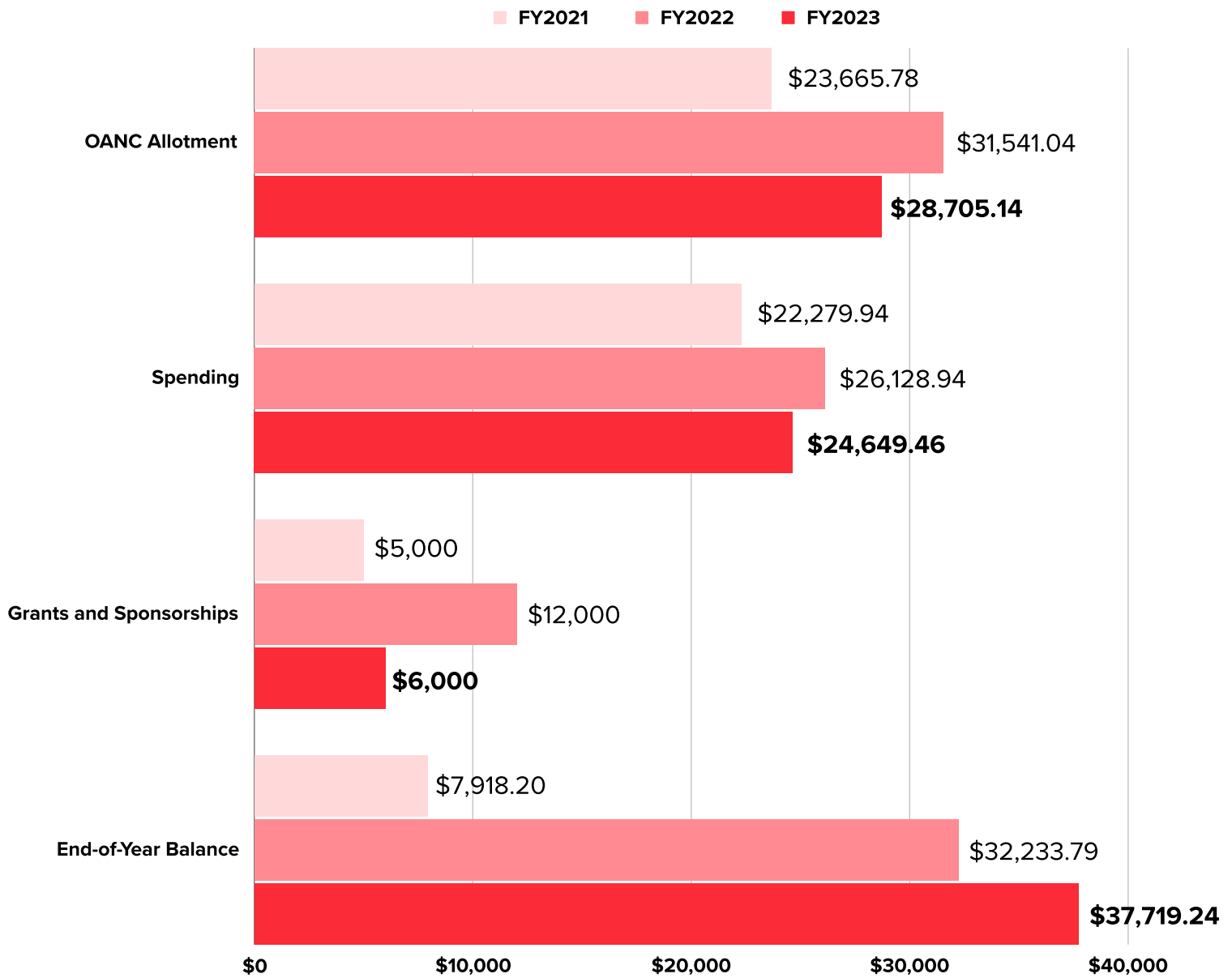
Responsible Stewardship of District Taxpayer Funds



Delve into our financial performance, including responsible spending and key financial metrics that demonstrate our strong fiscal health over time.

Fiscally Responsible

Year-Over-Year



Enhancing Governance Through Financial Stewardship and Transparency

The Commission recognizes the critical importance of sound financial management in fulfilling its mandate to serve our community effectively. With a keen understanding of the limited resources available to commissions across the District, the Commission employs a strategic approach to budgeting and expenditure. This includes careful consideration of community priorities, the allocation of funds to address pressing issues, and the implementation of fiscal policies aimed at ensuring long-term sustainability.

Our Executive Committee, with the direct support of our Treasurer, undertakes regular financial audits, which are conducted to maintain transparency and assess the effectiveness of financial strategies. These audits provide an opportunity for the Commission to evaluate its spending patterns, identify areas for potential optimization, and reallocate resources where necessary. By fostering a culture of financial responsibility, the Commission strives to make impactful investments that directly benefit the Columbia Heights community.

