

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**for the**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**  
**on**  
**February 6, 2025**  
**Hybrid Meeting (DCHFA Auditorium and via Zoom webinar)**

*Guest speaker at 6:30 p.m.*

- Michael Pulliam, Commander, Third District – Metropolitan Police Department

**SUMMARY:** Commander Michael Pulliam of MPD's 3rd District provided an update on public safety challenges and strategies, focusing on U Street and 7th & T Street. He identified staffing shortages as a primary issue, with 150 fewer officers and sergeants than in 2014. Many concerns, such as drug use and homelessness, require coordination with agencies like DPW, DDOT, and the Department of Behavioral Health.

Pulliam emphasized the need for consistent officer engagement and encouraged residents to report concerns. At 7th & T Street, he noted that addiction is a key issue, and while enforcement continues, MPD lacks district-level vice units, limiting undercover operations. Strategies include increased patrols, securing vacant properties, and utilizing five-day rolling drug-free zones, though these have legal restrictions. Drug-free zones allow officers to disperse individuals engaged in narcotics activity, but laws limit mandatory addiction treatment. MPD coordinates with the U.S. Attorney's Office, though local laws primarily govern operations. A co-deployment program with mental health professionals responds to crisis calls, and MPD supports expanding non-police intervention for nonviolent cases. Pulliam took questions and emphasized community engagement. He encouraged residents to engage with city agencies and advocate for resources to address ongoing challenges.

Commander Michael Pulliam provided updates on MPD's operations and ongoing challenges. A helicopter was deployed in response to reported gunshots on the 1400 block of W Street NW, though no injuries or property damage were found. He discussed MPD's recruitment difficulties, citing competition with other law enforcement agencies and DC's higher hiring standards. Retention and hiring bonuses have helped, but staffing remains a challenge.

Regarding interagency coordination, he noted that MPD collaborates with U.S. Park Police, but officer-level interactions are inconsistent due to Park Police's deployment structure. MPD also does not intervene in federal immigration enforcement but acknowledges ICE's jurisdiction in DC.

Other topics included noise and traffic complaints, enforcement against false license plates, and youth crime in Columbia Heights. He reported that recent arrests of repeat offenders have significantly reduced robbery incidents in the area. On questions about Home Rule, Pulliam stated that MPD operates under the Mayor's authority, and while federal intervention is possible in an emergency, officers remain bound by local laws. He concluded by sharing his contact information for further inquiries.

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Called meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

**I. ROLL CALL**

Commissioner	Present	Absent
1B01 Fay	X	
1B02 Barrilleaux	X	
1B03 Sycamore	X	
1B04 Lemon-Strauss	X	
1B05 Kensek	X	
1B06 Trindade Deramo	X	
1B07 Holden	X	
1B08 Harris	X	
1B09 Hanrahan	X	

**II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kensek moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded.  
**DISCUSSION:** no discussion. The motion **PASSED (9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention).**

**III. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Sycamore moved to approve the prior meeting minutes. The motion was seconded.  
**DISCUSSION:** no discussion. The motion **PASSED (9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention).**

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (5 minutes each)**

The Commission's committees did not meet in January 2025, as committee chairs were not yet appointed. Committee Reports will resume at the March 2025 Commission meeting.

**V. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**SUMMARY:** Chairperson Miguel Trindade Deramo provided an overview of ANC 1B's six committees, which handle policy discussions and draft resolutions. The commission aims to recruit 10 members per committee and is encouraging community participation. While there were many qualified applicants, commissioners will lead committees to ensure revitalization and engagement.

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Each committee chair will have the authority to appoint a vice chair, allowing community members to take on leadership roles.

#### **Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Regulation Committee**

The commission put forward the nomination of two people: Karen Gaal of SMD1B05 and Stephen Hanrahan of SMD1B09. By a show of hands vote, Stephen Hanrahan as committee chair (**9 in favor**), Karen Gaal as committee chair (**0 in favor**). **Stephen Hanrahan is elected for chair of Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Regulation Committee.**

#### **Community Engagement Committee**

The commission put forward the nomination of two people: Karen Gaal of SMD1B05 and Jamie Sycamore of SMD 1B03. By a show of hands vote, Jamie Sycamore as committee chair (**9 in favor**), Karen Gaal as committee chair (**0 in favor**). **Jamie Sycamore is elected for chair of Community Engagement Committee.**

#### **Economic Development Committee**

The commission put forward the nomination of two people: Karen Gaal of SMD1B05 and Matthew Fay of SMD 1B01. By a show of hands vote, Matthew Fay as committee chair (**9 in favor**) Karen Gaal as committee chair (**0 in favor**). **Matthew Fay is elected for chair of Economic Development Committee.**

