



THE MINUTES OF THE
May 21, 2025 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Call to Order

The meeting was held virtually via Zoom. Commissioner Jeremy Sherman called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. In accordance with D.C. Official Code §§ 1–207.42 and 1–309.11(c) the meeting was properly noticed in advance and open to the public.

Roll Call & Determination of Quorum

Commissioner Billy Easley, serving as Secretary, proceeded with the roll call

The following Commissioners were marked as “present”:

- SMD 1A01 – Jaspal Bhatia
- SMD 1A02 – Dieter Lehmann Morales
- SMD 1A03 – Carlo Perri
- SMD 1A04 – Jeremy Sherman
- SMD 1A06 – Anthony Thomas-Davis
- SMD 1A07 – Monte Achenbach
- SMD 1A08 – Shira Davidson
- SMD 1A09 – Jake Knoll
- SMD 1A10 – Billy Easley

Motion to approve the Agenda was seconded by Commissioner Perri and was **approved 8-1** with Commissioner Thomas-Davis opposed due to concerns about waiving the rules about grant spending.

Motion to approve the April minutes was seconded by Commissioner Lehmann Morales. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Secretary Report: Commissioner Easley noted that the Department of Public Works had still not responded to two resolutions passed by the Commission in February in March regarding the re-installation of trash cans in his SMD and that he would follow up on them.

Treasurer Report: We ended Q2 with a positive balance of \$51,442 and 49 cents.

Commissioner Announcements: Commissioner Knoll announced his resignation from the Commission due to moving out of his SMD. Commissioner Achenbach introduced himself to the community as this was his first official meeting as a member of the ANC. Commissioner Davidson announced that the Commission will be passing out native sunflower seeds at the Saturday farmers market in an effort to beautify Columbia Heights.

Public Announcements: A resident discussed their concerns about crime in the area, MPD's response, and the rate of business closures in the area. Commissioner Easley spoke to him about the Public Safety Committee and invited him to join. Commissioner Thomas-Davis also responded to his concerns.

Estelle Mckinney, from Councilmember Nadeau's office: MPD is adding more CCTV cameras on Sherman Avenue and spoke about criminal incidents around Fairmont Street, Commissioner Davidson is working with her to set up a response and community meetings. Inner City Cooperative will be at the Columbia Heights metro next Wednesday to work with the OAG to help provide resources and outreach to the community. CM Nadeau is working on legislation requiring only staircase instead of two in buildings of a certain size to make it ease the building construction process.

Anthony Robertson, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services: Responded to our residents concerns about crime in the area and invited him to join the local MPD community walks that are being planned. He also urged residents to utilize 311 to notify government agencies of issues.

Presentations:

- (a) **Nicole McEntee**, *Education and Outreach Program Analyst*, Office of the Tenant Advocate

- Discussed OTA's outreach to renters. They are working very hard to develop tenant associations in the District. This is Mrs. McEntee's primary work at the moment.
- Commissioner Easley asked about their outreach strategy. Mrs. McEntee stated that they will be trying to do a Tenant Summit which will be a district wide resource fair this year but there are budget concerns – they are aiming for September.
- Commissioner Sherman asked about noise from neighboring properties and whether OTA can assist tenants navigate that issue? Mrs. McEntee said it's tricky when it's not noise that the landlord is causing or could prevent.
- Commissioner Davidson asked about outreach in other languages. Mrs. McEntee has a counterpart who is a fluent Spanish speaker so she will attend when she goes to other events. They also have two other people who are fluent Spanish speakers and they will use the language translation phone line if necessary.

(b) **LaToya Davenport**, *Community Outreach Specialist*, Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia

- Discussed resources provided by USAO. Discussed the new CCTV cameras being placed in the area to assist crimefighting efforts. They will be hosting the 15th Annual Youth Summit at Catholic University focused on Tuesday, July 8th. The topic this year will be gun violence and drug prevention. There will also be a Resource Fair at the Columbia Height Metro and DYRS, MPD, Credible Messengers, Mayors Office, will be in attendance. That will be on Wednesday, May 28th at the Metro.

(c) **Adam Carballo**, *AIA, Principal*, Carballo Architecture

- Asked the ANC to support rezoning a parcel of land at 1327 Girard NW, located in 1A09. Commissioner Knoll, who represents this area, supports the rezoning.

Committee Reports: Commissioner Thomas-Davis shared the report of the Permanent Special Committee on Public Life and Neighborhood Planning concerning Case No. 25-06 from the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Board (HPRB) and noted that the Committee supported the historic designation.

Commissioner Thomas-Davis made a motion that the Commission adopt the report of his Committee. Commissioner Knoll seconded the motion. It was approved by voice vote unanimously and **approved**.

