







# Annual Report

# 2023

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B (Commission), at a duly noticed public meeting held on November 27, 2023, at which a quorum of Commissioners was present, voted with 7 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions to file this Annual Report with the Mayor, the DC Council, and the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, as well as publish this Report on the [Commission's website](#) and on the [Advisory Neighborhood Commission Resolution Portal](#). This Report covers Commission and Commissioner activities between November 2022 and November 2023 but excludes formal actions taken at the Commission's November 27, 2023, meeting given the Commission's vote to approve the Report at that meeting. This Report satisfies the Commission's statutory reporting obligations. See [DC Code § 1-309.10\(j\)\(1\)](#) (providing that each Commission may file an annual report with the Council and the Mayor for the preceding fiscal year); *id.* at [\(n-1\)](#) (providing that each Commission shall publish an annual report summarizing its activities over the preceding 12 months).

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B's Annual Report 2023 includes (1) a summary of the Commission's activities, including details

regarding the Commission's officers and the Commission's regular public meetings, as well as the activities of individual Commissioners within their Single Member Districts; (2) information regarding key issues faced by the Commission and actions recommended by the Commission via resolution or other official Commission action, organized by subject matter area; (3) details on the Commission's operational status, including onboarding new Commissioners, subject matter committees, communications and transparency of Commission operations, administrative improvements implemented by the Commission, and continued challenges with and advocacy for centralized supports and services for Commissions; and (4) updates regarding the Commission's financial status, including the Commission's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and its Fiscal Year 2023 Quarterly Financial Reports. The Commission's regular public meeting agendas and minutes for November 2022 through October 2023, Fiscal Year 2023 Quarterly Financial Reports, and Fiscal Year 2024 Budget are attached as appendices to this Report.

This year, the Commission continued its track record of operational excellence in

*Front cover art by: Kassidy Swanson-Mcelhaney, Friendship Ideal PCS*

*Back cover art by: Amiyrah Payne, Friendship Ideal PCS*



Joseph Reddrick  
Takoma Elementary School

accessibility and transparency, fiduciary stability, and advocacy on behalf of neighbors. The Commission made notable progress on issues impacting residents, including substantial neighborhood-level improvements and advocacy regarding traffic safety, affordable housing, inclusive public spaces, climate resiliency, and community safety. The Commission's successes are due to the hard work of volunteer Commissioners and engaged residents that further the goal of "bring[ing] government closer to the people, and ... bring[ing] the people closer to government."

The Commission has focused over the year on engaging neighborhood youth, which is reflected, in part, via the Commission's first-ever art competition for students who live in or attend schools within Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B. Selected artwork highlights the diversity of our local community and is published throughout this Annual Report.



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B's Activities

As a result of redistricting, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B and Single Member District boundaries changed in January 2023, and the Commission grew from nine Commissioners to ten. Nine Commissioners served in November 2022, and ten Commissioners were appointed to Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B in January 2023.

Unfortunately, the Commission has seen vacancies over the course of the year, with the Commissioner for Single Member District 4B09 and the Commission's then-Treasurer resigning in June 2023 and the Commissioner for Single Member District 4B10 resigning in October 2023. A new Commissioner for Single Member District 4B09 was sworn in on August 9, 2023, while the 4B10 seat remains vacant. The Commission's Chair, with support from the Executive Committee, has addressed resident requests and matters related to vacant Single Member Districts, as well as worked to encourage residents to run for and serve in these seats. The Commission has previously noted the challenges presented by vacancies and how they are, at least in part, reflective of the lack of centralized supports and services for Commissions. See generally ANC 4B, [2022 Annual Report](#) (Nov. 28, 2022). The recent expansion of the number of Commissioners citywide as a result of redistricting without additional support has heightened these challenges.

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B unanimously elected the following Executive Committee officers at its January 23, 2023, meeting:

- Alison Brooks, Chair, ANC 4B08 Commissioner;
- Erin Palmer, Vice Chair, ANC 4B02 Commissioner;
- Kevin Gilligan, Secretary, ANC 4B05 Commissioner; and
- Audrey Walker, Treasurer, ANC 4B09 Commissioner.

The Commission also voted to appoint Commissioner Zurick T. Smith (4B03) as its representative to the Walter Reed Community Advisory Committee at its January 23, 2023, meeting. See [DC Code § 10-1906\(b\)\(1\)\(G\)](#) (providing that "[o]ne member of ANC4B chosen by ANC4B" shall sit on the Walter Reed Army Medical Center Site Reuse Advisory Committee). Following Audrey Walker's resignation as the Commissioner for Single Member District 4B09 and Commission Treasurer on June 5, 2023, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B unanimously elected Commissioner Smith as the Commission's Treasurer at the Commission's June 26, 2023, meeting.

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B held ten regular public meetings and ten planning meetings from November 2022 through October 2023. The Commission held regular public meetings and planning meetings in November 2022 and January, February, March, April, May, June, August, September, and October 2023, with a Commission recess in July and December 2023.



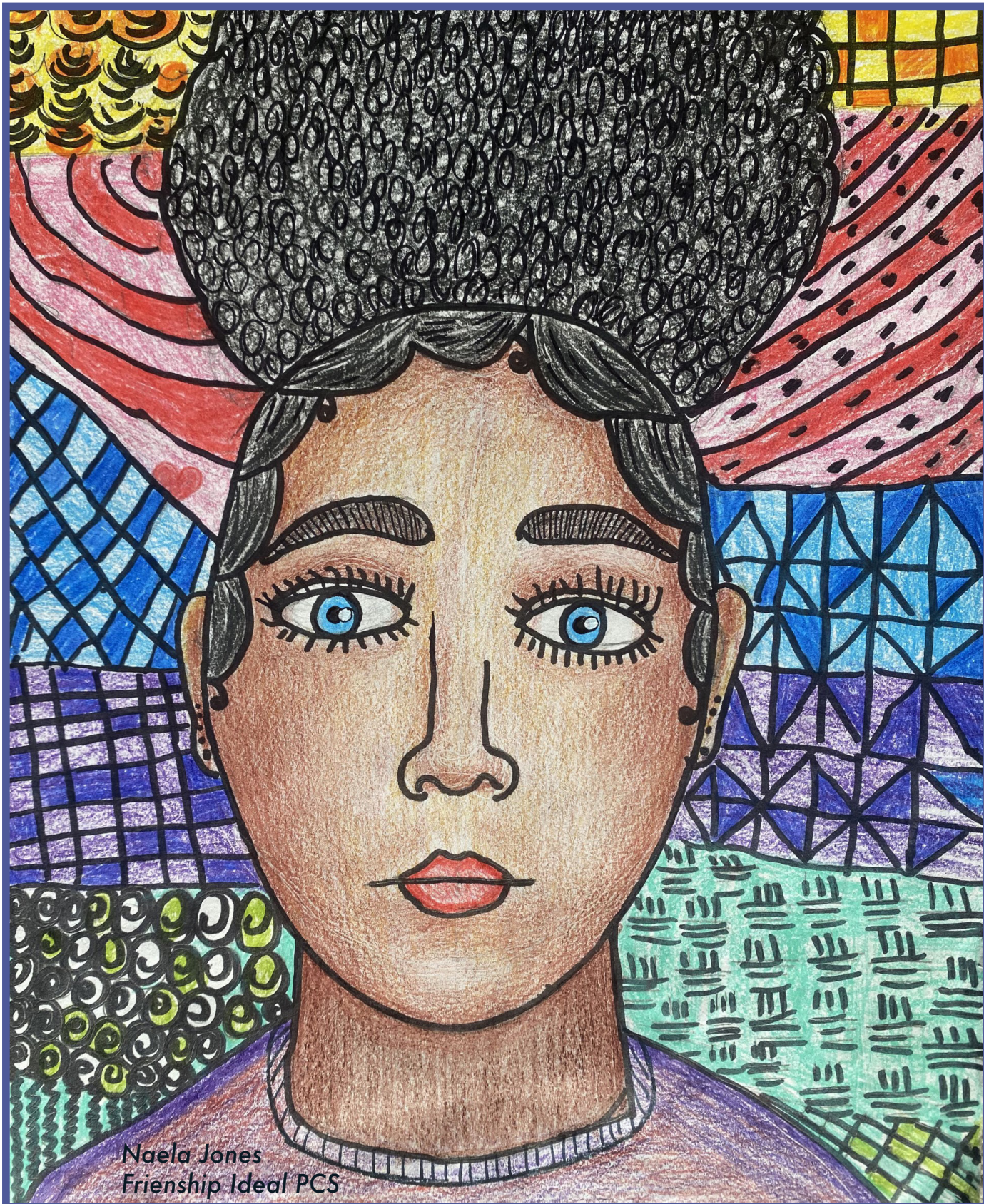


Since March 2019, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B has held its meetings virtually, initially in response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) public health emergency and resulting pandemic, and more recently due to the increase in the number of meeting attendees and participation from virtual meetings. The Commission has used its own Zoom subscription for the Commission's virtual meetings, as the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions does not



currently offer a centralized Zoom option for virtual meetings and the Office of the Chief Technology Officer has discontinued the provision of WebEx licenses for Commissions.

The DC Council has worked to extend the ability of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to meet virtually through temporary legislation (including, most recently, allowing remote meetings through March 2024 via [B25-362](#), the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Remote Operations Temporary Amendment Act of 2023), but these efforts are a piecemeal and short-term ap-



Naela Jones  
Friendship Ideal PCS



proach to virtual and hybrid meetings that has not always been clearly or timely communicated to Commissions. While the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions shares operational information with Commissions, this information by and large has not included information on the legislative authority or supports for virtual or hybrid meetings.

Several Councilmembers introduced [B25-0257](#), the Hybrid Meeting Accessibility Act of 2023, on April 25, 2023, which seeks to make it easier for Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to hold hybrid meetings, ensure equitable access, and require the Office of the Chief Technology Officer develop a plan to acquire and implement hybrid meeting technology within each of the District's 46 Advisory Neighborhood Commissions. The Commission supported this proposed legislation via [Resolution 4B-23-0501](#) and continues to encourage this proposal become law. In the meantime, while there have been sporadic communications from the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions that it has hybrid meeting technology kits, these kits are not designed to meet specific Commission needs with regard to meeting space or otherwise, require a vehicle to transport them back and forth, and likely require expert assistance that may not be available.

The Commission continues to advocate for a continued virtual option as one measure to improve the inclusivity and accessibility of Commission meetings. See [Resolution 4B-23-0501](#), Supporting & Providing Recommendations on B25-0257, Hybrid Meeting Accessibility Act of 2023, to Ensure Accessibility & Inclusivity (May 22, 2023). The Commission strongly urges prompt and complete action to support a continued virtual option for Commission meetings and notes that there has been ample time to provide such centralized support, including the technology and expert assistance that might be needed.

Each of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B's ten regular public meetings included standing administrative presentations (including from the Treasurer regarding approval of the Commission's participation in the 2023 Advisory Neighborhood Commission Security Fund, Quarterly Financial Reports, and the Commission's Budget), individual Commissioner updates, and details regarding recent committee activities, as well as standing invitations to the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services, the Office of the Ward 4 Councilmember, the Metropolitan Police Department, and the Ward 4 Representative to the State Board of Education. The Commission welcomed 35 additional presentations from DC government agencies, community groups, and others over the course of the year, and has worked to coordinate presentations thematically in the interests of community engagement and education, including meetings focused on environmental sustainability, violence prevention, emergency response, services and supports for seniors, and domestic violence and breast cancer awareness and prevention.