#### **Public Safety Committee**

The commission put forward the nomination of three people: Karen Gaal of SMD1B05, Leah Tribbett of SMD 1B08 and Francois Barrilleaux of SMD 1B02. By a show of hands vote, Francois Barrilleaux as committee chair (**9 in favor**). **Francois Barrilleaux is elected for chair of Public Safety Committee.**

#### **Transportation, Parks and Public Spaces Committee**

The commission put forward the nomination of one person: Matthew Holden of 1B07. By a show of hands vote, Matthew Holden as committee chair (**9 in favor**). **Matthew Holden is elected for chair of Transportation, Parks and Public Spaces Committee.**

#### **Zoning, Preservation and Development Committee**

The commission put forward the nomination of two people: Christian Brant of SMD106 and Alan Kensek of SMD 1B05. By a show of hands vote, Alan Kensek as committee chair (**9 in favor**), Christian Brant as committee chair (**0 in favor**). **Alan Kensek is elected for chair of Zoning, Preservation and Development Committee.**

## **VI. EXECUTIVE, COUNCILMEMBER, COMMISSIONER & COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **A. Office of the Councilmember, Ward 1: David Meni**

**SUMMARY:** David Meni from Councilmember Nadeau's office provided legislative and oversight updates. The Council passed a bill allowing immediate impoundment of vehicles with fraudulent tags, pending Congressional review. The Vehicular Noise Reduction Act has not been reintroduced. Two major legislative efforts were highlighted: the Bottle Bill, establishing a beverage container deposit program, and the Neighborhood Management Authority Act, creating a place-management

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entity for U Street. Performance oversight hearings are ongoing, covering agencies like DPW and OAH. The new violence interruption contract for Ward 1 will expand services, including to LeDroit Park. Updates on DDOT's Performance Parking Program are expected later. Meni will serve as the ANC 1B liaison from Nadeau's office.

B. Office of the Mayor: Anthony J. Robertson, MOCRS

i. Ward 1 Neighborhood Clean up and Roll Off Dumpster Location

**SUMMARY:** Anthony Robertson from the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services provided updates on upcoming events and community initiatives. DC Health Link's final enrollment day will be held at Ben's Chili Bowl from 12 PM to 12 AM, offering last-minute health insurance sign-ups. A bulk trash drop-off and community cleanup will take place on Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM at Parkview Recreation Center. He noted ongoing efforts to address issues on T Street through the T Street Task Force and encouraged residents to report concerns, including tree pickups and other city service requests. In response to questions, Robertson clarified that Federal employees affected by job cuts or buyouts may qualify for a special enrollment period if they lose health coverage. He will verify details. He also mentioned that the E-bike voucher lottery is managed by the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) and is ongoing. Going forward, Robertson will notify all ANC 1B commissioners of significant public safety incidents rather than just the affected SMD commissioner.

C. Commissioner announcements *(2 minutes each)*

i. Proposals for Neighborhood Management Authority and Business Improvement District for U Street (Cmsr. Fay)

**SUMMARY:** The Neighborhood Management Authority (NMA) proposal has been introduced but is in the early stages of feedback and community engagement. The ANC 1B Economic Development Committee will prioritize gathering input from residents and businesses to shape the proposal. There is also a separate effort to establish a Business Improvement District (BID), and discussions are ongoing about how the two efforts might align. David Meni from Councilmember Nadeau's office emphasized that introducing the bill starts the process rather than finalizing it. The NMA proposal includes a process for integrating a BID structure within it rather than creating competing organizations. Conversations with property owners and stakeholders are continuing. The NMA is being developed for both U Street and Columbia Heights, with engagement from ANCs 1A, 1B, and 1E. ANC 1B will host public discussions through its Economic Development Committee to gather input. A key question is how the NMA would interact with existing Main Street programs and other business and placemaking initiatives. Community members raised concerns about ensuring broad participation from businesses and property owners, with the goal of creating a well-supported, effective placemaking entity. The ANC will have a representative on the NMA board, and further discussions will be held in upcoming committee meetings. Meeting dates and topics will be announced in the ANC 1B newsletter for those interested in participating.

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- ii. District Government collaboration with the National Park Service (Cmsr. Trindade Deramo)

**SUMMARY:** A recent subcommittee roundtable in the Council focused on the District Government's collaboration with the National Park Service (NPS). Given that Meridian Hill/Malcolm X Park is within ANC 1B, this issue is of particular interest. The discussion, led by Councilmember Frumin, examined systemic approaches to managing small NPS-owned lands, such as traffic circles and parklets, which are often poorly maintained. Though Councilmember Frumin is no longer chair of the relevant Council subcommittee on Recreation, he remains involved through an effort at the Federal City Council to address NPS land transfers comprehensively. The recent RFK Stadium land deal suggests possible progress in NPS-DC collaboration, though expectations remain cautious. With the ANC's Transportation Committee now expanded to Transportation, Parks, and Public Space (TPPS), NPS-related issues will fall under its purview. The committee, led by Commissioner Holden, will engage with these ongoing discussions.