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1-309.13(a), each of the District's 46 Advisory Neighborhood Commissions receives an allotment apportioned based on the requirements of § 1-207.38(e). ("The funding apportioned to each Advisory Neighborhood Commission shall bear the same ratio to the full sum allotted as the population of the neighborhood bears to the population of the District"). The Commission's FY23 allotment was \$28,705.

The Commission, pursuant to District law, submits Quarterly Financial Reports to the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC) and maintains compliance with financial recordkeeping obligations outlined in District law, which our Treasurer is entrusted with leading. In addition, the Commission routinely shares its financial documents with the public for inspection at Commission meetings and publishes them on the Commission's website. The FY23 Quarterly Financial Reports approved by the Commission can be found [here](#) and are outlined below.

- Quarterly Financial Report for the First Quarter, approved January 11, 2023.
- Quarterly Financial Report for the Second Quarter, approved April 12, 2023.
- Quarterly Financial Report for the Third Quarter, approved on July 12, 2023.
- Quarterly Financial Report for the Fourth Quarter, approved on November 8, 2023.

The Commission approves a budget at the start of each fiscal year. On October 12th, 2022, the Commission voted unanimously to approve its FY 2023 proposed budget of \$27,360 submitted by the Treasurer. The final budget can be found [here](#). These costs included: administrative personnel (\$11,000), direct office cost (\$6,000); communications, including constituent relations management tools (\$2,000); office supplies, equipment, printing (\$1,000); grants and sponsorships (\$6,000); bank charges (\$360); and other costs (\$1,000).

The Commission also recently approved its Fiscal Year 2024 budget on September 13, 2023, which can be found [here](#). Costs include administrative personnel (\$11,000), direct office cost (\$6,000); communications, including constituent relations management tools (\$2,000); office supplies, equipment, printing (\$1,000); grants and sponsorships (\$6,000); bank charges (\$360); and other costs (\$1,000).

For more information on Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A's finances, including audited reports by the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia, please visit <https://anc.dc.gov/node/1478251>. Pursuant to [D.C. Official Code § 1-309.13\(d\)\(1\)](#), the District of Columbia Auditor is responsible for routinely auditing the financial accounts of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, as well as submitting a consolidated report of all financial activity of all Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to the DC Council.