Each of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B's regular public meetings also included time expressly dedicated to community concerns. See [DC Code § 1-309.11\(b\)\(3\)](#) ("Each Commission shall set aside a portion of each public meeting to hear the views of residents within the Commission area and other affected persons on problems or issues of concern within the Commission area and on proposed District government actions that affect the Commission area. Community views shall be adequately considered in positions taken by the Commission."). The Commission has appreciated increased public participation and engagement in meetings held virtually, which allow residents to both "raise hands" to speak during the meeting (either on camera or by voice only) and/or place a written question or comment in the chat or Q&A box in the virtual meeting, which are read aloud and addressed during the meeting.

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B Commissioners continued to work constructively and collaboratively, with the Commission approving 48 resolutions or other formal Commission action from November 2022 through October 2023 (as discussed in greater detail below).

Commissioners regularly collaborated across Single Member Districts on resolutions and other official Commission action, committee meetings, and community meetings and events. In addition, Commissioners in Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B engaged in numerous activities within their Single Member Districts designed to inform and educate residents. These include the following:

## **T. Michelle Colson** **ANC 4B01 Commissioner**

As the Commissioner for Single Member District 4B01, Commissioner Colson helped retain the original location of the Shepherd Park/Juanita E. Thornton Public Library. In addition, she collaborated to present the Gragg Cardona Souadi team's proposal for affordable assisted living to residents along Upper Georgia Avenue. Commissioner Colson has advocated for the safety and peace of residents by working against extended hours of businesses with alcohol licenses. As an ally of the Housing Justice Committee, Commissioner Colson partnered with Commissioner Palmer to introduced School House Connection to discuss unhoused students. She held one community cleanup this year in Single Member District 4B01.

## **Erin Palmer** **ANC 4B02 Commissioner**

Commissioner Palmer serves as the Commission's Vice Chair, providing assistance to and performing duties delegated by the Chair, assisting with the organization and management of the Commission's Executive Committee, and organizing Commission-level events and representing the Commission at community events. She is Chair of the Commission's Housing Justice Committee and Co-Chair of the Commission's newly formed Youth Advisory Committee. In addition, Commissioner Palmer, along with representatives from each Ward in the District, leads a city-wide group to support Women and Nonbinary Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners, serves as a member of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association ANC Vision Zero Caucus, and is an At-Large Board Member of the Old Takoma Business Association (Main Street Takoma). During the last year, Commissioner Palmer, along with Commissioner Gilligan, led Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B's Executive Committee in hosting the Commission's first-ever Earth Day Resource Fair; led the Commission's Housing Justice Committee in hosting the Committee's first-ever Tenant Resource Fair, in collaboration with Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A's Housing Justice and Zoning Committee; led members of the Commission, local Main Street programs, local small businesses, and residents in a week of spring community cleanups across the Commission area; and worked with Chair Brooks on a student art competition for the Commission's Annual Report. Along with Commissioner Yeats, she co-hosted several meetings related to the Takoma Metro Station project, including a project site walk to discuss the project's housing and green space commitments and a virtual design meeting to engage neighbors about the design of 1.8 acres of public park space, as well as a community meeting to consider proposed neighborhood traffic safety infrastructure and a community safety event focused on community building with and support for neighborhood schools. Along with Commissioner Smith, she co-hosted a school supplies drive and ice cream social for neighborhood schools in Takoma, and along with Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Yeats, and Commissioner Gilligan, she co-hosted a neighborhood Tree Walk to discuss our local tree canopy with neighbors. In addition, Commissioner Palmer hosted several neighborhood rat and litter prevention walks with several government agencies. Commissioner Palmer has worked on several cross-Commission



efforts, including leading citywide Commissioner letters related to transportation equity, halting evictions of unhoused residents, demanding unequivocal support for DC Statehood from our elected officials, and ensuring the DC Jail maintains Advisory Neighborhood Commission representation, as well as organizing #TranspoBINGO, an active transportation challenge. She has hosted dozens of community cleanups over the year, including several Adopt-a-Block (Mayor's Office of the Clean City) cleanups (co-hosted with Commissioner Yeats) and monthly community cleanups within her Single Member District. Commissioner Palmer distributes a monthly email newsletter, maintains a Commissioner website, and holds monthly office hours + neighborhood walks focused on neighborhood-level issues, including downed wires, pedestrian infrastructure, litter and dumping, and alley maintenance, to help keep neighbors informed regarding her work on the Commission.

## **Zurick T. Smith**

### **ANC 4B03 Commissioner**

Commissioner Smith has served as the Commission's Treasurer since being appointed to that role at the Commission's June 26, 2023, meeting. As Treasurer, Commissioner Smith develops the Commission's Annual Budget, prepares the Commission's Quarterly Financial Reports, keeps records of all the Commission's finances, and assists with the Commission's grantmaking (including this year's grants for the Takoma Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization, the Ida B. Wells Parent Teacher Organization, and the South Manor Neighborhood Association). In addition, Commissioner Smith is the Commission's representative to the Walter Reed Community Advisory Committee and attends regular meetings in that capacity on behalf of the Commission. He holds regular Single Member District meetings to engage with residents, disseminating information on Commission matters and addressing community concerns. Noteworthy initiatives include coordinating a rat abatement walk through with the District Department of Health and other government agencies, organizing a Back-to-School Ice Cream Social and School Supply Drive (co-hosted with Commissioner Palmer), and collaborating on a Community Tree Walk with the District Department of Transportation's Urban Forestry Division (co-hosted with Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, and Commissioner Gilligan). Committed to community safety, Commissioner Smith is a member of the Community Advisory Council for the 4th District of the Metropolitan Police Department. He actively communicates with the Metropolitan Police Department, addressing violence concerns across the District. Furthermore, he co-hosted a Takoma Community Safety through Community Building meeting with Commissioner Palmer and Commissioner Yeats, fostering solutions for a safer neighborhood. During severe storms, he collaborates with representatives from the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services and Pepco to restore electricity to Single Member District 4B03 residents. In October, Commissioner Smith supported the ribbon-cutting of Calvin Coolidge Senior High School's track and field, a dedicated tribute to legendary Coaches Adrian E. Dixon and Samuel P. Taylor, Sr. Commissioner Smith's ongoing support for a swing space near Whittier Elementary School during the school's modernization underscores his dedication to the scholars within his Single Member District.

## **Evan Yeats**

### **ANC 4B04 Commissioner**

Commissioner Yeats is Co-Chair of the Commission's Vision Zero Committee (with Commissioner Brooks), which is focused on safe streets in our community. He also maintains the Commission's website and formats and styles the Commission's Annual Reports. As the Commissioner for the area surrounding the Takoma Metro Station, Commissioner Yeats has worked to bring sustainable and responsible development to the community to ensure affordable and safe housing for everyone who needs it. He works closely with and supports the Housing Justice Committee, led by Commissioner Palmer, on an extensive community input process for the proposed planned unit development at the Takoma Metro Station, in addition to numerous other planned or in-progress projects. He continues to work for a responsive emergency system in the District of Columbia, focusing on improving the Office of Unified Communications. He supported organizing and striking workers building a better life across the District this year, including hotel workers, screenwriters, baristas, and more. He regularly co-hosts an Adopt-a-Block (Mayor's Office of the Clean City) cleanup with Commissioner Palmer and maintains an email newsletter.

## **Kevin Gilligan**

### **ANC 4B05 Commissioner**

Commissioner Gilligan serves as the Commission's Secretary, drafting minutes for all Commission meetings, distributing minutes to all Commission members, noticing Commission meetings in accordance with all statutory requirements, and providing assistance to the Chair in preparing the Commission's Annual Report. Commissioner Gilligan distributes a periodic newsletter that highlights specific items of interest and activities, as well as hosts a monthly community cleanup at various locations in his Single Member District. Commissioner Gilligan co-hosted the Earth Day Resource Fair in April 2023 and elevated attention on and participated in other events and activities organized by other Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B Commissioners, including a Tree Walk to discuss the local tree canopy with neighbors, a rat prevention walk to identify how residents can better mitigate rodent populations, and a series of cleanups related to Earth Day. Commissioner Gilligan fields calls and emails from constituents in Single Member District 4B05, helping to resolve concerns and questions as they arise.

## **Tiffani Nichole Johnson**

### **ANC 4B06 Commissioner**

Commissioner Johnson served as Chair of the Commission's Community Safety and Support Committee. Over the year, she convened eleven monthly Single Member District meetings to share information with residents and learn about resident concerns requiring attention and follow-up. Commissioner Johnson sponsored two community cleanups of Fort Slocum Park and the surrounding Fort Circle Parks and a resource fair in collaboration with the National Park Service and the Rock Creek Conservancy, as well as a Yoga in the Park event in collaboration with former Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D Commissioner Kate Judson. She entered over fifty 311 requests for sidewalk repairs, roadway signage concerns, overflowing public trash cans, illegal dumping, and removal of bikes and scooters impeding the accessibility of sidewalks. In addition, Commissioner Johnson has



collaborated with government agencies and DC Council representatives on behalf of her residents. For example, Commissioner Johnson held a community walk through with the District Department of Health regarding rat abatement, testified before the DC Council on the need for full implementation of the Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results Act, written three proclamations honoring residents in Single Member District 4B06, and assisted two residents in applying for disabled residential parking spaces. In addition, she is a staunch advocate for continued improvements in the existing traffic safety infrastructure and parking around Capital City Public Charter School. Commissioner Johnson provides the community with information and resources via her Single Member District 4B06 website, social media (Nextdoor, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Threads, and BlueSky), the Manor Park ANC 4B06 Google Group, a weekly newsletter, and her Little Free Library. Commissioner Johnson also has a free pantry where she accepts food donations for distribution to the residents of Single Member District 4B06.

## **Michael Cohen**

### **ANC 4B07 Commissioner**

Commissioner Cohen has been actively engaged with the Single Member District 4B07 community and various DC government agencies to tackle a range of issues, including public safety, business regulation, facility upkeep, and the maintenance and repair of public infrastructure. He has collaborated with multiple agencies, including but not limited to the Metropolitan Police Department, the District Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection, the District Department of Buildings, and the District Department of Transportation – as well as federal agencies - to address these issues. His has focused on the enforcement of vacant properties, the regulation of unlicensed businesses and properties, and issues pertaining to parking and trash. Moreover, Commissioner Cohen communicates regularly with the community through a monthly newsletter, routinely submits requests to 311 and Traffic Safety Input requests, and conducts regular Single Member District meetings. He maintains a website and conducts weekly office hours that accommodate both in-person and virtual attendance. Commissioner Cohen’s initiatives include organizing community cleanups, attending a bike lane walk with the District Department of Transportation, and coordinating a Rodent Abatement Walk in the Lamond community with the District Department of Health. In addition, Commissioner Cohen represents Single Member District 4B07 at various District agency events, such as the Metropolitan Police Department’s Coffee with a Cop and 4th District Bond(d)fire events, the Office of Human Rights’ human rights liaison training, and various public safety town halls held by Councilmembers. In 2023, Commissioner Cohen was nominated for and completed the Federal Bureau of Investigations’ Washington Field Office’s Citizen Academy, an eight-week program designed to give community leaders a deeper understanding of the Bureau’s operations.

