

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 4

DECEMBER 1 ANNUAL REPORT TO OANC FOR FY 2021

This report summarizes the activities of Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC”) 4D for the period October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. During fiscal year 2021 and the first two months of fiscal year 2022, ANC 4D addressed numerous issues of importance to our constituents and community. ANC Commissioners held one-on-one and group meetings with constituents. During this 12-month period, the Commission held 11 regularly scheduled public meetings. The meetings were held virtually using Zoom and telephone due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. During the same period, at properly noticed public meetings and with quorums, the Commission passed 20 ANC 4D Resolutions, including Resolutions on Board of Zoning Adjustments (BZA) applications for special requests and variances. The Commission also held a Special Public Safety and Community Building Meeting on March 31 in the aftermath of a surge in shootings in the Kennedy Street, NW area in ANC 4D.

The below report is broken down into the following sections: Community Grants, Housing, Development and Zoning, Traffic Calming, Pedestrian Safety and Other Transportation Issues, Public Safety, Budgets and Financing, Public Communication, and Miscellaneous Issues.

The Commission is pleased to have been of service to the community and looks forward to continuing to serve the entire ANC 4D community.

Very truly yours,

Erik Lindsjo, SMD 4D01
Renee L. Bowser, SMD 4D02, Chair
Aryan Rodriguez Bocquet, SMD 4D03, Secy.
Zachary Israel, SMD 4D04, Treasurer
Eric Smith, SMD 4D05
Jonathan Nobil, SMD 4D06, Vice-Chair

Community Grants

On May 26, 2021, ANC 4D updated its Community Grant Guidelines and Application. Below is a summary of ANC 4D’s community grant making.

On June 16, 2021, ANC 4D voted to approve a \$1,200 grant to Petworth Blooms for the purpose of purchasing and planting flowers and plants in numerous triangle parks physically located within ANC 4D’s boundaries. Bulb planting events were publicly advertised on various local listservs and with signs in the triangle parks. The planting events took place between July – November 2021.

On June 16, 2021, ANC 4D voted to approve a \$3,500 grant to Uptown Main Street for the purpose of creating a community mural on a building located near the intersection of 5th Street and Kennedy Street NW. The ANC 4D grant funds were spent in the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2021 towards the purchase of paint supplies to prime the wall as well as for the mural work. The proposed art installation was planned to go on a “donated” private wall on the side of a home and at the heart of the Kennedy Street NW corridor. In early October 2021, the day before the priming was to begin, the homeowner rescinded the offer due to recent structural and water issues that the homeowner said had to be made to the home and wall. The local artists agreed to remain on board to design and install another mural depending on the alternative wall identified. Uptown Main Street is paying for the new mock up and related charges due to the change. Owners of the Lucky Corner Market located on the southeast corner of Kennedy Street and Georgia Avenue NW agreed to allow the use of the long side wall of the building that faces Kennedy Street for the new location for the mural. Once Uptown Main Street agrees on two options, the organization will issue a survey promoted via flyers, listservs, and one on one outreach to collect preferences.

On June 16, 2021, ANC 4D voted to approve a \$4,950 grant to the Truesdell Elementary School Family Teacher Organization (FTO) for the purpose of implementing a FoodPrints curriculum at Truesdell that would simultaneously engage enrolled families and the community at large with sustainable gardening activities, cooking demonstrations and FoodPrints Family Days. As of November 30, 2021, no funds have been expended. School-based activities that benefit the community have begun (i.e., the in-kind activities in the ANC grant). One Community Garden Day has been held. FoodPrints did not invoice the FTO for that staff time. Truesdell FTO is on-track to begin expending ANC funds in January 2022 through June 2022 for the community garden and virtual cooking activities.

On June 16, 2021, ANC 4D voted to approve a \$5,000 grant to Ward 4 Mutual Aid Network (paid to the Brightwood Park United Methodist Church where the organization is housed and with whom the organization partners). The grant money went towards supporting the purchase of food and other essential supplies and food storage/safety services. \$1,239.90 went toward wire shelving for food and supplies at the church, \$625 went toward extermination services for the church, and \$3,135.10 went toward the purchasing of food, diapers, baby wipes, clothing, and other essential items which were distributed during the remainder of DC's public health emergency (which ended on July 25, 2021).