FY 2023 Budget

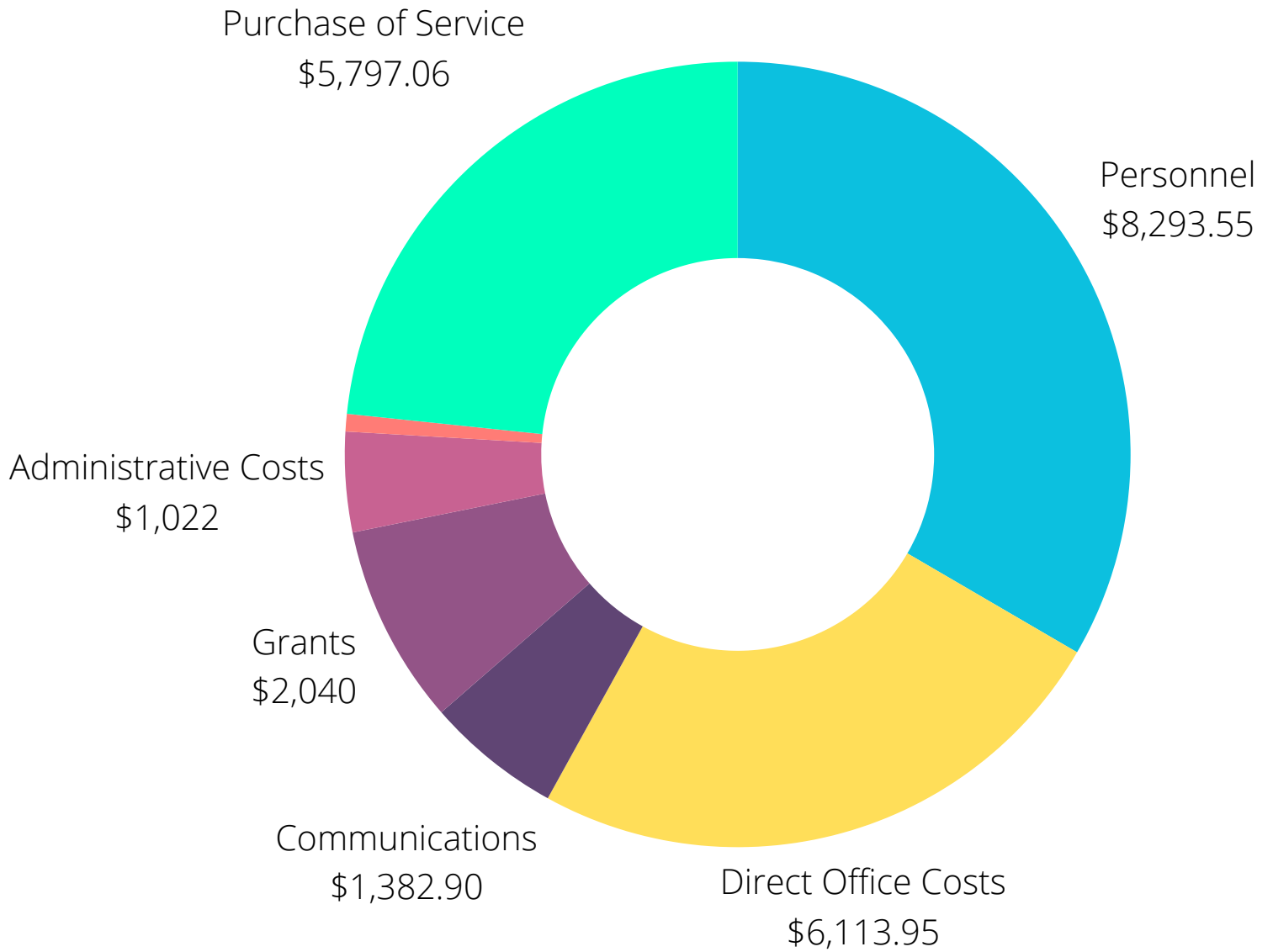
October 2022-September 2023

ANC 1A FY 2023 Budget

	Approved FY23	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	Remaining
Receipts							
District Allotment	\$28,705	\$15,771	\$15,588	\$0	\$0	\$31,358	-\$2,653
Interest			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other			\$949	\$0	\$0	\$949	-\$949
Transfer From Savings			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Receipts	\$28,705	\$15,770.52	\$15,587.77	\$949.00	\$0.00	\$32,307.29	-\$3,602.14
Total Funds Available	\$28,705	\$15,770.52	\$15,587.77	\$949.00	\$0.00		
		<i>(Balance Forward + Total Receipts)</i>					
Disbursements							
1 Personnel	\$11,000	\$1,600.00	\$2,320.00	\$1,973.55	\$0.00	\$5,893.55	\$5,106.45
2. Direct Office Cost	\$6,000	\$1,500.00	\$1,062.32	\$2,551.63	\$0.00	\$5,113.95	\$886.05
3. Communication	\$2,000	\$0.00	\$598.90	\$784.00	\$0.00	\$1,382.90	\$617.10
4. Office Supplies, Equipment, Print	\$1,000	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$356.80	\$0.00	\$356.80	\$643.20
5. Grants	\$6,000	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,040.00	\$0.00	\$2,040.00	\$3,960.00
6. Local Transportation	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7. Purchase of Service	\$0	\$0.00	\$466.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$466.31	-\$466.31
8. Bank Charges	\$360	\$0.00	\$3.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3.00	\$357.00
9. Other	\$1,000	\$110.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$110.00	\$890.00
Total Disbursements	\$27,360	\$4,210	\$4,451	\$6,705.98	\$0.00	\$15,366.51	\$11,993.49
Ending Balance	\$1,345	\$11,560.52	\$22,697.76	\$16,940.78			
		<i>(Total Funds Available - Total Disbursements)</i>					

Notes: Budget was approved at the Oct. 12, 2022 Meeting.

Spending in 2023





Hear from our valued community partners and stakeholders as they share their success stories and how they have made a positive impact on Columbia Heights with our assistance.

Empowering Partners, Driving Results

2023 Grants and Sponsorship Recipients

- LaClinica Del Pueblo, Change Maker sponsorship, \$1,000, approved by the Commission on September 13, 2023
- District Bridges Holiday Lights Columbia Heights sponsorship, \$1,000, approved by the Commission on October 11, 2023.
- Project Giveback Thanksgiving Food Distribution, sponsorship, \$3000, approved by the Commission on October 11, 2023.

Community & Government Partners and Organizations



Envisioning Tomorrow, Embracing Opportunities



Gain insights into our strategic direction and upcoming initiatives as we look towards an exciting year in 2024.

LOOKING FORWARD

As we embark on the journey of a new year, we are excited to articulate our key priorities and focus areas for 2024. As the representatives of Columbia Heights, our commitment to fostering positive change, community engagement, and the overall well-being of our residents remains steadfast. From enhancing public safety and community development to promoting economic vitality and sustainability, our 2024 priorities reflect a holistic approach to creating a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient neighborhood. We look forward to working collaboratively with our community members, local businesses, and government partners to achieve these goals and contribute to the continued progress of Columbia Heights.