## **Alison Brooks**

### **ANC 4B08 Commissioner**

Commissioner Brooks has served as the Commission’s Chair for three years, presiding over meetings, organizing and managing the Commission’s Executive Committee, and communicating on behalf of and in furtherance of the Commission. Additionally, Commissioner Brooks is Co-Chair of the Commission’s Vision Zero Committee, focused on reducing traffic related deaths and injuries within the Commission boundaries. In September 2023, Commissioner Brooks and Commissioner Palmer put forward a resolution to establish a Youth

Advisory Committee to engage with the youth in Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B and to help create the next generation of leaders. Commissioner Brooks attends all community association meetings within her Single Member District and is always available to residents via telephone and email. Commissioner Brooks organizes Single Member District community meetings to meet with constituents and share information about matters before the Commission and other community concerns. Within Single Member District 4B08, there is a focus on addressing blighted properties throughout the Single Member District; oversight of multiple ongoing Kennedy Street, NW, developments; responding to public safety issues; and cleaning up the community. Quarterly, residents participate in Adopt-a-Block (Mayor's Office of the Clean City) cleanups. To work toward the city's Vision Zero goal, she has collaborated with the District Department of Transportation on traffic safety infrastructure to reduce the number of traffic crashes. Commissioner Brooks has held regular neighborhood walk throughs with government agencies to address traffic concerns, signage, dumping, crime, dangerous intersections, reduction of the rodent population, and abandoned, vacant, and blighted properties. Commissioner Brooks continues to collaborate with government agencies and the DC Council on behalf of her constituents to create the outcomes requested to improve the quality of life within our community.

## **Derrick Thompson** **ANC 4B09 Commissioner**

Commissioner Thompson was sworn in on August 9, 2023. Prior to his service, Audrey Walker served as the Commissioner for Single Member District 4B09 from January 2023 until June 5, 2023, and the Commission's Treasurer from January 23, 2023, until June 5, 2023.

## **Vacant** **ANC 4B10 Commissioner**

LaRoya Huff served as the Commissioner for Single Member District 4B10 until October 18, 2023, when she resigned from the position. The Board of Elections announced the vacancy for Single Member District 4B10 on November 3, 2023, and nominating petitions were available starting November 6, 2023, with a deadline of November 27, 2023.





# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B's Key Issues & Recommended District Government Action

The Commission has addressed many important neighborhood-level and citywide issues, primarily via Resolution or other formal Commission action. From November 2022 through October 2023, the Commission approved 48 Resolutions or other formal Commission action and welcomed 35 presentations from DC government agencies, community groups, and others. These Resolutions, other official action, and presentations can be grouped into five general subject matter areas: (1) Vision Zero and Traffic Safety; (2) Housing Justice; (3) Youth Voice and Inclusive Public Spaces; (4) Climate Resiliency and Sustainability; and (5) Community Safety and Support. In addition, the Commission has addressed routine matters, which are not listed in this Report but are available on the [Advisory Neighborhood Commission Resolution Portal](#).

## Vision Zero and Traffic Safety

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B prioritizes safe, accessible, and affordable modes of transportation for all District residents, regardless of mode. The Commission and Commissioners regularly pursue traffic calming and traffic safety infrastructure improvements to ensure the safety of Commission residents. While the Commission has had notable successes, the Commission continues to face challenges in terms of the District Department of Transportation's lack of transparency and consistency of procedures, as well as implementation of improvements. These challenges include changing standards and procedures for traffic safety requests, inadequate transparency about timelines and implementation of projects, inadequate community coordination







on public outreach, difficulty executing mid-scale traffic safety infrastructure and hardening existing temporary infrastructure, and failure to execute planned construction projects in a timely manner and in accordance with community expectations. The Commission continues to support strong efforts for traffic calming, but this goal cannot be achieved without a cooperative partner in the Executive.

While the Commission has had success in seeking some traffic calming, the District Department of Transportation does not have standards for transitioning interim, temporary traffic safety improvements to permanent traffic calming that the community can rely upon. Maintenance and oversight often depends on community reports, leading to widening inequities in maintenance across the District. In addition, the Commission has repeatedly asked for a thoughtful approach to traffic safety enforcement – suggesting a focus on large and deadly vehicles and seeking reforms to ensure adequate resources for the booting and towing of cars – but has seen little progress in this regard. Ensuring safe streets requires several District agencies, including the District Department of Transportation, the Metropolitan Police Department, the District Department of Motor Vehicles, and the District Department of Public Works, to work in close concert but the approach has been largely unfocused and siloed, resulting in a Vision Zero program that has tragically seen a rise in traffic fatalities since its inception.



The Commission strongly supports Vision Zero efforts to ensure zero fatalities and serious injuries to users of the District's transportation systems and has consistently acted to further the government's own stated goals. The Commission approved [Resolution 4B-20-1006](#), which established the Commission's Vision Zero Committee at the Commission's October 26, 2020, meeting, forming the first Advisory Neighborhood Commission committee focused specifically on Vision Zero, and reauthorized the Committee via [Resolution 4B-22-0105](#) at the Commission's January 24, 2022, meeting. The [Vision Zero Committee](#) (1) considers and recommends strategies for increasing community safety in accordance with Vision Zero goals within the Commission area; (2) analyzes and provides feedback on relevant proposed plans and projects, as well as legislation and agency decisions that impact community safety in line with these goals; and (3) works with neighborhood groups representing vulnerable road users to receive feedback on Commission efforts toward Vision Zero goals.

Commissioner Brooks (4B08) and Commissioner Yeats (4B01) serve as Co-Chairs of the Committee. Currently, the Committee has seven members, including Tony Giancola, Charon P.W. Hines, and Jeff Spier, who have continued their service from last year. The Committee welcomed two new members in April 2023:

- **Dani Baronofsky:** Dani lives in Takoma and works as an attorney at the US Department of Veterans Affairs. Dani previously lived in Cambridge, Massachusetts where he was appointed to serve on the city's Bicycle Committee for a two year term. In that role, he helped the city develop safer bicycling infrastructure and bicycle friendly zoning policies. In addition, he previously worked as an emergency medical technician in the Greater Boston area and personally had to deal with some of the negative consequences of our nation's unsafe transportation infrastructure.

- **Dave Cooke**

The Vision Zero Committee held seven meetings from November 2022 through November 2023, working collaboratively to learn about the District's transportation systems and safety measures, as well as to push for specific improvements in local communities. The Committee has welcomed presentations from the Office of the District Columbia Auditor concerning their audit of the District government's Vision Zero programs, representatives from the DC Council's Committee on Transportation and the Environment on the budget and proposed legislative changes to further Vision Zero goals, and representatives from the District Department of Transportation on traffic calming projects in the Commission's boundaries, bus priority programs in Ward 4, and their approach to community engagement.

In furtherance of the Commission's goals of a more cohesive and equitable approach to traffic safety infrastructure and traffic calming; more transparent and accountable District Department of Transportation procedures, as well as coordination among DC government agencies; implementation, hardening, and maintenance of neighborhood traffic safety infrastructure; and more robust pedestrian, bicycle, and public transportation infrastructure, the Commission has acted in the following ways:

## **Legislative Advocacy**

[Resolution 4B-23-1009](#): Supporting and Providing Feedback on Proposed Traffic Safety Enforcement Legislation (B25-0421, B25-0422, B25-0425 and B25-0435) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, and Commissioner Brooks) (Oct. 23, 2023)

## **Traffic Safety Infrastructure**

[Letter](#): Noting Lengthy History of Requests & Calling for Action to Address Illegal Commercial Vehicles (May 22, 2023) (Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Palmer, and Commissioner Brooks)

[Resolution 4B-23-0301](#): Calling on District Department of Transportation to Assess Need for Bus Shelter Installations and Establish Dedicated Program for Installation and Maintenance of Bus Shelters Across DC (Mar. 27, 2023) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, and Commissioner Brooks)

[Resolution 4B-23-0101](#): Calling for Greater Transparency and Action to Address Sidewalk Repairs, Sidewalk Gaps, and Pedestrian Infrastructure (Jan. 23, 2023) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks, and Commissioner Johnson)

## **Transportation & Schools**

[Resolution 4B-23-0306](#): Calling for Better Performance and Oversight of the Department of Transportation of the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (Mar. 27, 2023) (Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks, and Commissioner Palmer)

[Resolution 4B-23-0201](#): Calling for Traffic Control & Traffic Safety Plans in Establishing and Siting New DC Schools (Feb. 27, 2023) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, and Commissioner Brooks)

## **Traffic Calming at Specific Locations**

[Resolution 4B-23-1006](#): Providing Feedback on Proposal for the Intersection of 6th and Butternut Streets, NW (NOI 23-200-TESD) and Reiterating Requests for Meaningful Traffic Calming (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, and Commissioner Brooks) (Oct. 23, 2023)

[Resolution 4B-23-0801](#): Calling for Additional Hardening of Protected Bike Lanes on Piney Branch Road, NW, Due to Repeated Damage (Aug. 28, 2023) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, and Commissioner Brooks)

[Resolution 4B-23-0603](#): Requesting Additional District Department of Transportation and Department of Public Works Traffic Calming Measures in the 5900 Block of 2nd Street NW, 200 Block of Peabody Street NW, and 200 Block of Oglethorpe Street NW (June 26, 2023) (Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Cohen)

[Resolution 4B-23-0602](#): Supporting Safety Improvements on 3rd Street NE Between Riggs Road and 2nd Street NE (NOI 23-110-TESD) (June 26, 2023) (Commissioner Brooks,



Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, and Commissioner Huff)

Commission Presentation: DC Department of Transportation, Bike Lane Considerations for Installation of Protected Bike Lanes on Kansas Avenue between Chillum Place, NE and 2nd Street, NW (NOI-22-169-PSD) (June 26, 2023)

Commission Presentation: Michael Alvino & Samer Alhawamdeh, District Department of Transportation, Update re: 30% Design of Metropolitan Branch Trail from Blair Road, NW to Piney Branch Road, NW (Nov. 28, 2022)

## Housing Justice

Since 2019, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B has sought at every opportunity to support and promote safe, stable, and secure housing for all District residents. The Commission holds at the core of its actions related to housing that housing is a human right. The Commission has noted repeatedly its interest “in doing our fair share regarding deeply affordable housing within our Commission boundaries” and with an explicit goal of “maximiz[ing] affordable housing” within the Commission area, and “that the affordable housing crisis requires the District to use every tool available to ensure affordable housing” such as public housing, social housing, and permanent supportive housing. [Resolution 4B-20-0104](#), Providing Feedback on Proposed Changes to the Comprehensive Plan (Jan. 27, 2020).



Over the course of the year, the Commission furthered its housing justice goals through providing extensive feedback on the District’s Fiscal Year 2024 budget, including support for funding to end chronic homelessness, funding to preserve and expand public housing, and full funding for emergency rental assistance to meet need, as well as measures to improve the implementation and oversight of the District’s housing programs; advocating to maximize affordable housing, including deeply affordable housing, in new developments within the Commission area; and reforming existing laws to disincentivize vacant and blighted buildings and to ensure racial equity impact assessments apply to housing in historic districts.

