

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

April Public Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 28, 7:00 p.m.

a. 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 in person at Takoma Recreation Center. 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).

b. Administrative Items

- Instructions for participation in virtual and in person meetings
 - Commissioner Tekola provided instructions for public participation in the meeting.
- Consideration and approval of April 2025 Regular Public Meeting Agenda
 - Commissioner Johnson presented a motion to remove RESOLUTION #4B-25-0401 from the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.
 - Commissioner Geong presented a motion to add Sean Moore, Communications Manager - Lead Free DC to the presentations for the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.
 - Commissioner Tekola presented the April 2025 Regular Public Meeting Agenda. The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.
- Approval of March 2025 Regular Public Meeting Minutes
 - Commissioner Tekola presented the March 2025 Regular Public Meeting Minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.
- Treasurer's Report
 - Commissioner Cohen presented the current financial report with updates on transactions and grants.
 - Commissioner Cohen motioned to allow the Treasurer to allow a debit card for budgeted reoccurring expenses. The motion carried unanimously.

- Commissioner Cohen motioned to approve the FY25 Q2 Quarterly Financial Report. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Commissioner Updates

- Commissioners provided updates regarding their Single Member Districts, including community resource availability, traffic safety improvements, community clean-ups, office hours, community safety concerns, community projects, and deadlines for city-wide services.

d. Community Concerns

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

e. Reports

- Commander Nikki Lavenhouse, Ward 4 MPD

Commander Lavenhouse presented that in 2025 violent crimes down 39% and homicides are down 78% throughout Ward 4. Property crime is flat which has been plaguing the district, specifically with vehicle crime associated with Hondas and Kias. Commander Lavenhouse advised that this can be attributed to the comfort associated with previous drop in thefts and not using safety devices such as clubs. She advised to review the videos the department has produced on Faraday bags and the need to protect car keys from being cloned for the purpose of theft. Commander Lavenhouse provided a community update on violent crime in the past month and answered questions from the Commissioners and the community. Commander Lavenhouse appealed to the community to share any information related to crimes that may be reviewed on footage and encouraged community members to join the Camera Connect program.

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

Dr. Colson provided an update on PKEEP (Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program) that the mayor plans to fund the program. The State Board of Education met in April and focused on cyberbullying as it relates to students and staff. The Board created a task force on graduation requirements with focus on reevaluation the high school graduation requirements. There has been discussion related to reducing the requirements, which to which Dr. Colson is opposed as it could directly affect the future employability of local graduates against the national workforce they will be competing against for local jobs. Dr. Colson shared optimism for the return of the Washington Commanders and emphasized that she hopes the councilmembers can leverage this deal to improve student and post-secondary outcomes to ensure that there are increased pathways for employment beyond the existing and limited opportunities. The next Board meeting will be addressing student experiencing homelessness or housing insecurities and how they can be best supported. Dr. Colson requested that community members join to provide testimony as the landscape has changed drastically with regard to housing uncertainty in the district. Dr. Colson will be drafting a resolution for supporting students with marijuana and vaping as it relates to schools and extracurricular activities.

- Barbara Rogers, Community Engagement Director, Office of Ward 4 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

Ms. Rogers provided an update on related to the Congressional Budget and Citywide Budget. As we continue to wait for Congress to take up the DC Local Fund Act, the mayor recently announced some measures to prepare for the loss of locally generated taxpayers funds due to the Congressional Continuing Resolution. Even though the Council has yet to receive the FY26 budget from the mayor, the mayor has begun to share publicly early hints about what will be included in her budget. The mayor has previewed that she as met some of Councilmember Lewis George's and our community key budget asks. Including persevering PKEEP and Early Childhood Education Pay Equity, two vital programs that support our educators and our children.

Ms. Rogers highlighted the Better Bus Network ANC meeting on May 10, The Ward 4 Small Business Summit on May 8, and a roundtable on environmental and safety hazards on DPR property on May 5. Office Hours are every Wednesday at Fort Steven Recreation Center from 12p to 1p and Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center from 1:30p to 2:30p. Community members were encouraged to sign up for the weekly Friday Newsletter if they have not already. Ms. Rogers answered questions from the Commissioners and community.

Commissioner Cohen motioned to move RESOLUTION #4B-25-0406 to be directly after the presentation on BZA Case No. 21250 being the final presentation. The motion carried unanimously.

f. Presentations

- o Andy Galli and Scott Sylvester – DC Clean Rivers Project – Rock Creek Project-C
- o Jessica Bloomfield - Holland & Knight - BZA Case No. Temp. 5385
- o Sean Moore - Communications Manager - Lead Free DC
- o Toye Bello on behalf of Sullivan and Barros, BZA Case No 21250 – 7410 Eastern Ave NW

Commissioner Tekola motioned to move RESOLUTION #4B-25-0402, Letter - Request for Legislation to Prohibit the Reinstatement of MPD Officers Convicted of Crimes or Found in Violation of General Orders, and RESOLUTION #4B-25-0406 to the consent calendar, with recognition of some grammar edits to RESOLUTION #4B-25-0406. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Cohen motioned to move RESOLUTION #4B-25-0407 to the May Public Meeting Agenda. The Motion carried unanimously.

g. Consent Calendar

- o RESOLUTION #4B-25-0402: Opposing DC Council's Emergency Legislation to Close Meetings
- o RESOLUTION #4B-25-0403: Opposing the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia's Consideration of Withholding Police Misconduct Information from Defense Attorneys
- o RESOLUTION #4B-25-0404: Condemning Congressional Efforts to Undermine Washington, DC's Status as a Sanctuary City
- o RESOLUTION #4B-25-0405: Calling For the DC Council To Strengthen and Expand "Ban the Box" Policies
- o RESOLUTION #4B-25-0406: Calling on the District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment to Deny Case Number 21250/Case Name Fikremariam Genesha
- o Letter - Request for Legislation to Prohibit the Reinstatement of MPD Officers Convicted of Crimes or Found in Violation of General Orders

The measures in the Consent Calendar were unanimously approved as presented.

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

i. 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

j. Adjournment

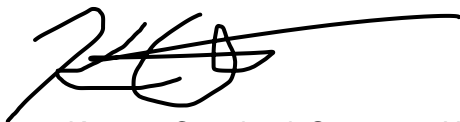
The meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm

The next ANC 4B Planning Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m.

The next ANC 4B Regular Public Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 27 at 7:00 p.m.

The next ANC 4B Community Safety and Support Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Keenan Courtland, Secretary ANC4B
5/29/2025