- iii. Zoning Office Proposed Text Amendments to the RA-1 Zoning Language (Cmsr. Kensek)

**SUMMARY:** The proposed modifications to RA-1 zoning, though not directly impacting ANC 1B, aim to clarify and streamline development regulations in low-to-moderate density areas. RA-1 currently allows single-family detached or semi-detached houses by right, while row houses, flats, and small apartment buildings require special exception approval from the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA). The changes would allow minor interior renovations and limited expansions of existing apartment buildings by right while retaining special exception requirements for larger buildings exceeding four units. Additionally, the amendments seek to clarify review criteria, particularly regarding side yard requirements and privacy impacts on adjacent properties. Applicants would also be required to submit more detailed documentation, such as building plans, landscape grading, and screening renderings, to facilitate the review process. Importantly, the amendments do not propose changes to permitted height, bulk, square footage, or lot occupancy, nor do they involve rezoning any properties to or from RA-1. Residents or commissioners interested in further details can reach out to Commissioner Kensek at 1B05 or consult materials provided by the Office of Planning (OP) and the BZA.

- iv. Update on T Street Task Force Activity (Cmsr. Barrilleaux)

**SUMMARY:** The T Street Task Force meets on the first Thursday of every month at 2 PM. These meetings involve multiple agencies and have seen increased engagement from the Mayor's Office, helping to drive progress on key issues. While attendance during work hours can be challenging, community involvement is encouraged. Additionally, ANC 1B is looking to improve how it shares information on non-ANC events. Efforts will be made to include relevant events, like the T Street Task Force meetings, in the ANC newsletter and website calendar to ensure broader community awareness and participation.

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v. Update on DC Comprehensive Plan Rewrite Process (Cmsr. Fay)

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Planning recently held a Webex conference to begin preliminary discussions on the upcoming Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) rewrite. The current Comp Plan, originally drafted in 2005, has guided significant changes in areas like the U Street corridor over the past 20 years. The rewrite process will include a structured framework and timeline, with a focus on extensive community engagement. Public input sessions are set to begin in March and April. These discussions will align with broader conversations on placemaking, particularly in shaping the future development of key areas. ANC 1B will actively participate in seeking feedback and will coordinate with economic development initiatives starting in February. Efforts will be made to organize forums, both with and without the Office of Planning, to ensure strong community involvement in the planning process.

D. Community announcements (*2 minutes each*)

i. Rock n' Roll Marathon route overview (includes areas of Commission 1B)

**SUMMARY:** Diane Thomas, a representative for the Rock 'n' Roll DC Marathon, provided an update on the upcoming race scheduled for Saturday, March 15. This marks the 17th year of the event and her 13th year presenting to ANC 1B. The closest street closure affecting ANC 1B will be along Harvard Street, where runners will enter from ANC 1C at 16th Street, travel eastbound along Harvard to Sherman Avenue, and continue past Howard University. The closures will be in effect from approximately 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM, accommodating an estimated 12,000 runners. All closures are uploaded in Waze to assist with navigation. Thomas encouraged residents to stay informed and shared a link to the route map and volunteer sign-up for those interested in supporting the event.

ii. Department of Energy & Environment: Community meeting regarding the air quality mobile mapping program, Thursday, February 20, 5:30–6:30 p.m., details and registration [here](#)

**SUMMARY:** Chairperson Miguel Trindade Deramo announced that the DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) will host a community meeting about the Air Quality Mobile Mapping Program on Thursday, February 20. This program involved a mobile air quality detector that collected hyper-local air quality data across the district. Preliminary results have been shared, and those interested can access the data on the DOEE website. A link to event registration is available in the meeting agenda packet for those who wish to attend.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT SUMMARY:** LaToya Davenport from the U.S. Attorney's Office announced that Ed Martin is the new U.S. Attorney and plans to engage with the community, starting with the March 3D CAC meeting. She also shared information on court reports tracking papered arrests and community impact statements. Commissioner Sycamore asked about broader community engagement, and Ms. Davenport agreed to coordinate.

