



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## **Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E**

### **Regular Meeting Minutes**

Monday, January 6th, 2025; 6:30 p.m.

Online via Zoom

#### **Call to Order- 6:35 pm**

Executive Director Anna Noakes called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Commissioners Kishan Putta (2E01), Topher Mathews (2E02), Paul Maysak (2E03), Peter Sloniewsky (2E04), Mimsy Lindner (2E05), Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06), Daniel Chao (2E07), and Knox Graham (2E08) were present.

#### **Election of the ANC's Officers for 2025 - 6:33 pm**

Commissioner Maysak moved to elect Commissioner Lohse as the ANC's Chair for 2025. Commissioner Lindner seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Commissioner Chao moved to elect Commissioner Mathews as the ANC's Vice Chair for 2025. Commissioner Chao seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Chair Lohse moved to elect Commissioner Graham as the ANC's Secretary for 2025. Commissioner Lindner seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Commissioner Maysak moved to elect Commissioner Sloniewsky as the ANC's Treasurer for 2025. Chair Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

#### **Approval of the Agenda - 6:40 pm**

##### **Approval of the ANC's January 6th, 2025 Meeting Agenda - 6:40 pm**

Chair Lohse moved to approve the ANC's January 6th, 2025 meeting agenda. Commissioner Matthews seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

##### **Approval of the ANC's December 2nd, 2024 Meeting Minutes - 6:41 pm**

Chair Lohse moved to approve the ANC's December 2nd, 2024 meeting minutes. Commissioner Putta seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

#### **Administrative- 6:42 pm**

##### **Approval of the Addition of New Officers to the ANC's Bank Signature Cards- 6:42 pm**

Chair Lohse moved to approve the Addition of New Officers to the ANC's Bank Signature Cards. Commissioner Maysak seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Public Safety and Police Report- 6:44 pm

Captain Darren Haskis and Lieutenant Vitateo provided an update from the Metropolitan Police Department.

Update from 2nd District Citizen Advisory Council Representative- 7:15 pm

Marina Streznewski, the co-chair for the 2nd District Citizen Advisory Council Representative, provided an update.

**Community Comment - 7:27 pm**

Update from the Mayor's Office- 7:27 pm

Tadia Abella, the Ward 2 Manager from the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), and Adriana Macedonio, the Ward 2 Liaison, provided an update.

Update from the Department of Public Works- 7:32 pm

Robert Butler from the Department of Public Works (DPW) provided an update.

Update from Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office- 7:47 pm

Brian Romanowski, Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Director of Community Relations, gave an update. Brian Romanowski answered questions from Commissioners.

Update [DC Bottle Bill Coalition](#)- 7:57 pm

Joanne Slaight from the DC Bottle Bill Coalition provided an update.

Update regarding WMATA January 2025 Route Addition Due to Ending of all Circulator Routes- 8:11 pm

Commissioner Matthews provided an update on WMATA January 2025 route addition.

Update from Georgetown Student Update -8:15 pm

Commissioner's Graham and Sloniewsky provided an update on Georgetown University.

Open Comment Period- 8:16 pm

Ankit Jain, a Washington DC shadow Senator, provided an update.

**New Business- 8:23 pm**

**Resolution in Support of DC Council to establish a Bottle Return-Refund-Recycle Program- 8:23 pm**

Commissioner Lohse moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Lindner seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, it is estimated by several non-profits that more than 617 million covered beverage containers are sold in the District of Columbia each year and it is estimated that

- Less than one quarter of these containers are recycled. Therefore, almost 464.5 million beverage containers sold annually in the District are not recycled.
- Approximately 55 percent of these containers are plastic bottles, nearly 30 percent are aluminum cans, and almost 15% are glass bottles.

WHEREAS, of the 464.5 million containers that are not recycled,

- Most are disposed of in public trash receptacles because there is no large-scale, convenient, public space recycling program.
- Many on-street trash receptacles provided by the District, National Park Service, and other entities, are of limited capacity, do not support recyclable items, and are not emptied frequently enough, resulting in unsightly overflow onto sidewalks, roadways, grassy areas and storm drains that discharge into waterways.