The Commission approved [Resolution 4B-20-0205](#), which established the Commission’s Housing Justice Committee at the Commission’s February 24, 2020, meeting, forming the first Advisory Neighborhood Commission committee focused specifically on housing as a human right. The Commission reauthorized the Committee via [Resolution 4B-22-0104](#) at the Commission’s January 24, 2022, meeting, and expanded the Committee from five to seven members via [Resolution 4B-23-0103](#) at the Commission’s January 23, 2023, meeting. The [Housing Justice Committee](#) (1) considers proposed developments within the Commission’s boundaries for purposes of determining how best to maximize affordable housing, including deeply affordable housing; (2) analyzes and provides feedback on proposed legislation and policy affecting affordable housing and homelessness with a goal of increasing and expanding deeply affordable housing; and (3) hosts and supports educational events on topics related to affordable housing and homelessness.





Commissioner Palmer (4B02) serves as Chair of the Committee. The Committee's seven members include Julia Moran Morton and LeighAnn Smith Rosenberg, who have served on the Committee since its inception in 2019. The Committee welcomed four new members in January 2023:

- **Maxine Davis:** Maxine is a 4th generation native Washingtonian who works as the Organizing Director for ACLU-DC. Previously, Maxine was a Political Consultant working with DC Working Families Party, Campaign Manager for Rev. Wendy Hamilton for Congress, and a Summer Fellowship Coordinator for Harriet's Wildest Dreams. She is the Vice President of DC Young Democrats, serves as the Young Dems liaison for the Ward 4 Democrats, and serves on the Community Advisory Board Committee for Upper Georgia Avenue Main Street. She has lived in the Brightwood/Takoma neighborhood since 2002.



- **Zoila Hinson:** Zoila is a civil rights attorney whose work focuses on preventing and fighting housing discrimination. For the past seven years she has been involved in local volunteer organizing, particularly around issues related to housing justice, displacement, and policing. She has lived in the neighborhood for six years.

- **Alison Horn:** Alison is a public defense investigator and former Commissioner for Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B. As a Commissioner, Alison worked to bring community voices to the table on housing development proposals and advocated for these developments to better meet housing affordability needs by convening public meetings and drafting formal comments to relevant government agencies. Alison is a 13-year resident of the District who recently moved to Ward 4.

- **Brenda Parks:** Brenda was first elected as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner on Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B in 2012 and served through 2022, including as Chair of the Commission in 2019 and 2020. As a long-time member of the Commission, Brenda offers important historical perspective and institutional knowledge regarding Commission business. She is a strong proponent of equity in the community and continues to work toward addressing the needs of DC residents.

The Committee held twelve meetings from November 2022 through November 2023, including presentations from and discussions with At-Large Councilmember Christina Henderson, At-Large Councilmember Robert White, and Ward 3 Councilmember Matt Frumin regarding proposed legislation affecting affordable housing; accountability reporters regarding DC Housing Authority oversight and the process for valuing housing vouchers in the District; affordable housing experts regarding the DC budget and budget advocacy, affordable housing financing, and ending chronic homelessness; agency representatives and service organizations focused on housing supports and services for seniors and housing supports and services for returning citizens; and development representatives about specific development proposals within the Commission's boundaries. In addition, the Committee hosted a first-ever Tenant Resource Fair with Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A's Zoning and Housing Justice Committee that included dozens of government agencies, service organizations, and community groups and two panel discussions on tenant rights and ending homelessness.

In furtherance of the Commission's goals of adequately funding efforts to prevent and end homelessness, as well as supporting affordable housing production and preservation; addressing inequities in access to housing and amenities across the city; and pursuing and supporting deeply affordable housing and contributing to affordable and other housing supply within the Commission's boundaries, the Commission has acted in the following ways:

## **Budget & Legislative Advocacy**

[Resolution 4B-23-0906](#): Calling for Reform to Vacant & Blighted Property Laws and Regulations for Residential and Commercial Properties (Sept. 26, 2023) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Brooks, and Commissioner Yeats)

[Resolution 4B-23-0502](#): Calling for Racial & Demographic Impact Analysis of DC Historic Districts (May 22, 2023) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, and Commissioner Colson)

[Resolution 4B-23-0303](#): Calling on the Executive to Address Gap in Emergency Rental Assistance Program Funding (Mar. 27, 2023) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Brooks,



Commissioner Gilligan, and Commissioner Yeats)

[Letter](#): Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B Fiscal Year 2024 Housing Justice Budget Priorities (Feb. 27, 2023) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Gilligan, and Commissioner Smith)

Committee Presentation: Ward 3 Councilmember Matt Frumin, Housing Legislation and Priorities, including [B25-0227](#), the Rent Stabilization Protection Amendment Act (June 7, 2023)

Committee Presentation: At-Large Councilmember Robert White, Housing Legislation and Budget Priorities ([B24-1092](#), the Common Ground Amendment Act of 2022) and Role as Chair of Housing Oversight Committee (Feb. 1, 2023)

Committee Presentation: At-Large Councilmember Christina Henderson, Housing Legislation and Priorities, including [B24-1066](#), the Community Land Trusts' Opportunity to Purchase Amendment Act (Jan. 4, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Morgan Baskin, Investigative Reporter, DC Housing Authority Voucher Payments, Brightwood Rent Strike (May 3, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Annemarie Cuccia, *Streetsense*, Voucher Housing in the District (Nov. 2, 2022)

Committee Presentation: David Poms re Green New Deal for DC Advocacy and Citywide Collaboration (Oct. 4, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Amanda Korber, Supervising Attorney, Housing Law Unit, Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, DC Budget Advocacy (Feb. 1, 2023)

## **Development Proposals**

[Resolution 4B-23-1007](#): Supporting Application for Zoning Modification to Board of Zoning Adjustment Order No. 19897-C for 5501 1st Street, NW (Commissioner Brooks and Commissioner Palmer) (Oct. 23, 2023)

Commission Presentation: Mel Negussie, Managing Member, Developer RE1 LLC re: Application for Zoning Modification at 5501 1st Street NW (BZA Case #19897-C) and 201 Kennedy Street, NW Update (Sept. 26, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Mel Negussie, Managing Member, Developer RE1 LLC re Application for Zoning Modification at 5501 1st Street, NW and Development at 201 Kennedy Street, NW (Sept. 6, 2023)

[Resolution 4B-23-0901](#): Supporting Planned Unit Development at Elm Gardens (7050 Eastern Avenue, NW) (ZC Case #23-19) (Sept. 26, 2023) (Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Palmer, and Commissioner Brooks)

Commission Presentation: Planned Unit Development at Elm Gardens (7050 Eastern Avenue, NW) (ZC Case #23-19) (Sept. 26, 2023)

Commission Presentation: Planned Unit Development by NHPF and the Elm Gardens Tenants Association, 7050 Eastern Avenue NW, Elm Gardens (ZC #22-33) (June 26, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Michael Simon, Project Manager, NHP Foundation, Planned Unit Development at 7050 Eastern Avenue, NW (Elm Gardens) (Aug. 9, 2023)

[Letter](#): Offering General Support for Proposed Map Amendment from RA-2 to RA-3 Zone for 6634 & 6640 Georgia Avenue, NW (Case No. 22-37) and Providing ANC 4B Housing Goals for Future Development (Mar. 27, 2023) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Gilligan, and Commissioner Yeats)

Commission Presentation: Colin Thomas, Principal, Thomas Development, 6634 & 6640 Georgia Ave, NW, Proposed Map Amendment to Rezone Property from RA-2 to RA-3 (Case No. 22-37) (Aug. 28, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Colin Thomas, Principal, Thomas Development, Updates re Proposed Map Amendment at 6634 and 6640 Georgia Avenue, NW, to Rezone Property from RA-2 to RA-3 (Aug. 9, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Colin Thomas, Principal, Thomas Development, 6634 & 6640 Georgia Ave, NW, Proposed Map Amendment to Rezone Property from RA-2 to RA-3 (Case No. 22-37) (Jan. 4, 2023)

[Resolution 4B-23-0304](#): Supporting Proposed Design for New Construction at 6901 Willow Street, NW (HPA 23-178) (March 27, 2023) (Commissioner Yeats and Commissioner Palmer)

[Resolution 4B-23-0305](#): Providing Feedback on the Request for Special Exception at 6905 Willow Street, NW (BZA 20915) (Mar. 27, 2023) (Commissioner Yeats and Commissioner Palmer)

Commission Presentation: Phillip A. Gardiner, Director of Development, Megan Mitchell, Eric Colbert, and Jessica Bloomfield, Douglas Development, Discussion re: 6901 Willow Street, NW (Mar. 27, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Phillip A. Gardiner, Director of Development, Megan Mitchell, Eric Colbert, and Jessica Bloomfield, Douglas Development, Proposed Development at 6901 Willow Street, NW (Mar. 1, 2023)

[Letter](#): Supporting and Providing Additional Feedback on Application of TM Associates, LLC, and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority for Consolidated Approval of Planned Unit Development and Map Amendment at Takoma Metrorail Station (ZC Case #22-36) (Jan. 23, 2023) (Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Palmer, and Commissioner Brooks)

Commission Presentation: Caren Garfield and Evan Goldman, EYA Multifamily LLC, Takoma Metro Station Project, 327 Cedar Street NW (HPA 23-288) (May 22, 2023)

Commission Presentation: Caren Garfield and Alexander Collich, EYA Multifamily, LLC, Update re Proposed Development at the Takoma Metro Station (Nov. 28, 2022)

Committee Presentation: Caren Garfield, Vice President, Multifamily Development & Evan Goldman, Executive Vice President, Development and Acquisitions, EYA Multifamily LLC, Takoma Metro Station Project and Housing Affordability for the Project (June 7, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Alex Cross, Deputy Chief of Staff & Lionell Gaines, Community Development Resource Specialist, District Department of Housing and Community Development, Takoma Metro Station Project and Housing Affordability for the Project (June 7, 2023)

Commission Presentation: Gragg, Cardona, and Souadi, Affordable Assisted Living Facility, 7709 Georgia Ave, NW (Sq. 2961, Lot 810), Map Amendment from MU-4 to MU-10 (Case No. 23-11) (June 26, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Gragg Cardona Partners, Proposed Map Amendment for 7709 Georgia Avenue, NW, for 155-Unit Affordable Assisted Living Community (May 3, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Sassan Gharai, SGA Companies, Additional Inclusionary Zoning Units, 325 Vine Street, NW (Nov. 1, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Joanna Ha Yean Shin, Project Manager & Mitchell Crispell, Director of Real Estate Development, APAH, Affordable Housing Project, Fort Totten Senior Apartments, 5543 South Dakota Avenue, NE (Feb. 1, 2023)

## **Affordable Housing Financing & Zoning**

Commission Presentation: Rodd Monts, Director of State Policy, SchoolHouse Connection, Student Homelessness and Opportunities for Support (Aug. 28, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Stacie Birenbach, Community Development Division, Enterprise Community Partners re Low Income Housing Tax Credit Financing for Affordable Housing Development (Oct. 4, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Adam Maier, Director of Housing Partnerships, Pathways to Housing DC re Housing First and Ending Chronic Homelessness (Oct. 4, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Alexandra Cain, Assistant Attorney General & Maximilian L.S. Tondro, Chief, Equitable Land Use Section – Commercial Division, Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, Zoning Procedures and Housing Affordability (June 7, 2023)



## **Housing for Domestic Violence Survivors, Returning Citizens & Seniors**

Commission Presentation: Kandice Louis, Senior Director of Programs; District Alliance for Safe Housing; Housing Services and Supports for Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence (Oct. 23, 2023)