Housing, Development and Zoning

Housing

ANC 4D continues its commitment to affordable housing in our rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods where row house prices are nearing \$1 million. In particular, the Commission voted to support public funding for two projects within Commission boundaries that are redeveloping or constructing 100% affordable housing.

On April 21, 2021, ANC 4D voted to send a letter of support to the DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in support of DHCD funding to Wesley Housing Development Co. for rehabilitation of affordable housing for The Hampshire, located at 5000-5004 New Hampshire Avenue, NW.

On July 21, 2021, ANC 4D voted to send a letter of support to the DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in support of DHCD granting a federal Community Block Grant loan to Phoenix Cooperative Association. ANC 4D sought to support the retention and maintenance of deeply affordable housing (most units are limited to extremely low and very low-income households) using a limited equity cooperative housing tool.

Development

On February 17, 2021, in response to the Office of Planning's (OP) request to ANCs, ANC 4D passed Resolution on Amending the Comprehensive Plan and DCGPC Housing Justice Priorities. The Resolution sought to have OP conduct the environmental impact assessment required by Comp Plan law of all proposed Comp Plan changes, including the map changes, prior to the DC Council vote on the Comp Plan amendments. The Resolution also endorsed the DC Grassroots Coalition Planning Coalition's (DCGPC) Housing Justice Priorities, asking DC government to enact Comp Plan provisions to construct and preserve housing affordable to income groups most in need of housing assistance and engage in equitable development that centers the needs of marginalized communities.

On May 19, 2021, ANC 4D passed Resolution in Support of a Petworth Main Street (FY 2022 Budget Request). The Resolution supports the establishment of a main street designation for Upshur Street, NW and Georgia Avenue, NW between Upshur Street and Missouri Avenue, NW and a funding allocation. The main street program exists to promote revitalization of business corridors.

Zoning

On February 17, 2021, ANC voted and submitted ANC Form 129 to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) in support of applicant request in Case No. 20419 for a special exception to build an oversized rear deck at 5406 Kansas Avenue, NW.

On May 19, 2021 ANC 4D voted to support a special exception and variance request by applicant in Case No. 370411 for an oversized fence at 5332 Illinois Avenue, NW.

On June 16, 2021, ANC 4D adopted new Zoning and Special Exception Request Guidelines for developer applicants requesting zoning relief (special exceptions and variances) within ANC 4D. In addition to municipal regulations, these guidelines examine whether a developer has adhered to the housing codes and other laws and regulations enforced by District agencies responsible for property, housing, and tenants' rights.

On September 22, ANC 4D voted to support a special exception and variance request by applicant in Case No. 20577 at 5332 Illinois Avenue, NW to construct a two-story side yard addition to a semi-detached home.

Traffic Calming, Pedestrian Safety and Other Transportation Issues

ANC 4D pushed for clearer and expedient measures to address pedestrian safety and traffic calming within our Commission. Commissioners highlighted unremedied hazardous conditions by inviting DDOT officials to public meetings to explain the agency priorities and procedures. As well, Commissioners conducted observation tours to show Councilmembers and the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) staff problematic intersections and traffic patterns and have submitted numerous Traffic Safety Investigation (TSI) requests through DDOT and 311. ANC 4D also advocated to maintain and upgrade Metrobus access for its constituents.

Traffic calming measures

On January 27, 2021, ANC 4D passed Resolution Regarding Predatory Stop Sign Camera at Kansas Avenue and Buchanan Street, NW. The Resolution sought to have DC government refund ticket charges generated by the predatory stop sign camera in the northbound lane of the Kansas Avenue and Buchanan Street NW intersection that has required numerous residents to pay hundreds of dollars due to the problematic calibration of the camera.