All other reports were placed at the bottom of the April agenda for review.

Consent Agenda: Chair Sherman moved to approve the consent agenda by unanimous consent. The following two items were approved through the consent agenda by unanimous consent.

R25-0022 A Resolution Concerning Support of the Application of D.C. Preservation League for 3045 15th Street NW to be a Historic Landmark

Sponsor(s): Commissioner Anthony Thomas-Davis

R25-0023 A Resolution Concerning Urgent Crosswalk Maintenance & Safety Improvements Along 14th Street NW Commercial Corridor

Sponsor(s): Commissioner Jake Knoll and Commissioners Jeremy Sherman, Billy Easley, Shira Davidson, Christine Miller

New Business:

REP25-0006 - Second Quarterly Financial Report of Fiscal Year 2025 of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A *Sponsor(s):* Commissioner Dieter Lehmann Morales

- Commissioner Lehmann Morales moved to approve the Quarterly Financial Report of Q2. Commissioner Easley seconded. The motion was **approved** by voice vote.

LTR25-0009 - A Letter Concerning Protest of Best Stop Dispensary (ABRA 129285) for A Medical Cannabis Retailer License, 3439 14th Street NW (SMD 1A02)

Sponsor: Commissioner Jeremy Sherman

- This was a protest against a pot dispensary on the basis of its lack of engagement and concerns about the large number of dispensaries in the area
- Commissioner Thomas-Davis made a motion to strike several paragraphs so that the basis of the protest was solely the lack of engagement by the cannabis license applicant
- Commissioner Sherman accepted the motion as a friendly amendment
- Commissioner Bhatia seconded
- The letter is **approved** by voice vote
 - 8 Yeas and 1 abstention

- Abstention: Commissioner Perri

R25-0018 - A Resolution Concerning Condemning The Reinstatement Of Officers Convicted In The Murder Of Mr. Karon Hylton-Brown

Sponsor(s): Commissioner Dieter Lehmann Morales and Commissioners Billy Easley, Carlo Perri

- This Resolution requests MPD to terminate the officers convicted in the murder of Karon Hylton-Brown among other requests
- Commissioner Bhatia seconded
- The resolution is **approved** 8-1
 - 8 years and 1 abstention
 - Abstention: Commissioner Thomas-Davis

R25-0019 - A Resolution Concerning Calling on DLCP and DDOT to Physically Mark Approved Street Vending Spaces in the Columbia Heights-Mt. Pleasant Vending Zone

Sponsor(s): Commissioner Jeremy Sherman and Commissioners Christine Miller, Jaspal Bhatia, Billy Easley, Jake Knoll

- Seconded by Commissioner Morales
- Commissioner Davidson spoke in support; Commissioner Thomas-Davis spoke in opposition arguing that the Commission's response to street vendors has been scattershot and that our public space is being overcommercialized
- Resolution is **approved** 8-1
 - Commissioner Thomas-Davis is the only No vote

R25-00200 - A Resolution Concerning Support for the Neighborhood Management Authority Act of 2025

Sponsor(s): Commissioner Jeremy Sherman and Commissioners Christine Miller, Jaspal Bhatia

- Seconded by Commissioner Bhatia'
- Commissioners Sherman, Morales, Davidson and Easley spoke in support; Commissioner Thomas-Davis spoke in opposition
- Resolution is **approved** 8-1

- Commissioner Thomas-Davis is the only No vote

R25-0021 - A Resolution Concerning Authorizing Expenditures for an Administrative Assistant to Support the Operations of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A

Sponsor(s): Commissioner Jeremy Sherman

- Seconded by Commissioner Knoll
- Commissioner Sherman, Easley and Morales spoke in support; Commissioner Thomas-Davis spoke in opposition
- Resolution is **approved** 8-1
 - Commissioner Thomas-Davis is the only No vote

R25-0024 - A Resolution Concerning Grants for World Pride 2025

Sponsor(s): Commissioner Christine Miller

- Commission voted to waive the rules regarding grants be submitted 30 days before approval and that grantees come before the Commission before grants are approved.
- The motion to waive the rules was **approved** 8-1
 - Commissioner Thomas-Davis is the only No vote
- Seconded by Commissioner Easley
- Resolution is **approved** 8-1
 - Commissioner Thomas-Davis is the only No vote

R25-0025 - A Resolution Authorizing Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commission Technical Assistance Funds for Hybrid Equipment

Sponsor(s): Commissioner Jeremy Sherman

- Seconded by Commissioner Easley
- Resolution is **approved** 8-1
 - Commissioner Thomas-Davis is the only No vote

Adjournment

Prepared by: Billy Easley on May 29

Approved on: Will be approved on June 18

Attested by the ANC 1A Secretary:

Billy Easley II
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