Commission Presentation: Brandon Kemper Seeley, Training and Education Manager; DC Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment (SAFE); Emergency Services, Court Advocacy, and System Reform for Domestic Violence Survivors (Oct. 23, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Courtney Stewart, Founder/CEO, The National Reentry Network for Returning Citizens Welcome Home Reentry Program (Nov. 1, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Kristy Love, Executive Director & Luis Diaz, Policy Advisor, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Welcome Home Reentry Program (Nov. 1, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Lamont Carey, Director, Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs Welcome Home Reentry Program (Nov. 1, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Carla Wiley, Reentry and Transitional Housing Coordinator, Catholic Charities re Welcome Home Reentry Program (Nov. 1, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Paul H. Smith, DC Taxpayer Advocate, DC Office of Tax and Revenue re Tax Credits and Relief for Seniors (Sept. 6, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Mark Bjorge, Community Relations Specialist, Department of Aging and Community Living re Government Supports and Services for Seniors to Age in Place (Sept. 6, 2023)

Committee Presentation: East Rock Creek Village re Supports and Services for Seniors (Sept. 6, 2023)

# Youth Voice & Inclusive Public Spaces

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B has increasingly sought to engage youth in the work of the Commission. The Commission approved [Resolution 4B-23-0903](#), which established the Commission's Youth Advisory Committee at the Commission's September 26, 2023, meeting, forming the first Advisory Neighborhood Commission committee focused specifically on youth membership and youth voice. The Youth Advisory Committee will (1) educate youth within the Commission's boundaries and/or attending schools within the Commission's boundaries about key actors and the policy process in DC, including the history, mission, and work of the Commission itself; (2) seek feedback on proposed legislation and policy affecting youth and families in the District, as well as develop proposals for government action, with a goal of amplifying youth voice; and (3) engage local schools about Commission activities, including meetings, public service, and other opportunities for youth participation. Commissioner Brooks (4B08) and Commissioner Palmer (4B02) serve as Co-Chairs of the Committee and are currently recruiting youth members for service on the Committee.



The Commission understands that many issues impact youth, but also recognizes that the District's public spaces – and particularly its schools, libraries, parks, and playgrounds – specifically serve an important role in keeping our youth, as well as the larger community, healthy and safe. These facilities are critical foundations for community and too often are distributed and maintained across the city in an inequitable manner. Clean, safe, and accessible school and recreation buildings are critical for the support of students, families, and community members, and plans for maintenance and renovation should not put the burden on residents to advocate for basic maintenance and functionality. To that end, the Commission has engaged in oversight of and advocacy for our community's schools, libraries, parks, and playgrounds, including through supporting school beautification and traffic calming projects, fighting for accountability for the health, safety, and accessibility of public spaces to ensure the fulsome and equitable use of these community resources, and even funding for programs and events at local schools through the Commission's own grant program. The Commission would be remiss if it did not also recognize the importance of inclusive and accessible public spaces to the community's seniors, another Commission priority.

In furtherance of the Commission's goals of centering youth voice and prioritizing youth engagement; ensuring healthy, safe, accessible, and inclusive schools, libraries, parks, playgrounds, and other public spaces; and making sure our children, teens, and seniors feel comfortable and welcome in our communities, the Commission has acted in the following ways:

## Youth Voice

[Resolution 4B-23-0903](#): Establishing Youth Advisory Committee (Sept. 26, 2023) (Commissioner Brooks and Commissioner Palmer)



## **Schools, Libraries, Parks & Playgrounds**

**Letter:** Supporting “Takoma Taking Flight” Proposal for the Public Art Building Communities Grant Program (Aug. 28, 2023) (Commissioner Palmer)

Commission Presentation: Julio Valdez, JVS Project Space, “Takoma Taking Flight” Mural Proposal at Takoma Elementary School (Aug. 28, 2023)

**Resolution 4B-22-1102:** Calling for Urgent School Building Repairs at Whittier Elementary School and Legislative Changes to Ensure Timely School Modernizations (Nov. 28, 2022) (Commissioner Jocelynn Johnson and Commissioner Palmer)

Commission Presentation: Dr. Lewis Ferebee, Chancellor, DC Public Schools, Mayor’s FY24 Budget Proposal (Apr. 24, 2023)

Commission Presentation: John Carlos Green, Community Engagement Manager, DC Public Charter School Board, Mission and Work of the Board (Nov. 28, 2022)

Commission Presentation: Richard Reyes-Gavilan, DC Public Library, DC Library Master Plan and Library Service Areas (Apr. 24, 2023)

**Resolution 4B-23-1008:** Calling for the District Department of Parks and Recreation to Prioritize the Installation of New Playground Infrastructure at the Lamond Recreation Center (Oct. 23, 2023) (Commissioner Cohen)

**Resolution 4B-23-0902:** Calling for Extended Outdoor Public Pool Season & Hours (Sept. 26, 2023) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Smith, and Commissioner Brooks)

**Resolution 4B-23-0604:** Calling for Better Maintenance of National Park Service Controlled DC Parks and Accountability to DC Residents (June 26, 2023) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Yeats, and Commissioner Gilligan)

**Letter:** Requesting a Community-Driven Process for Park Programming and Design at the Takoma Metro Station Project (HPA-23-288) (June 26, 2023) (Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks, and Commissioner Palmer)

Commission Presentation: Christopher Dyer, Community Engagement Manager, Department of Parks and Recreation, Programming and Roving Leaders (Feb. 27, 2023)

## **Seniors**

**Resolution 4B-23-0905:** Supporting B25-0258, “Access to Home Amendment Act of 2023” (Sept. 26, 2023) (Commissioner Johnson)

Commission Presentation: Mark Bjorge, Community Relations Specialist, Department of Aging and Community Living, Agency Mission and Services (May 22, 2023)



## Climate Resiliency & Sustainability

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B believes in the urgent need to incorporate climate resiliency and sustainability as core considerations for DC government services, infrastructure projects, and developments in the Commission area. A healthy, resilient District is one where environmental sustainability and consistency in and quality of government services are not dependent on the wealth of a community. In addition to working to mitigate the impacts of climate



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change through extensive efforts around stormwater management for new developments and improvements to existing stormwater and other infrastructure, the Commission has also continued to advocate for a safe and healthy environment for all DC residents through improved trash and recycling collection (including sufficient public trash and recycling containers to meet need), working for well maintained and accessible public parks, mitigating hazards like lead and mold, and improving District-owned buildings – all with an eye toward equity and ensuring systemic improvements citywide.

The Commission’s Executive Committee hosted its first-ever Earth Day Resource Fair in April 2023, which brought together community members, District agencies, environmental stewardship non-profits, and local schools with the goal of sharing resources and opportunities for engagement around environmentalism. The event succeeded in not just connecting neighbors with resources – things like the District Department of Energy and Environment’s RiverSmart Homes Program, but also made it easier for neighbors to advocate for improvements to the District’s environmental practices. In addition, the Commission used regular public meetings to highlight efforts around climate justice, encouraged local developers and projects to incorporate sustainable features, and worked to support environmental education in local schools.

In furtherance of the Commission’s goals of prioritizing climate resiliency and sustainability; keeping our communities clean and litter free, while also reducing the city’s waste production with an equity lens and in consideration of the disparities for those who live in multi-unit buildings; maximizing, coordinating, and maintaining our stormwater infrastructure; ensuring clean, healthy, and accessible public green spaces; and promoting clean energy, the Commission has acted in the following ways:

## **Sustainability**

Commission Presentation: Oana Leahu-Aluas, Department of Energy and Environment, & Representative, Office of Planning, Sustainable DC 3.0 Plan (Sept. 26, 2023)

## **Zero Waste & Litter Reduction**

[Resolution 4B-23-0904](#): Requesting District Department of Public Works Supervision of Trash Routes (Sept. 26, 2023) (Commissioner Johnson)

[Resolution 4B-23-0802](#): Calling for the District Department of Public Works to Conduct More Regular Collection of Public Trash and Recycling Cans and for Greater Transparency Regarding Location of Cans and Frequency of Collection (Aug. 28, 2023) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Yeats, and Commissioner Gilligan)

[Resolution 4B-23-0401](#): Calling for Legislative or Regulatory Action to Address Collection of Abandoned Shopping Carts (Apr. 24, 2023) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Gilligan, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Yeats, and Commissioner Huff)

[Resolution 4B-23-0302](#): Calling on District Department of Public Works to Install or Reinstall Public Trash Cans in Locations Within Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B (Mar. 27, 2023) (Commissioner Palmer)

[Resolution 4B-22-1101](#): Providing Additional Feedback on DPW Zero Waste Plan (Nov. 28, 2022) (Commissioner Palmer)

Commission Presentation: Sarah Hofman-Graham & Rachel Manning, Program Analysts, Office of Waste Diversion, District Department of Public Works, Zero Waste DC Plan Draft Framework (Nov. 28, 2022)

## **Clean Water & Stormwater Management**

[Resolution 4B-23-0803](#): Requesting Applicant Engagement with Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B and Highlighting Stormwater Mitigation Needs for 6817 5th Street, NW (HPA 23-364) and 6819 5th Street, NW (HPA-23-365) (Aug. 28, 2023) (Commissioner Palmer and Commissioner Yeats)

[Resolution 4B-23-0601](#): Calling for Timely Maintenance and Stronger Coordination Among DC Government Agencies for Stormwater Management Facilities (June 26, 2023) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Gilligan, and Commissioner Smith)

[Resolution 4B-23-0404](#): Supporting and Providing Recommendations on B25-0195, Lead-Free DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2023 (Apr. 24, 2023) (Commissioner Gilligan and Commissioner Palmer)

Commission Presentation: Amanda Zander, Public Outreach Coordinator & Private Space Implementation Manager, DC Clean Rivers Project, District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority, re: Rock Creek Green Infrastructure Project B (Apr. 24, 2023)

Commission Presentation: Stephen Akyereko, Outreach Coordinator, DC Water, Lead Free DC (Jan. 23, 2023)

## **Accessible & Equitable Parks and Recreation**

[Resolution 4B-23-1008](#): Calling for the District Department of Parks and Recreation to Prioritize the Installation of New Playground Infrastructure at the Lamond Recreation Center (Oct. 23, 2023) (Commissioner Cohen)

[Resolution 4B-23-0902](#): Calling for Extended Outdoor Public Pool Season & Hours (Sept. 26, 2023) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Smith, and Commissioner Brooks)

[Resolution 4B-23-0604](#): Calling for Better Maintenance of National Park Service Controlled DC Parks and Accountability to DC Residents (June 26, 2023) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Yeats, and Commissioner Gilligan)

[Letter](#): Requesting a Community-Driven Process for Park Programming and Design at the Takoma Metro Station Project (HPA-23-288) (June 26, 2023) (Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks, and Commissioner Palmer)

## **Clean Energy**

Commission Presentation: Travois Culpepper, Manager, Strategic Infrastructure & Operations Initiatives, Pepco Rate Case Update (Sept. 26, 2023)



Commission Presentation: Amanda Holloway, Energy Program Specialist, DC Department of Energy and Environment, Clean Energy DC 2.0 Plan (Sept. 26, 2023)

Commission Presentation: Ashley Wells, TB&A Connects, DC Department of Transportation, re: DC Smart Street Lighting Project (Apr. 24, 2023)