WHEREAS, a proven solution to beverage container litter is a Beverage Container Deposit Return (“Bottle Bill”) law.

- Bottle Bills reduce trash and boost recycling rates because of the deposit return incentive.
- Deposit return was created over a century ago by bottle, can, and beverage, manufacturers in order to reduce costs by repeatedly reusing already manufactured bottles and steel cans. For decades there were no specific laws compelling participation; however, the economic conditions provided a natural incentive for consumers to return their empties for a deposit refund.
- 10 states currently having Bottle Bill laws, including California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York and Oregon, account for 27% of the US population, yet it is estimated the same states account for over 50% of all bottles recycled in the United States.

WHEREAS, realizing significant reduction of beverage bottles / can litter in the District requires a consistent, convenient, ubiquitous recycling option. With a DC Bottle Bill

- Consumers would pay in the range of 10 cents per qualified beverage container at the time of purchase. The fee then could be refunded in full when the empties are returned to participating merchants, kiosks, or other redemption points. The form of repayment can be selectable by the consumer.
- Coverage of redemption points can be uniform and convenient, including for residents in communities historically underserved by food retailers.
- There must be adequate safeguards, administrative controls, and oversight, to detect and prevent abuse, fraud, or new or novel types of crimes.

WHEREAS, the District's 5 cent bag fee succeeded at dramatically reducing the number of plastic bags polluting our streets and waterways. ANC 2E requests that the Council of the District of Columbia initiate the legislative process to establish a Bottle Bill. ANC 2E further requests there be multiple opportunities for public discussion and input from stakeholders citywide to ensure the legislation identifies and addresses concerns and will provide the intended outcome.

#### Resolution Regarding the Department of Public Works Leaf Collection Process- 8:29 pm

Commissioner Lohse moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Lindner seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) exist to bring "government closer to the people and to bring the people closer to government."

A smooth leaf collection process is essential to keeping our streets and sidewalks safe and ensuring our drainage/sewer systems are not blocked. The Department of Public Works (DPW) efforts to improve the leaf collection process over the past few years has yielded results. This said, based on our community's experience with the FY 25 First Pass collection (Nov-Dec 2024), ANC 2E urges DPW to make the following improvements to the FY 25 Second Pass (Jan-Feb 2025) and FY26:

1. ***Integrate and prioritize timely pickups of leaves in brown paper bags into the leaf collection process, rather than relying on residents to call 3-1-1.*** Many residents follow city rules to use paper bags and cannot collect their leaves without using the bags because: a) they have to carry the leaves through their attached hometown, or b) piles of unbagged leaves will blow away/ if left on the street or tree boxes unbagged for days/ weeks while waiting for city pick up, thus making sidewalks/roads unsafe, and drainage

system blocked. Note: The city instructs residents to place the leaves in paper bags, and many of our constituents were told in Nov/early Dec it would be 3-4 weeks until bag pick-up was available; by then the bags would be broken and leaves scattered. Moreover, some initial city messaging stated that bagged leaves would be picked up. *Let's support those residents who are using recyclable paper bags for leaf collection by picking the bags up in a timely and organized manner!*

2. ***Ensure the leaf vacuum team is capable of and understands to vacuum up all leaves on curb and tree boxes.*** In multiple places, residents were told the vacuum could not reach the tree box due to cars/bikes or that leaves on the curb had to be in tree boxes to be vacuumed, or, leaves taken out of paper bags when vacuum trucks arrived would have to wait until Second Pass. However, city policy said use of both curb and tree box were acceptable, even knowing bikes and cars sit on our sidewalks and roads. *Let's ensure the city's collection team has the tools and information they need to vacuum up those leaves properly collected by residents!*
3. ***Have tools and staff capable of accounting for misses or delays.*** Understandably, some spots, which were ready on time, will be missed or delays will occur with pick-up. Therefore, it is best for all if the DPW process preemptively incorporates some level of on-the-ground staff time to address the misses, and for the public Leaf Tracker website to accurately reflect missed spots or delays. Alternatively, residents do not trust the timeframes given to them by the city and collection staff feel overburdened. *Let's ensure staff and the tracking system reflect on-the-ground reality.*

Our community needs the DPW trucks to come back through Georgetown as soon as possible. ANC 2E has asked to meet with DPW regarding the above requests given the importance of this city service, and DPW's demonstrated commitment to improvement.