On March 17, 2021, in a push for traffic calming measures, ANC 4D passed Resolution Supporting Traffic Calming Devices on Named Streets that asked DDOT to install speed humps in several blocks in the Commission's jurisdiction subject to motorist speeding. The resolution also highlighted several hazardous intersections for which 4-Way stop signs have been requested.

On July 21, 2021, ANC 4D passed Resolution in Support of a One-Way Street on the 900 Block of Hamilton Street, NW. The resolution asks DDOT to make the block of 900 Hamilton Street, NW one-way to mitigate frequent damage to residents' parked vehicles caused by motorists navigating this narrow two-way street.

Other transportation issues

On January 27, 2021, ANC 4D passed Resolution Regarding Proposed WMATA Bus Cuts and Changes for FY2022. The Resolution to WMATA, the Mayor, and Councilmembers sought to pressure these government agencies to restore full service to combined bus routes 62/63 that run through major portions of ANC 4D and Ward 4 and are very important to residents, families and students. The combined route was essential to ANC 4D and other Ward 4 residents for access to schools, jobs, groceries, and medical services, particularly for essential workers during the continuing pandemic. ANC 4D also promoted a petition and, with the assistance of Petworth Action Committee, sent 289 signatures to WMATA opposing the budget cuts. ANC 4D's actions were instrumental in

preventing WMATA's proposed budget cuts to combined 62/63 bus route for the second half of WMATA's FY 2021 and entire FY 2022 fiscal year.

Public Safety

ANC 4D has long pressed the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE) to increase the number of violence interruption specialists as part of fully implementing the Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results Act (NEAR).

On March 31, 2021, ANC 4D held a special public meeting to address the spike in violence this year, particularly on Kennedy Street, NW and neighboring streets in ANC 4D. ANC 4D asked Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice Geldart and other administration officials to be included in the Building Blocks program. ANC 4D submitted questions to Deputy Mayor Geldart and various agencies in September as follow up asking for their planned actions to increase community engagement and uplift for lasting public safety. ANC 4D has yet to receive a response to questions asked.

Budgets and Financing

On October 21, 2020, ANC 4D passed the Commission's FY 2021 Budget for the period October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

On January 27, 2021, ANC 4D passed the resolution to accept the 2021 Security Fund as the means to insure the Commission for the 2021 year.

On September 22, 2021, ANC 4D passed Resolution in support of Department of Parks and Recreation permit for "Live at Larry Allen Park" event on October 17, 2021.

Public Communication

Fiscal year 2021 and the start of fiscal year 2022 have posed significant communication challenges for commissions citywide as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition to community engagement by individual commissioners within their respective single member districts, ANC 4D publicly communicated all public meetings through its listserv (600+ subscribers), its website (ANC4D.org), multiple neighborhood listservs (Petworth, Kennedy Street and Brightwood Google groups), lawn signs and a 4D-wide mailer to every 4D resident.

Miscellaneous Issues

On November 18, 2020, ANC 4D passed Resolution to Protest ABRA Application 093115 Lucky Corner Store at 5433 Georgia Avenue, NW. The protest was filed for purposes of mediation or updated settlement agreement.

On April 21, 2021, ANC 4D voted to protest the license renewal for Hiwot Ethiopian Restaurant & Market in case ABRA-100297.

On May 19, 2021 ANC 4D voted to protest ABRA license renewal No. 108564 for establishment located at 5008 1st Street, NW.

On June 16, 2021, ANC 4D passed Resolution Calling for Legislative Changes and Supports to the Law Governing ANCs to allow Hybrid (Virtual and In-person) Meetings. Due to the continued prevalence of Covid-19 infections in DC, ANC 4D sought to have DC Council and the Mayor extend ANC authority to continue virtual meetings should they determine such meetings are the safest way to meet.

On June 16, 2021, ANC 4D passed amended Bylaws governing the Commission.

On July 21, 2021, ANC 4D passed Resolution in Support of Extending Hours of Operation for Illusion Bar and Lounge. The Resolution sought to support the small business in its effort to have parity in business hours with similar businesses in the same neighborhood.