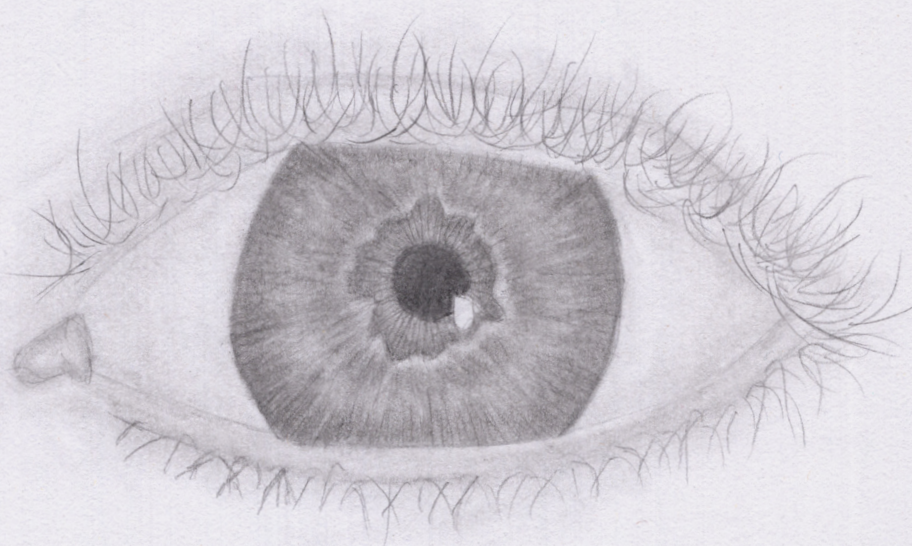
Commission Presentation: Faye Dastgheib, Legislative & Policy Analyst, District Department of Transportation, Electric Vehicle Curbside Charging Station Program (Nov. 28, 2022)

## **Additional Agency Presentations**

Commission Presentation: Randi Thorpe, Public Affairs Specialist; District Department of Public Works; Back to Basics Leaf Season and Fall initiatives (Oct. 23, 2023)

Commission Presentation: Rosemary McDonnell, Program Manager, DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, Agency Mission and Services (June 26, 2023)

Commission Presentation: Cheryl Morse, Consumer Outreach Specialist, Office of the People's Counsel, Agency Mission and Operations (May 22, 2023)



*Violet Wheaton  
Ida B. Wells Middle School*

# Community Safety & Support

Advisory Commission 4B recognizes the importance of community support and a holistic approach to public safety. Much of the Commission's work in other areas improves community safety within the Commission area and across the District, including affordable housing, strong schools, and recreation and programming opportunities. The Commission has emphasized accountability and transparency in policing and other emergency services, coordination and cooperation in violence interruption services, a community-centered approach to law enforcement that is cognizant of historical and ongoing inequities in policing, and access to justice. The Commission recognizes that without accountability for strong government services, communities are less safe and has therefore emphasized well-functioning government agencies including emergency communications, camera programs, and more.

The Community Safety and Support Committee, established on February 24, 2020, via [Resolution 4B-21-0304](#) and reauthorized on January 24, 2022, via [Resolution 4B-22-0106](#) was dissolved in July 2023 with the resignation of Commissioner Johnson (4B06) as Chair of the Committee. The Committee's members included Megan Fitzgerald and Akhi Johnson, who served on the Committee since the preceding year, as well as three new members welcomed in February 2023:

- **Ali Goldstone:** Ali has lived in Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B since 2018 and has called DC home for over a decade. Professionally, Ali holds a Master of Public Health and works in the field of human health risk assessment.
- **Alison Horn:** Alison has worked since 2010 in the community safety field in DC, first as an investigator at the Public Defender Service, working on parole matters and adult felony cases in DC Superior Court, and more recently with the Federal Public Defender for DC. She has also worked and volunteered with Free Minds Book Club, staffing their violence reduction and reentry programs, tracking relevant legislation, and participating in the DC Reentry Task Force.
- **Tiffany Tate:** Tiffany has planted her roots in Washington DC and is motivated to do all she can to make the neighborhood safer and more positive. She has experience in economic development and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program management, and is a certified project management professional. She is a member of the DC Rotary International Club and volunteers at the DC Chamber of Commerce.

While the Committee was active, it held five meetings addressing important community safety issues, including presentations from and discussions with the Director of Gun Violence Prevention, the District Department of Behavioral Health, and the Metropolitan Police Department, as well as analysis and discussions regarding proposed legislation regarding school resource officers, police officer retention, police department accountability, and systemic challenges at the Office of Unified Communications.

In furtherance of the Commission's goals of a holistic approach to community safety and accountability of all of the District's public safety agencies, the Commission has acted in the following ways:

[Resolution 4B-23-0907:](#) Recommendations for Improvements and Oversight at the Office of Unified Communications (Sept. 26, 2023) (Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks, and Commissioner Palmer)



[Resolution 4B-23-0605](#): Opposing Weakening of Police Accountability Measures in B25-014, the Police Officer Recruitment and Retention Act of 2023 & Supporting Recommendations for Recruitment and Retention (June 26, 2023) (Commissioner Johnson)

[Resolution 4B-23-0104](#): Calling on the Executive to Fully Implement the Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results Act of 2016 (Jan. 23, 2023) (Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Gilligan)

Commission Presentation: Linda K. Harllee Harper, Director of Gun Violence Prevention, Office of the City Administrator, Discussion re: Building Blocks DC and Gun Violence Prevention Efforts (Feb. 27, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Linda K. Harllee Harper, Director of Gun Violence Prevention, Office of the City Administrator, Services Offered and Funding Needed for Gun Violence Prevention Efforts (Feb. 20, 2023)

Commission Presentation: Heather McGaffin, Acting Director, and Ingrid Bucksell, Communications Specialist, Office of Unified Communications, Commission Issues and Community Concerns (Mar. 27, 2023)

Commission Presentation: Christopher Dyer, Community Engagement Manager, Department of Parks and Recreation, Programming and Roving Leaders (Feb. 27, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Anthony Hall, Director of Public Engagement, Department of Behavioral Health, Services Provided and Coordination with DC Public Schools, District Department of Health, Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, and Office of Gun Violence Prevention (Apr. 20, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Lieutenant Patrick Loftus, Director, Strategic Engagement, Metropolitan Police Department, Police Department Hiring and Retention Practices and Performance Report (May 18, 2023)

Committee Presentation: Mayor Justin Wilson, Alexandria, Virginia, School Resource Officer Best Practices (May 18, 2023)

The Commission's regular public meeting agendas and minutes for November 2022 through October 2023, which include all formal Commission actions, are attached to this Report as Appendix 1.





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# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B's Operations

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B strives to amplify residents' voices for a strong and effective District government. As an independent branch of DC government and the elected representatives closest to the people, Commissions serve a crucial role in local DC government. While Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B values its unique role in local government, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions are not staffed or funded to the level residents expect or deserve. For that reason, the Commission has continued to advocate for increased support and funding to perform its role well and in service of residents, as well as to improve equity citywide in Commission functionality to avoid disparities among Commissions. The Commission believes that having a strong, well-functioning, and accountable government at every level not only serves residents well but imbues Advisory Neighborhood Commissions with credibility. In this pursuit, the Commission continues to demand the best and highest standards for itself and all other parts of DC government. See generally [Resolution 4B-23-0403](#), Calling on the District Government to Employ Best Practices for Preventing Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (Apr. 24, 2023).

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B has significantly improved and expanded its institutional operations since 2019, including efforts to train new Commissioners and fill Commission vacancies to ensure every resident has Commission representation; re-establishing subject matter committees and forming innovative and effective new committees; expanding and improving notice of Commission meetings and transparency of Commission action and the Commission's financials through the Commission's website; maximizing the inclusivity and accessibility of Commission meetings through the use of virtual meeting technology and advocating for centralized support for hybrid meetings; and vigorously advocating for administrative and infrastructure support needed for Commission citywide.

## New Commissioners & Vacancies

In January 2023, the Commission grew from nine seats to ten due to redistricting. Five new Commissioners and five returning Commissioners were elected in November 2022. In light of the start of a new term with new Commissioners, the Commission's returning Commissioners worked to transfer institutional knowledge to new Commissioners, including through training new Commissioners, as provided under the Commission's [Rules of Procedure](#) (amended Jan. 27, 2020) and extensive written training materials created by the Commission related to the work of



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the Commission's Secretary, the Commission's Treasurer, and the Commission's website. Despite the Commission's best efforts to ensure every Single Member District has representation, the Commission has experienced two vacancies this year, one of which remains vacant.

Commission vacancies place an additional burden on the Commission, including its officers, who



functionally serve as the representatives for multiple Single Member Districts. The Commission has previously noted that an increase in the number of Commissioners resulting from redistricting requires greater centralized supports for Commissions – a need that has persistently created challenges for Commissions for years and continues to this day. See [Letter of Inquiry](#) regarding Ensuring Adequate Resources for Successful Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (Jan. 25, 2021) (“Any such growth in the number of Single Member Districts and Commissions [from redistricting] will inevitably require significant administrative and other support. Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B recommends consideration of mechanisms to assure sufficient administrative and infrastructure support for any growth in Single Member Districts and Commissions.”). The lack of centralized support for Commissions – as noted in more detail below – increases the likelihood of and makes more challenging Commission vacancies.

## Committees

As detailed in past annual reports, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B reinstated committees following revisions to the Commission’s Rules of Procedure in 2020. The revised Rules of Procedure provide safeguards to ensure that committees are supporting and not supplanting the work of the Commission, including requiring periodic renewal of a committee’s mandate and emphasizing that committees are advisory only. In building the framework for committees – and committees themselves – from scratch, the Commission has focused on addressing community needs through an innovative lens. For that reason, each of the Commission’s committees is the first of its kind.

As provided in more detail above, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B has two active and staffed committees:

- [Housing Justice Committee](#) (see [Resolution 4B-23-0103](#), [Resolution 4B-22-0104](#), and [Resolution 4B-20-0205](#)): Established in February 2020, the Housing Justice Committee has focused on proposed developments within the Commission’s boundaries, proposed legislation and policy affecting affordable housing and homelessness, and educational events on topics related to affordable housing and homelessness – all through the lens of housing as a human right and maximizing affordable housing, including deeply affordable housing, throughout the Commission area. Since the Committee’s inception, the Commission has weighed in on projects that will bring or preserve approximately 800 units of affordable housing and approximately 1,500 new market-rate homes over the next few years, making significant progress toward the city’s goal of producing 36,000 new housing units and 12,000 affordable housing units by 2025, including 1,500 new affordable units in the Rock Creek East planning area. The Committee holds monthly meetings, including twelve meetings from November 2022 through November 2023, that include presentations from and discussions with Councilmembers regarding proposed legislation and legislative priorities; agencies regarding affordable housing financing and construction; service organizations regarding needs and advocacy; and reporters regarding needed oversight related to housing. In addition, the Committee hosted a first-ever Tenant Resource Fair for residents that included dozens of government agencies, service organizations, and community groups and two panel discussions on tenant rights and ending homelessness.

- [Vision Zero Committee](#) (see [Resolution 4B-22-0105](#) and [Resolution 4B-20-1006](#)): The Vision Zero Committee was established in October 2020 with a mandate to not only

build safety into the fabric of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B’s physical community, but also to look for ways to bring safety across the city equitably. The Vision Zero Committee is the first committee at any level in the District of Columbia formed with an express goal of helping DC meet its Vision Zero goals. The Committee has largely met monthly, and their work of reframing efforts for street safety has had a tangible impact on Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B with substantial traffic calming, expanded low-stress routes for vulnerable road users, and better conditions for children near schools, parks, and playgrounds.

