

Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B

Doug Payton, 4B01
Shamina Christian, 4B02
Keenan Courtland, 4B03
Vacant, 4B04
Sophia Tekola, 4B05



Tiffani Nichole Johnson, 4B06
Michael Cohen, 4B07
Garrett Moore, 4B08
Danielle Geong, 4B09
Jinin Berry, 4B10

February Public Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 24, 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting Details:

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Commissioner Sophia Tekola who conducted roll call. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom, and a recording of the meeting is available on [YouTube](#) and on the [Commission's website](#). Commissioners present also included Commissioner Doug Payton (4B01), Commissioner Shamina Christian (4B02), Commissioner Keenan Courtland (4B03), Commissioner Sophia Tekola (4B05), Commissioner Tiffani Nichole Johnson (4B06), Commissioner Michael Cohen (4B07), Commissioner Garrett Moore, (4B08), Commissioner Danielle Geong (4B09), and Commissioner Jinin Berry (4B10). Commissioner Michael Cohen (4B07) was absent.

2. Administrative Items

a. Instructions for Participation in Virtual Meeting

i. Commissioner Tekola provided instructions for public participation in the meeting.

b. Consideration and approval of February 2025 Regular Public Meeting Agenda

i. Commissioner Michael Cohen requested amending Resolution 4B-25-xxxx by retitling it to Resolution 4B-25-0205 and moving it to the Consent Calendar. This was seconded by Commissioner Keenan Courtland.

ii. The amended agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

c. Approval of January 2025 Regular Public Meeting Minutes

i. Commissioner Tekola presented the January 2025 Regular Public Meeting Minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

d. Motion to Ratify 2025 Officer Election Results. This motion passed unanimously.

e. Motion to Appoint Representative to Walter Reed CAC

i. Commissioner Cohen nominated Commissioner Payton to represent on CAC. Commissioner Payton was nominated by unanimous vote.

f. Proposed 2025 Public Meeting Calendar

Commissioner Tekola reviewed the proposed calendar of DC Council Public Meetings for 2025. The Calendar was passed unanimously. The dates for 2025 public meetings are as follows.

Monday, January 27, 2025; Monday, February 24, 2025; Monday, March 24, 2025; Monday, April 28, 2025; Tuesday, May 27, 2025; Monday, June 23, 2025; Monday, September 22, 2025; Monday, October 27, 2025; Monday, November 24, 2025

- g. Treasurer's Report/FY25 QFR Review Q1
 - i. Commissioner Cohen shared Q1 QFR and program funding repurposing for budget year 2025.
 - ii. Commissioner Cohen shared grant cycle opening.
- h. Commissioner Tekola shared the plan to re-start hybrid meetings with a live location

3. Commissioner Updates

- a. Commissioners provided updates regarding their Single Member Districts, including community cleanups, office hours, Single Member District and community meetings and events, neighborhood updates, and upcoming DC Council hearings. Commissioner Johnson delivered updates on the Community Safety and Support Committee and on the Commission Intern.

4. Community Concerns

Members of the community were provided the opportunity to present questions or statements.

5. Reports

- a. Leticia Acosta, Mayor's Office on Community Relations and Services

Representative Acosta discussed the successful Community Rolloff on February 25, 2025. She shared a reminder regarding the [Summer Youth Employment Program](#) and a request for applications. She promoted the [Mayor's Budget Engagement Forums](#) and responded to community members questions.

- b. Oscar Montiel, Office of Ward 4 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

Performance Oversight Hearings are ongoing, and community members were encouraged to provide testimony. An update on the STEER Act was provided. An update on Councilmember Lewis George's "Listen as We Climb" series was provided. Ward 4 Volunteer Corps was promoted. The Mayors Budget is anticipated for review in April. Resources for immigration and employment opportunities were shared. Locations for DDOT sidewalk gap improvements were shared.

- c. T. Michelle Colson, Ward 4 State Board of Education

Attended Standing Ovation Awards sponsored by the Ed Fund. Schools receiving awards included Whittier Elementary, Ida B. Wells Middle School, McFarland Middle School, and LaSalle-Backus ES. Promoted public SBOE meeting and asked community members to attend and provide testimony. The SBOE voted in favor of HVAC oversight including standardization and additional oversight measures. The SBOE voted in favor of ending the legacy admissions process for universities in Washington, D.C. which is now being passed to the Council for a vote. The SBOE voted in favor of limiting cellphone use in classrooms.

- 6. Presentation: Chris Dyer, Community Engagement Manager, Department of Parks and Recreation, [Summer Camp Lottery](#)

Chris Dyer shared information about DPR including information about relevant links, upcoming events, and DPR programming. Key dates about DPR Summer Camp were shared. Information and application notes for DPR Special events permits was highlighted. Information on 311 requests for general request tickets was provided.

- 7. Presentation: Martin Sullivan, Partner, Sullivan & Barros LLP and Newton Lennon, Founder, Newlen Early Childhood Educational Services, [BZA 21257](#) Special Exemption at 405 Riggs Road NE.

Martin Sullivan joined along with Newton Lennon, owner of Newlan Early Childhood Education Services and Kendrick Richardson, project Architect. This is a request for a renewal of a previously approved and expired BZA request. Mr. Sullivan with support of Mr. Lennon and Mr. Richardson provided information about the previous zoning and desire to move forward to continue the project. The previous BZA had expired prior to Mr. Lennon purchasing the business and they are seeking renewal to proceed with building updates.

8. Consent Calendar

- a. Resolution 4B-25-0201: Supporting Application for Special Exemption at 405 Riggs Road NE (BZA 21257)
 - i. Motion to remove this from consent calendar for vote in March Public Meeting. This motion was unanimously approved.
- b. Resolution 4B-25-0202: Calling for Installation of Meaningful Traffic Safety Infrastructure at LaSalle-Backus Elementary School
 - i. This was unanimously approved.
- c. Resolution 4B-25-0205: QFR
 - i. This was unanimously approved.

9. Resolution #4B-25-0203: Supporting the Secure Apartments for Everyone Regulation Amendment Act of 2025. This was unanimously passed.

10. Resolution #4B-25-0204: Advocating for Full Funding of the Make All Votes Count DC Initiative.

This was approved with 7 votes in the affirmative and two abstained votes.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM

The next ANC 4B Planning Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 11 at 6:30 p.m.

The next ANC 4B Regular Public Meeting is scheduled for Monday March 24 at 7:00 p.m.

The next ANC 4B Community Safety and Support Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Please check the Commission's website for additional information: **anc4b.com**

Contact your Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner:

- Commissioner Doug Payton, 4B01@anc.dc.gov
- Commissioner Shamina Christian, 4B02@anc.dc.gov
- Commissioner Keenan Courtland, Secretary, 4B03@anc.dc.gov
- Vacant; 4B04 residents may contact any commissioner and cc: 4B04@anc.dc.gov
- Commissioner Sophia Tekola, Chair, 4B05@anc.dc.gov
- Commissioner Tiffani Nichole Johnson, Vice Chair, 4B06@anc.dc.gov
- Commissioner Michael Cohen, Treasurer, 4B07@anc.dc.gov
- Commissioner Garrett Moore, 4B08@anc.dc.gov
- Commissioner Danielle Geong, 4B09@anc.dc.gov

- Commissioner Jinin Berry, 4B10@anc.dc.gov