01 — Public Safety

ANC 1A will continue to strengthen partnerships with our law enforcement partners to implement effective, data-driven community policing strategies and facilitate regular meetings and town halls between residents, Commission members, and MDP to address safety concerns and identify areas of collaboration.



02 — Economic Development

We will strategically develop and implement initiatives to support and promote our local businesses, attract new, diverse businesses to the neighborhood, and collaborate with our government partner agencies to ensure our businesses have all the tools and resources they need to thrive. We will work to continually build an economic landscape that is equitable and responsive to the growing and evolving needs of Columbia Heights and will work to secure public and private investments that make it possible to sustain a long-term economic vision for the community.

LOOKING FORWARD



03 — Community and Social Infrastructure

We will collaborate with transportation officials to improve public transportation options, including pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, to enhance sustainable transportation across Columbia Heights. With our new Special Committee on Public Life, we will comprehensively and holistically address much-needed updates and improvements to all key elements of Columbia Heights, including enhancing our parks, recreational and other public spaces, improving and planning for uses of our major corridors, aligning our strategic local and small business needs to an evolving and growing community and its needs, and globally mapping the future of the Columbia Heights community, all with its residents leading the conversation.



04 — Community Engagement and Outreach

We will expand the use of digital platforms for updates, community discussions, and event notifications, and we will ensure timely and transparent communication through newsletters, social media, and the ANC 1A website. We will host regular community office hours to discuss your needs, town hall meetings to gather community input on important issues, and better educate residents about ANC processes and local government initiatives.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Commission in the past year: residents, businesses, community partners, and other stakeholders. Your support is invaluable, and we are excited to continue working together to make our neighborhood an even better place to live, work, and thrive.

Residents and Businesses of ANC 1A: Your active involvement and commitment to the betterment of our community are the driving forces behind the progress we have made in the past year. Your ideas, feedback, and enthusiasm inspire us to work tirelessly for a more vibrant and inclusive neighborhood. Several of our Commissioners have residents and groups they'd like to offer special thanks to for notable service and contributions to ANC 1A:

- **Gui Almeida**, a long-time resident of SMD 1A06 and a very engaged and thoughtful member of the Small Business & Economic Development Committee, has provided his perspective and expertise as a commercial architect who has worked with developers and businesses across the city.
- **Daniel Hayes**, a long-time 1A04 resident and member of multiple ANC 1A committees, has been a very engaged neighbor in local matters. He is extremely passionate about Bike To Work Day and has led the coordination of Columbia Heights' participation in the annual event.
- **Yannik Omictin and Geoff Gilbert** from Beloved Community Incubator (BCI), have been critical to the progress made in assisting the street vendors through the new certification processes.
- **Rashida Petersen**, a 1A03 resident who hosted ANC 1A's 2023 Open House.
- **The Columbia Heights Village Tenant Association**, which hosted ANC 1A's Public Safety Summit, and residents **Cynthia Hall** and **Paul Jones**, assisted with the distribution of 100 Thanksgiving meals for families through Project Giveback.
- **District Bridges**, including **Paco Ramos**, Columbia Heights Main Street Manager, who has been an immense value add to the Commission's Small Business & Economic Development Committee, and Community Navigators **Alejandro Duque and Dario Martinez**, who have been invaluable partners in making Columbia Heights public spaces as safe, fun, and lively as possible.
- **DCPS's Tubman Elementary School Principal Delabar and Mr. Jewell**, for hosting the Commission's Columbia Heights Movie Nights series.
- **11th and Bark** Board of Directors, past and present, for their relentless advocacy that has pushed the District towards (finally) constructing the official Columbia Heights Dog Park.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ANC 1A Committees: The members of our various committees and task forces play a critical role in addressing specific issues and advancing initiatives important to our community. Your passion and expertise are the backbone of our accomplishments.

Community Partners and Organizations: We are grateful for our partnerships with local nonprofits, community organizations, and businesses. Your support, resources, and shared objectives enhance our capacity to create a more resilient and dynamic neighborhood.

ANC 1A Staff: The dedicated personnel who work behind the scenes in our ANC office are essential to our day-to-day operations. Your unwavering support enables the commission to function efficiently and serve the community effectively.

District Government Partners: We would like to thank the officials and departments within the District of Columbia government for their support and collaboration. Your assistance in navigating complex regulatory matters and your partnership in addressing local challenges are invaluable.

In closing, we want to express our deepest gratitude to each and every person who has contributed to the success of ANC 1A. We look forward to another year of collaboration, progress, and community-building as we continue to work together to improve our neighborhood.

The Commission extends special thanks to **Anthony Thomas-Davis, 1A06 Commissioner and Secretary of the Commission**, who edited and authored significant portions of this report and led its design.


GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD
COMMISSION 1A**

 www.anc1A.org

 (202) 430-6847

 1A@anc.dc.gov

 @ANC1A

 3400 11th Street, NW, Suite #200
Washington, DC 20010