In addition, the Commission recently approved a new Youth Advisory Committee (see [Resolution 4B-23-0903](#)), the first-ever committee focused specifically on youth membership and youth voice. The Youth Advisory Committee will (1) educate youth within the Commission’s boundaries and/or attending schools within the Commission’s boundaries about key actors and the policy process in DC, including the history, mission, and work of the Commission itself; (2) seek feedback on proposed legislation and policy affecting youth and families in the District, as well as develop proposals for government action, with a goal of amplifying youth voice; and (3) engage local schools about Commission activities, including meetings, public service, and other opportunities for youth participation. The formation of this Committee reflects the Commission’s growing interest in engaging with our neighborhood youth, also reflected via the Commission’s first-ever art competition for students that included publishing selected artwork in this Annual Report. The Commission is currently recruiting youth members for service on the Committee.

Finally, the work of one committee ended this year. The Commission’s Community Safety and Support Committee (see [Resolution 4B-22-0106](#) and [Resolution 4B-21-0304](#)) dissolved in July 2023 with the resignation of Commissioner Johnson (4B06) as Chair of the Committee. With no presentation by Commissioner Johnson of an additional Commissioner member of the Committee and no remaining Commissioner members of the Committee at that time, the Community Safety and Support Committee did not meet the committee requirements under the Commission’s Rules of Procedure. See [Rules of Procedure](#) § VI(C) (“At least one Commissioner must serve as a member of a Committee.”); *id.* at § VI(E) (requiring committee Chair to present proposed committee members to the full Commission at a planning meeting for consideration and approval). Since its establishment in March 2021, the Community Safety and Support Committee held regular meetings addressing important community safety issues, including violence prevention, emergency services oversight, and accountability for our public safety agencies.

## Meeting Notice & Website

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B continues to notice its regular public meetings in accordance with [DC Code § 1-309.11\(c\)](#) (“Each Commission shall give notice of all meetings or convocations to each Commissioner and residents of the Commission area no less than 7 days prior to the date of such meeting.”). Specifically, the Commission provides notice via the [Commission’s website](#), an email subscription service, syndicated electronic calendars available for subscription, neighborhood blogs, and via individual Commissioner outreach (by newsletter, social media, etc.). The Commission’s notice includes not just the meeting details (date, time, and log-in information), but also a complete draft agenda that provides detailed line items for presentations and voting matters. Line items for voting matters clearly state the proposed position so that residents reviewing the draft agenda can understand clearly and unambiguously what the Commission will be voting on and the action proposed.

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B has a public website maintained by Commissioner





Yeats (4B04). The Commission has expended significant effort enhancing the website's functionality as a primary method of sharing Commission information. The Commission's website includes the following:

- a [list of Commissioners](#), including the Commission's officers, and their contact information;
- [meeting agendas](#) (posted one week prior to regular public meetings);
- [draft meeting materials](#), including resolutions and official actions (posted prior to the Commission's regular public meetings to enhance transparency);
- [meeting minutes](#), as approved;
- links to the recordings of Commission meetings (via YouTube);

- a link to the [Advisory Neighborhood Commission Resolution Portal](#) (containing all approved Commission Resolutions and official action uploaded to the Portal);
- [the Commission's governing documents](#) (including its Bylaws and Rules of Procedure);
- [the Commission's Annual Reports](#) (beginning in 2019, as it appears these reports do not exist prior to 2019);
- [the Commission's financial documents](#) (including Budgets and Quarterly Financial Reports);
- [community grant application instructions and a template grant application](#) previously provided by the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions; and
- [materials related to meetings of the Commission's active Committees](#).

Publishing draft resolutions and other official action allows residents to understand clearly and unambiguously the Commission's proposed positions on voting items. The materials included on the Commission's website significantly improve the Commission's transparency, including with regard to historical materials and operations, which are incomplete prior to 2019. In addition, the Resolution Portal facilitates transparency, cross-Commission information and knowledge sharing, and collaboration among Commissioners and Commissions.

The Commission recently budgeted for translation of its static webpages into Spanish and Amharic and hopes to procure and publish these translated pages early in the new year. Despite requests to the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, the Commission received no information about whether translation of the Commission's website – the most fundamental and basic of its communications tools – is reimbursable under [DC Code § 1-309.12\(d\)\(3\)\(c-i\)](#) and therefore decided to rely on the Commission's budget funds for translation to avoid any delays or complications. The Commission encourages a centralized and comprehensive approach to Commission websites, including website translations, to meet Commission interest and needs, as well as to ensure compliance with the spirit of the [DC Human Rights Act](#).





Dakota Canty  
Friendship Ideal PCS



# Virtual Meeting Technology & Office Space

Since March 2019, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B has held its meetings virtually, initially in response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) public health emergency and resulting pandemic, and more recently due to the resulting increase in the number of meeting attendees and participation in virtual meetings. The Commission made the transition to virtual meetings in 2019 with little-to-no centralized support. Although Commissions received a Webex license and minimal training as an option for virtual meeting technology, the Commission found WebEx less user friendly than other meeting technology options. Additionally, other Commissions that chose to use the centrally-provided WebEx license had the licenses quietly discontinued without advance notice to Commissioners. The Commission has continued to use its own Zoom subscription for the Commission's virtual meetings, as the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions does not currently offer a centralized Zoom option for virtual meetings.

Since shifting from in-person to virtual meetings, the Commission has experienced an overall increase in the number of meeting attendees, the diversity of participants, and community engagement. With virtual meetings, residents, agency representatives, presenters, and Commissioners can remotely listen to presentations and discussion, ask questions, and remain connected. Similar to remote work, [a virtual option](#) for volunteer Commissioners and residents "is a major step toward creating more inclusive organizations," particularly for caregivers (mostly women), people with disabilities, and people facing economic housing limitations. [Virtual options](#) have "enabled women to engage in caregiving while also maintaining some participation in the workforce. And we can also think of the implications for retention.... For persons of colour, [virtual options] means that there are [fewer opportunities for them to experience microaggressions](#) in the workplace." Virtual meetings have thereby improved the inclusivity and accessibility of Commission meetings for both Commissioners and residents, more fully satisfying the statutory obligations to "hear the views of residents ... on problems or issues of concern," adequately consider community views, "ensure the broadest dissemination of information," and "involve all segments of the Commission population in [Commission] deliberations regardless of race, sex, age, voting status, religion, economic status, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression." [DC Code §§ 1-309.11\(b\)\(3\), \(f\)](#).

While some Advisory Neighborhood Commissions have transitioned to hybrid Commission meetings, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B has not yet done so due to challenges with regard to in-person meeting space and limited centralized support. The Commission's prior meeting space – the Metropolitan Police Department's Fourth District – is limited in terms of accessibility and technological capabilities and is not Metro accessible or conveniently located to Commissioners across the Commission area, among other challenges. More broadly, venues for Advisory Neighborhood Commission meetings vary greatly in their suitability for hybrid meetings – even among Commissions that meet in solely District government-owned facilities. And some District agencies (such as District of Columbia Public Schools) disfavor Commissions in renting their spaces and charge Commissions [higher for-profit business rates](#). With regard to centralized hybrid meeting technology support, while there have been sporadic communications that there would be technology kits provided to Commissions for such meetings, those kits are not designed to be responsive to the needs of specific Commissions, require a vehicle to transport them back and forth, and likely require expert assistance that may not be available. The lack of continuity and unclear communications have reinforced a general sense that Commissions have been left to fend for themselves, with some Commissions holding virtual-only meetings, some Commissions attempting hybrid meetings (with hybrid technology infrastructure varying significantly across Commissions), and some Commissions reverting to in-person meetings only and losing the benefits of a virtual option.

Venues for office space are also complicated. For example, Advisory Neighborhood Commission



4B has not had physical office space since December 2018 given the Commission’s budget constraints and other needs. The District provided allotment is not sufficient to hire administrative staff, procure technical support necessary for virtual or hybrid meetings, and rent a private office at market rates. While the Commission has continued to pursue District-owned office space or the reprogramming of funds to further the Commission’s work, including for physical record-keeping, printing, and holding meetings (see [Resolution 4B-18-1101](#); [DC Code § 1 309.13\(q\)](#)), the District government has still not met its obligation under that statutory provision and has not provided the Commission with office space or reprogrammed funds. Failure by the District government to provision adequate physical space for Commissions furthers inequities among Commissions. See [Letter](#) regarding Ensuring Adequate Resources for Successful Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (Jan. 25, 2021).

The Commission – along with [Commissioners](#) and [Commissions](#) citywide – continues to advocate for a continued virtual option as one measure to improve the inclusivity and accessibility of Commission meetings. See [Resolution 4B-23-0501](#), Supporting & Providing Recommendations on B25-0257, Hybrid Meeting Accessibility Act of 2023, to Ensure Accessibility & Inclusivity (May 22, 2023). The Commission urges prompt action, as well as the necessary centralized support, to successfully offer such meetings. It would be a shame to lose the benefits of a virtual option when Commissions have seen the value of offering that option.

## Centralized Supports & Services for Commissions

The Commission has continued to focus on improving and expanding its institutional operations, in part due to the increased need for institutional knowledge due to redistricting and Commissioner turnover for the 2023 term, along with the continued lack of centralized support for Commissions. See [Letter](#) regarding Ensuring Adequate Resources for Successful Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (Jan. 25, 2021) (“Any such growth in the number of Single Member Districts and Commissions [from redistricting] will inevitably require significant administrative and other support. Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B recommends consideration of mechanisms to assure sufficient administrative and infrastructure support for any growth in Single Member Districts and Commissions.”).

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B has repeatedly advocated for administrative support and infrastructure for Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, including the following:

- [Resolution 4B-23-0501](#): Supporting & Providing Recommendations on B25-0257, Hybrid Meeting Accessibility Act of 2023, to Ensure Accessibility & Inclusivity (May 22, 2023)
- [Resolution 4B-23-0102](#): Highlighting History of Advocacy for and Requesting Stronger Centralized Resources for Successful Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (Jan. 23, 2023)
- Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B, [Annual Report 2022](#) (Nov. 28, 2022);
- Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B, [Annual Report 2021](#) (Nov. 22, 2021);
- [Resolution 4B-21-0903](#), Encouraging Enhancements to and Formalized Use of ANC Resolution Portal (Sept. 27, 2021);
- [Resolution 4B-21-0703](#), Requesting Centralized Funding and Support for Advisory Neighborhood Commission Technology and Printing Needs (July 26, 2021);

- [Resolution 4B-21-0601](#): Calling for Virtual Testimony Option for DC Government Hearings (June 28, 2021);
- [Citywide Letter](#) to the DC Council, Calling for Hybrid (Virtual and In-Person) Meetings for Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (June 10, 2021) (signed by all Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B Commissioners);
- Testimony by Commissioner Palmer (4B02) before the DC Council’s Committee on Government Operations and Facilities, Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commission’s Budget Oversight Hearing (June 4, 2021);
- [Resolution 4B-21-0509](#): Calling for Legislative Revisions and Supports to Allow Hybrid (Virtual and In-Person) Meetings for Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (May 24, 2021);
- [Letter](#) regarding Ensuring Adequate Resources for Successful Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (Jan. 25, 2021);
- [Resolution 4B-21-0104](#): Calling for Fair and Equitable Elections Procedures and Improved Mechanisms to Fill Advisory Neighborhood Commission Vacancies (Jan. 25, 2021);
- Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B, [Annual Report 2020](#) (Nov. 23, 2020);
- [Resolution 4B-20-1002](#): Encouraging Best Practices to Assure Broad Inclusivity and Robust Participation in DC Government Hearings at the Commission’s (Oct. 26, 2020);
- Testimony by Commissioner Brooks (4B08) and Testimony by Commissioner Palmer (4B02) before the DC Council’s Committee on Facilities and Procurement, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions for Wards 3 & 4 Public Oversight Roundtable (Sept. 25, 2019);
- [Letter](#) regarding Administrative Support and Infrastructure for Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (Sept. 24, 2019); and
- [Resolution 4B-19-0403](#): Supporting Implicit and Unconscious Bias Training and Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Initiatives for Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (Apr. 22, 2019).