Resolution Requesting Traffic Calming on 2400-2600 P Street NW, 2800-3100 R Street NW, and 3200 S Street NW- 8:40 pm

Commissioner Chao moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Lindner seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

***Whereas:*** Speeding through the residential areas has been an ongoing concern for ANC 2E residents, ANC 2E Commissioners, and the Citizens Association of Georgetown. These parties all have communicated their observations and requests through numerous meetings and

conversations with District Department of Transportation (DDOT) representatives during the crafting of its 2023-2024 Georgetown Transportation Access and Circulation Study. While the Study did address some ongoing concerns, numerous pressing safety issues remain outstanding for a large residential swath of our community. DDOT representatives have continued to engage with our residents on those safety concerns to date.

**Whereas:** Like retail shops and restaurants along Georgetown's commercial corridors, these roads on residential blocks are frequently used by our immediate community and visitors afar—many who bike, walk and drive to access parks, museums, recreational facilities, some businesses, and places of worship. These residential blocks unfortunately have also been used more frequently over time by drivers who speed past homes, pedestrians, cyclists etc., to bypass the busy and congested commercial corridors. Electronic driving applications are steering more vehicles through residential streets and will continue to do so anytime that M St NW and Wisconsin Ave NW have gridlock and congestion.

**Whereas:** Residents who live on the 3200 of S St NW, 2800-3100 of R St NW, 2500 block of Q St NW, 2400-2700 blocks of P St NW and 28<sup>th</sup> St NW north of M St NW, have raised numerous concerns to the Commissioner for ANC 2E07 of eyewitness accounts of dangerous conditions impacting pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.

**Whereas:** In SMD 2E06, residents and their Commissioner have held discussions with DDOT representatives for the past 2 years about excessive vehicular speeding on 28<sup>th</sup> from M Street NW northward to P Street NW and further north. Vehicles have been using 28<sup>th</sup> north of M St NW as a causeway to bypass commercial corridors of M Street west of 28th and Wisconsin NW north of M St NW.

**Whereas:** Residents of 2E07 and their SMD Commissioner have held community walks on P and R Streets in October and November of 2024, with a DDOT representative and witnessed immediately that:

- Automobiles speed excessively every minute or every other minute.
- Drivers do not come to a complete stop at intersections.
- Drivers coast through the corners at 28<sup>th</sup> and R and 32<sup>nd</sup> and S in both directions, often ignoring the stop sign and or speed excessively before slamming on their brakes closer to the stop sign. They fail to come to a complete stop where residents are using crosswalks.
- Pedestrians, often parents with children, and dog walkers have a difficult time crossing streets safely when accessing Montrose Park, Lover's Lane, Rose Park or returning to and from these public parks, other businesses and recreational centers along P, R Streets. They cross with trepidation, looking left, right, and showing reticence and concern that at any moment they can be accidentally struck by vehicles coasting through intersections.

- This is particularly troublesome at the intersections of P Street NW and Rock Creek Parkway, 26th St NW and P St NW, 30<sup>th</sup> St NW and R St NW, 29<sup>th</sup> St NW and R St NW and 28<sup>th</sup> St NW and R St NW.
- Pedestrians on R Street do not have adequate access to cross R St NW between the 3100 and 3000 block.
- Signs are not always visible to drivers where they should be, and some are obstructed by trees.
- Signs indicating the maximum speed of these blocks were sparse or non-existent and therefore complicates proper enforcement.