Karen Gaal, Chairwoman of the 3D MPD Citizens Advisory Council, provided updates on public safety meetings, which occur on the last Thursday of each month at 1620 V Street NW with a hybrid

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option. She highlighted ongoing task forces, including those for T Street, U Street, Columbia Heights/Mount Pleasant, and North Capitol Street. She also announced upcoming events, including a Valentine's appreciation for first responders on February 11 and AED training sessions for Heart Safety Month. She encouraged participation from ANC Commissioners and community members across multiple wards and will share links for further details.

## VII. ADMINISTRATIVE

### A. Executive officers' reports (*3 minutes each*)

- i. Revision of prior Commission meeting minutes for financial reporting compliance (Cmsr. Lemon-Strauss)

**SUMMARY:** The ANC discussed a correction to the September 2024 meeting minutes to clarify that the commission had approved the FY25 budget

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lemon-Strauss moved to amend the minutes of the September 5, 2024, meeting to reflect that, at that meeting, the Commission approved the proposed FY25 budget on a unanimous 9-0 vote. The motion was seconded. **DISCUSSION:** Procedures for ensuring meeting minutes are accurate and reflect all approved motions precisely. It was emphasized that all votes, including those related to the budget and legally binding matters, must be recorded with exact wording, who seconded the motion, and the final vote tally. This level of detail is necessary for compliance with auditing and legal requirements. The motion **PASSED (8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention)**.

### B. Announcement of committee meeting schedules

**SUMMARY:** The ANC is seeking recommendations for guest speakers at its monthly meetings, particularly those with expertise in complex DC government areas such as ABCA, zoning, and planning. Suggestions can be sent to [1b@anc.dc.gov](mailto:1b@anc.dc.gov).

Committee Meeting Schedules announced for February:

- **Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Regulations Committee:** February 19 at 7 PM
- **Community Engagement Committee (Inaugural Meeting):** February 12 at 6 PM
- **Economic Development Committee:** February 20 at 7 PM
- **Public Safety Committee:** February 18 at 7 PM (Future meetings will shift to the second Tuesday of each month)
- **Transportation, Parks, and Public Space Committee:** February 18 at 7 PM
- **Zoning, Preservation, and Development Committee:** February 24 at 6:30 PM (Adjusted due to a holiday, then will follow the regular schedule on the third Monday of each month)

All dates will be posted on the ANC's website for reference. Committee chairs may appoint a vice chair to assist with management. Each chair received an email outlining responsibilities and will appoint voting members at the first meeting. A list of applicants will be provided, and membership remains open. Commissioners can appoint voting members by emailing Secretary Fay.

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The goal is at least ten members per committee, ensuring diverse representation. Chairs should update their committee pages on the ANC website with participation guidelines.

Timely submission of resolutions is essential to avoid missed legislative opportunities. Chairs must ensure efficient administrative processes and use available ANC resources.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. ABCA placard: Lounge U (911 U St. NW) — SMD 1B02 (Cmsr. Barrilleaux) — Class “C” Restaurant

**MOTION:** Commissioner Barrilleaux moved to protest Lounge U’s license application for a class C restaurant license on the ground of peace, order, quiet, trash, litter and parking. The motion was seconded. **DISCUSSION:** The ANC discussed concerns regarding a restaurant’s liquor license application within a moratorium zone. The application was initially for a tavern license in November but was amended to a restaurant license in December. While zoning concerns were also noted, the focus of the discussion was on the ABCA application. The applicant was invited but did not attend. The motion **PASSED (9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention).**

- B. Building collapse at 1111/1113 V St. NW, joined by representatives from the Department of Buildings: Alex Cross, Chief of Staff and Nicole Rogers, Chief Building Official (Cmsr. Lemon-Strauss)

**SUMMARY:** The ANC discussed the recent building collapse on the 1100 block of V Street, which resulted in a fatality. Representatives from the Department of Buildings (DOB), including Chief of Staff Alex Cross and Chief Building Official Nicole Rogers, provided updates on their investigation. The site had active construction permits, and DOB worked with the property owner to secure it after the incident. Community members raised concerns about site safety, enforcement of permit postings, the water table’s impact on construction, and the difficulty in reporting unsafe conditions through 311. Commissioners expressed frustration with DOB’s responsiveness and oversight, citing long response times for reports of illegal construction. DOB clarified that permit postings are the responsibility of property owners and that their inspectors verify compliance. They also stated that general contractors are required to carry insurance, but site-specific insurance is not mandated by DOB. Given the complexity of the issue, the ANC referred the matter to the Zoning, Preservation, and Development (ZPD) Committee, which will hold a meeting on February 24 at 6:30 PM to discuss it further. Additionally, concerned residents were encouraged to testify at the DC Council’s performance oversight hearing for DOB on February 25.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:33pm.**

*The next regular meeting of the Commission will be on March 6, 2025.*

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