The lack of funding and centralized administrative support for Advisory Neighborhood Commissions not only presents challenges for Commission operations, but also serves as a barrier to entry for individuals interested in serving on Commissions. Past informal calculations showed a dramatic decline in the number of women Commissioners for the 2023 term from approximately 65 percent to 41 percent of women Commissioners serving. This is just one group that is likely experiencing barriers to entry and continued service, and the Commission strongly recommends that the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions track demographic data to better understand and respond to these trends. Advisory Neighborhood Commissions provide a valuable service and should be supported administratively like other agencies.





# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B's Financial Status

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B continues to be financially healthy and current on its reporting obligations since 2020. [DC Code § 1-309.13\(j\)](#). Prior to 2020, the Commission was insolvent due to poor financial management and recordkeeping. The Commission's prior costs, including an administrative assistant and office space, had continually exceeded revenue, bringing the Commission farther into debt over time. Contrary to this past practice of spending more money than the Commission's allotment provided, the Commission now has strong finances: the Commission's checking account has a balance of \$59,084.96 as of the Commission's October 2023 bank statement.

The Commission was able to attain financial stability by foregoing an administrative assistant for several years and office space. The Commission's 2023 disbursements include virtual meeting facilitation fees, office supplies and printing, website expenses, bank charges, the Advisory Neighborhood Commission security fund, and grants. Following communications with the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and the District Office of Public Records, the Commission archived its hard copy meeting records, financials, and official actions at the end of 2022, which had previously been held in a storage space due to the lack of Commission office space, and terminated its agreement and payments for storage space at that time.

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B has filed all of its Quarterly Financial Reports, as required by law, and is in compliance with its financial recordkeeping obligations. In addition, the Commission shares these financial documents with the public at Commission meetings and publishes them on the Commission's website. The Commission approved its [Quarterly Financial Report for the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2023](#) at the Commission's January 23, 2023, meeting; its [Quarterly Financial Report for the Second Quarter of Fiscal Year 2023](#) at the Commission's April 24, 2023, meeting; its [Quarterly Financial Report for the Third Quarter of Fiscal Year 2023](#) at the Commission's September 27, 2023, meeting; and its [Quarterly Financial Report for the Fourth Quarter of Fiscal Year 2023](#) at the Commission's October 23, 2023, meeting. In 2023, the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions transitioned to a new system for submitting quarterly financial reports. The Commission has adjusted to the new process throughout the year, following evolving guidance from the Office.

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B approved its Fiscal Year 2024 Budget at its September 27, 2023, meeting. The Budget includes funding for a Commission employee to provide tech-





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nological and administrative assistance (\$11,600); office needs, including printing (\$5,500); grants (\$16,000); other items (\$2,000); communications, including website charges (\$200); and bank charges (\$100). As noted above, the Commission does not believe it can maintain its good financial standing and pay for an administrative assistant and office space; therefore, the Commission's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget includes only funding for a Commission employee. The Commission allocated additional money toward grants than in previous years in light of the



need to increase funding for grants in Fiscal Year 2023. In addition, the Commission intends to translate its static webpages into Spanish and Amharic, but since the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions has provided no information about whether translation of the Commission's website is reimbursable under [DC Code § 1-309.12\(d\)\(3\)\(c-i\)](#), the Commission has decided to rely on the Commission's budget funds (other items) for translation to avoid any delays or complications.

The Commission began offering grants in October 2021, upon attaining financial stability. The Commission has provided grant application instructions, including a timeline for applications and awards and a template grant application previously provided by the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions on the Commission's website. The Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions recently updated the template grant application, but the Commission is still determining how best to share that application since it conflicts with the Commission's own guidelines and practices regarding grants. While the Office has provided in its grant application instructions that public charter schools, but not traditional public schools, can apply directly for grants, the Commission requires organizations like a parent-teacher organization to be the applicant for both public charter schools and traditional public schools for consistency, fairness, and equity.

The Commission has approved eight grant awards since it began awarding grants in 2021, including:

- [Resolution 4B-23-1001](#): Grant Award for Takoma Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (Oct. 23, 2023) (awarding \$4,000 to support two school festivals that are outside on school grounds and open and advertised to the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B community);
- [Resolution 4B-23-1002](#): Grant Award for Ida B. Wells Middle School Parent Teacher Organization (Oct. 23, 2023) (awarding \$3,090 to support the preparation for and execution of community-facing and community serving final projects by Ida B. Wells students);
- [Resolution 4B-23-1005](#): Grant Award for South Manor Neighborhood Association (Oct. 23, 2023) (awarding \$3,000 to build and maintain a website to inform the community of the mission and work of the Association);
- [Resolution 4B-22-1001](#): Grant Award for Whittier Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (Oct. 24, 2022) (awarding \$3,000 for STEMscopes kits (a comprehensive curriculum with hands-on kits) for students in Kindergarten through 5th grade);
- [Resolution 4B-22-1002](#): Grant Award for Takoma Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (Oct. 24, 2022) (awarding \$3,000 for two school festivals that the Organization puts on each year to build community);
- [Resolution 4B-22-1004](#): Grant Award for Lamond-Riggs Citizens Association (Oct. 24, 2022) (awarding \$3,000 to maintain and advance the Association's communication systems, including its website, database system, email channels, and community correspondence initiatives);
- [Resolution 4B-22-1005](#): Grant Award for South Manor Neighborhood Association (Oct.

24, 2022) (awarding \$3,000 for a book drive for incarcerated youth, necessary supplies for its regularly scheduled community cleanups, and materials to clean the recently vandalized “South Manor Neighborhood” sign at North Capitol Street and New Hampshire Avenue, NE); and

- [Resolution 4B-21-1005](#): Grant Award for Friends of Emery Heights Community Center (Oct. 25, 2021) (awarding \$2,000 for the Friends of Emery Heights Community Center for the annual Emery Heights Community Day).

Communications from the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions regarding grants over the years have been delayed, confusing, and inconsistent, leading to uncertainty about which grants will be disallowed by the Office.<sup>1</sup> For example, despite submitting applications for last year’s grant cycle to the Office in October 2022 and approving them via Commission resolutions at that time, the primary communications with the Office regarding those grants occurred in August, September, and October 2023, well after the Commission issued grant checks for that year and as the Commission was accepting and approving applications for this year’s grant cycle. Furthermore, the communications from the Office contained errors, often listing the wrong date and the wrong applicant and conflating grants across years, leading to further confusion. Two primary issues resulted from the Office’s communications: one grant was disallowed ten months after Commission approval and despite multiple emails, including some in October 2022, which led the Commission to believe all that was needed was additional information (see [Resolution 4B-22-1001](#), Grant Award for Whittier Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (Oct. 24, 2022)); and one grant was approved by the Commission despite guidance to the contrary from the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions regarding a similar grant from the preceding year due to confusing and misleading communications with the Office, including a delayed memo disallowing a 2022 grant but listing the wrong applicant and a subsequent request for receipts from the Office signaling the grant was being allowed (see [Resolution 4B-23-1005](#): Grant Award for South Manor Neighborhood Association (Oct. 23, 2023); [Resolution 4B-22-1004](#), Grant Award for Lamond-Riggs Citizens Association (Oct. 24, 2022)).

In addition to various unpublished and inconsistent memorandums and emails from the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, current formal advice regarding grantmaking is inconsistent and contradictory, particularly with regard to the public benefit requirement. That advice requires that grants must “benefit persons who reside or work within the Commission area” but also not be limited in the number of people they can serve. Compare [Letter](#) from Legal Counsel Division, Office of Attorney General to Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D (July 19, 2022) (noting a proposed grant for professional development for teachers at a school in Ward 4 would not satisfy the public purpose requirement because “[t]he immediate benefits of this grant ... accrue only to the teachers who participate in the program. Even if we take into account the indirect benefits that this program is expected to bring to the school’s students, that still would not be sufficient.”) with [Letter](#) from Legal Counsel Division, Office of Attorney General to Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4A (May 6, 2011) (concluding that the purchase of boats for

<sup>1</sup> To the Commission’s best belief, the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions has disallowed three Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B grants since 2021: (1) [Resolution 4B-23-1005](#): Grant Award for South Manor Neighborhood Association (Oct. 23, 2023); (2) [Resolution 4B-22-1001](#), Grant Award for Whittier Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (Oct. 24, 2022); and (3) [Resolution 4B-22-1004](#), Grant Award for Lamond-Riggs Citizens Association (Oct. 24, 2022). All determinations were received in the August through October 2023 timeframe, even though two of the grants were from the preceding year. These disallowed grants contradict the Office’s performance oversight responses, where they state: “The OANC implemented a procedure in FY22 that reviewed grants prior to their presentation in a public meeting. This process significantly reduced grants being approved and funded by an ANC and then being disallowed by the OANC. To date, the OANC has not rejected any grants that were approved by an ANC.” While the responses were submitted in January 2023, the Office’s own delays should not be used to claim that it is not rejecting grants, particularly since two of these three determinations were for grants that the Commission approved by Resolution in October 2022.



a four-person high school crew team in another Ward would “benefit generations of students, as well as their families and the broader community who could attend crew events.”) (cited favorably by the Legal Counsel Division in 2022). This guidance presents particular challenges around grants related to schools, which are sometimes deemed too limited in public benefit, in part because some students attending the school come from other neighborhoods. The idea that a grant would serve a Commission area – no more, no less – is illogical and almost impossible to achieve in practice.

In addition to the basics of timely and accurately responding to grant applications, the Commission seeks greater education, information sharing, and transparency from the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions regarding Commission grantmaking. For too long, the Office’s decisionmaking has occurred privately and without any accountability, which allows disparate determinations and ever-changing requirements for Commissions. At a minimum, the Office should provide a compendium of all of the Office’s actions approving or denying Commission grants, including providing the relevant Commission, the applicant, the grant application subject, and the Office’s disposition and rationale for that disposition. If there are concerns about confidentiality or privacy, there are ways to anonymize such a compendium while still providing immense value to Commissions. In addition, the Commission is hopeful both the Office and the DC Council will consider legislative changes, as needed, including as to who may apply for a grant (to address the disparity in treatment between traditional public schools and charter schools); what constitutes a public benefit (recognizing that it is impossible, in practice, to have a project that serves no more and no less than the Commission area); and more generally to facilitate Commission grantmaking.

Since 2019, as part of its efforts to bring Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B out of insolvency and ensure strong financial practices, the Commission has posted its financial documents on the [Commission’s website](#). In addition, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B’s Fiscal Year 2023 Quarterly Financial Reports are attached to this Report as Appendix 2, and its Fiscal Year 2024 Budget is attached to this Report as Appendix 3.