**Whereas:** During these walks, residents also discussed with our knowledgeable and helpful DDOT Liaison that:

- Drivers speed at a more alarming rate in the evening, at over 30 mph and run stop signs. For example, residents often hear loud engines revving and the sound of the loud muffler and or engine quickly fade away after the cars zoom past their homes.
- A July incident at Oak Hill Cemetery Entrance (corner of 28<sup>th</sup> St NW and R St NW) occurred where a portion of existing original and historic solid brick entrance was stricken and iron fencing taken down. An article from The Georgetowner provides additional photos and background. (Note that the photos shown in the article from behind the gates give a clearer perspective of how easy vehicles can speed and run stop signs along the R Street corridor, just like this vehicle did late in the evening as it lost control at the corner.  
<https://georgetowner.com/articles/2024/08/05/oak-hill-cemetery-gate-crasher-apprehended/>)
- Residents often hear and witness drivers and pedestrians curse or yell at each other when near misses occur.
- R Street residents wish to add one new crosswalk to better access the public park entrance from Lover's Lane; and we identified a potential location at 3052 R Street NW.
- Traffic will increase over time as driving apps continue to direct and reroute vehicles through residential streets to bypass congestion. Vehicles parking on these blocks have already been damaged on a frequent basis, and more must be done to execute impactful traffic calming mechanisms before residents get seriously injured.

**Whereas:** In addition to dialogues that occurred during community walks, other residents on the 3200 block of S Street NW who could not join public walks and meetings have reported excessive speeding on the 3200 block of S Street NW, dangerous crossings at the corner of Wisconsin Avenue NW and S Street NW, at the entrance of Jelleff recreational center on the 3200 block of S St NW, and vehicles turning the corner at dangerous speed at the corner of 32<sup>nd</sup> St NW and S St NW.

Residents on the 2500 block of Q Street NW have also reported excessive speeding, and these concerns have been shared with DDOT and all incidents have been logged multiple times in DDOT's TSI system by multiple residents, for months and years.

***Whereas:*** Residents and our ANC Commissioners appreciate and commend our Ward 2 DDOT Liaison; we appreciate the time spent walking the blocks to identify these safety concerns with our residents and helping us enter numerous requests in DDOT's TSI dashboard. Residents continue to spend time entering their safety improvement requests into DDOT's TSI dashboard. However, the safety incidents cited above demand attention now and we wish not to wait months or years for DDOT to randomly study a select one or very few TSIs inputted and ultimately not implement measures. Changes are long overdue to promote and ensure safety.

***Now, therefore be it resolved:***

ANC2E recommends DDOT implement the following improvements that have been previously flagged and discussed during multiple community walks, meetings, discussions and after multiple TSI inputs.

For the....

### **P Street Corridor**

#### **2300 block of P Street NW:**

- Install a permanent speed limit sign
- Install speed cameras mid-block

#### **P and Rock Creek Park Intersection (btw 2300/2400 block of P Street NW):**

- Install stop sign cameras
- Install the surface traffic calming solutions below:
  - Wider crosswalk paint jobs
  - On ground flashing reflectors
  - Install rumble strips
  - Add "Stop here" with arrow pointed on ground sign accompanied by clear on ground stop white striping for drivers (see southern side for intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> and E Street SE for example)
  - Study whether parking spaces can be added (maybe 2-3 more) between the intersection, westward, on the south side of P to discourage drivers from speeding up towards the intersection when driving eastward on P towards the intersection.



**2400-2500 block of P Street NW:**

- Install speed limit signs
- Install speed camera
- Install speed table (like those that exist elsewhere in DC close to schools and parks in residential areas and on a bus route- see 3000 block of Cathedral NW where two were installed within the past two years. Like P Street NW, this 3000 block is also on a bus route.)

**2600-2700 block of P Street NW:**

- Install speed limit sign
- Install stop sign camera at 28<sup>th</sup> St NW and P St NW

**Q Street Corridor**

**2500 block of Q Street NW:**

- Install an additional speed limit sign
- Install speed cameras mid-block

**28<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor**

**Corner of 28<sup>th</sup> and R Street NW:**

- Install speed bump due south of the stop signs at 28<sup>th</sup> (1600 block)
- Restripe Crosswalk

**1300, 1400, 1500 Blocks of 28<sup>th</sup> St NW:**

- Install a speed bump on each block

**R Street Corridor**

**Corner of 29<sup>th</sup> and R Street NW:**

- Install a stop sign camera

**Corner of Avon and R Street NW:**

- Increase visibility of stop sign

**3000 block of R Street NW:**

- Install a crosswalk at 3025 R for residents to have better access to park and safe crossing

**S Street Corridor**

### **Corner of 32<sup>nd</sup> and S Street NW**

- Install speed bump on 32<sup>nd</sup> between R and S

### **3200 Block of S Street NW**

- Install two speed tables and/or speed camera
- Install another speed limit sign

ANC 2E acknowledges that these measures should not impact surrounding streets, and therefore we ask that calming measures, including speed bumps, be added to Olive along off of 28th Street NW, up to Rose Park, and 27th Street NW.

ANC 2E respectfully requests the swift implementation in 2025 of these traffic calming measures to mitigate dangerous speeding incidents that are occurring. These incidents have already damaged a nationally renowned historic property, and numerous vehicles parked along these corridors. They continue to create serious safety risks for pedestrians and all users. We and our neighbors remain committed to sharing our observations and are available to provide additional information as needed.

### **Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board- 9:00 pm**

#### **Application by Baku Caviar USA Boutique LLC for Retainer's Class "C" Tavern at 1855 Wisconsin Avenue NW (ABRA- 129836) (2E07)- 9:00 pm**

Commissioner Chao moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Lindner seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E protests the new application of Baku Caviar USA Boutique. This protest is based on concerns regarding peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood. ANC 2E agrees to withdraw the protest when a satisfactory settlement agreement is executed by the ANC and the applicant and presented to the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board for approval. ANC 2E is delighted to work with this applicant as they prepare to offer customers and the community the opportunity to participate in caviar tastings, the store's specialty, paired with select liquors and wines. These pairings will occur in an environment that is refined, distinguished, and intellectually enriching, allowing the business to impart knowledge about caviar and provide technical insights regarding the liquors and wines served.

ANC 2E supports any stipulated license that the Applicant submits to ABCA. ANC 2E authorizes Commissioners Gwendolyn Lohse or Daniel Chao to sign the settlement agreement with the applicant. The ANC also authorizes Anna Noakes, the ANC's Executive Director, to represent the ANC at all related hearings regarding the application.

Application by Georgetown Wellness Dispensary for a Medical Cannabis Retailer at 2801M Street NW (ABRA-128852) (2E06)- 9:07 pm

Commissioner Lohse moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Maysak seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E protests the new application of Georgetown Wellness Dispensary to become a Medical Cannabis Retailer at 2801 M Street NW. Again, this is a new applicant who was not in the space until recently and is applying for a Medical cannabis license. This protest is based on concerns regarding peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood as well as other concerns. Specifically, ANC 2E wants ABCA to understand that several constituents have approach the ANC Commissioner for this location regarding how this cannabis shop is already selling cannabis product and advertising on the sidewalks (via sandwich boards, which are not legal in Georgetown, and a staff member speaking with pedestrians passing by the shop) prior to ABCA licensing. Moreover, there are community questions about whether the space is zoned for retail, or only for office.

ANC 2E will withdraw the protest when a satisfactory settlement agreement is executed by the ANC and the applicant and presented to the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board for Approval.

ANC 2E wishes to reiterate to ABCA concerns regarding the number of Medical Cannabis retailers receiving licenses on top of the many illegal, unlicensed shops that still are in business. These are shops that offer a “gift” of cannabis with a purchase of another item, such as a t-shirt or a sticker. ANC 2E hopes that ABCA will work harder and faster in assisting in the closing of these businesses, so that we can support those properly licensed.

ANC 2E authorizes Commissioner Gwendolyn Lohse to negotiate and execute a Settlement Agreement with the applicant. The ANC further authorizes ANC 2E Executive Director Anna Noakes, Commissioners Lohse and Lindner to represent the ANC at all hearings related to this matter.


Adjournment- 9:34 pm

Chair Lohse adjourned the meeting at 9:34 pm.

*Prepared by: Commissioner Knox Graham (2E08), Secretary*

*Approved on: February 3, 2025*

*Attested by:*

  
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