



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 9th, 2025; 7:00 p.m.

In-Person – St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 1830 Connecticut Avenue NW

Online via Zoom –

Call to Order and Election of Officers

Chair Feld called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Establishment of Quorum

Commissioners Robyn Lipton (2D01) and Carole Feld (2D02) were present, establishing a quorum.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Feld moved to approve the ANC's meeting agenda. Commissioner Lipton seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Approval of May 2025 Meeting Minutes

Chair Feld moved to approve ANC's May 2025 meeting minutes. Commissioner Lipton seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Administrative and Financial Matters

Commissioner's Comments

Chair Feld thanked Peter Sacco, St. Margaret's, especially John Bello for their community service. She recognized and thanked community advocates for their work on the Residential Tranquility Amendment Act of 2025. Chair Feld also recognized and thanked VP Debbi Rider and her fellow members of the board of the Spanish Steps Preservation Project and Endowment Fund including David Bender, Holly Sukenik, David Deckelbaum, Joyce O'Brien, Susan Galbraith and Randolph Adams for their exemplary volunteer work over the years on the Spanish Steps and its recent repairs and renovations and a gave a special thank you to her fellow Commissioner Robyn Lipton for her service.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Lipton said that the current balance for the ANC's checking bank account is \$19,029.58. Received govt. allotment of \$939.20. No significant activity except for \$17.22 interest in the month of March with no expenses.

Government Reports

Chair Feld thanked our Govt. Liaisons for their time and support.

Councilmember's Office

Hannah Ames, Constituent Services Coordinator of Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office attended the meeting and provided the following updates:

DC Budget:

- *FY 26 DC Budget process underway.*
- *Over \$1 billion in FY'25 taken incorrectly from our budget by Congress is still going on.*
- Monitoring Congressional budget bill especially cuts to Medicaid, grocery assistant benefits and other areas affecting DC residents.

The Residential Tranquility Amendment Act of 2025:

Markup is June 11. Prohibits using a sound amplified device to target a resident between 7pm-9am & prohibits using unattended sound amplified devices to target a resident in residentially zoned neighborhoods and throwing or launching projectiles at a residence to cause fear or harass or intimidate those living or working there.

Spanish Steps:

- Recognized DHS and neighborhood efforts in getting fountain up and running; encouraged all to visit

Events: Gave an update on events.

- *CM Pinto hosting a Ward 2 Residents Night out at the Nationals.* Can request up to 5 tickets if a Ward 2 resident to get free tickets.

Marie Drissel and Commissioner Feld asked Ms. Ames to get back to us on the exact timing of the mark up on June 11. *Chair Feld thanked Hannah Ames on behalf of Commissioner Lipton and herself. Also asked if changes we requested to the involving clarifying the definition of "unattended," and include targeting nonresidents in close proximity of residents.*

Office of Racial Equity for the Government of the District of Columbia

Dr. Amber A. Hewitt, Chief Equity Officer gave an update on the FY'26 budget to answer questions about the budget and the mayor's growth agenda.

She thanked **Tadia "Ty" Abilla ANC2D's Ward 2 representative (for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS))** for her help on her presentation and showed a PowerPoint that highlighted Ward 2 investments and the mayor's priorities which included cutting red tape and reducing barriers to growth. Priorities included: *Doubling down on business incentive investments*, i.e. bringing back the Commanders to DC and the renovation of the Capitol One arena. Also, *the Rental Act* proposes reforms to the TOPA law --preserving affordable housing and streamlining processes for evictions. Finally, *repealing the Tip Wage Law, and establishing sales tax holidays* for residents.

Also includes money to renovate public schools, approve pedestrian and bicycle safety, money build a new senior wellness center in Ward 2 and others.

There was discussion about the Senior Wellness Center and the timing of public comment along with other issues. Hannah Ames who is part of the Senior Center Taskforce mentioned that the public comment hearings would be June 24 4:30 in-person town hall, Cleveland Park library and June 25 at 1:00 pm virtually. Using the townhalls to get a better idea what people want to see, and then will be looking at locations and thinking about using the site also for LGBTQ housing. There will be One wellness center for Ward 2 and one for Ward 3. Now trying to decide location and programming

- Commissioner Lipton asked about the loophole in getting some of the money that Congress took out of the DC budget and if that money would be used for the next revenue cycle. Dr. Hewitt said they are still working on

this issue. Commissioner Feld asked about the continuation of funding for the Arts and Humanities, Dr. Hewitt stated she would get back to us on that. Commissioner Lipton asked if DC was putting together programs to help federal workers who lost their jobs find new jobs. Dr. Hewitt said she would need to get back to us on any assistance programs. There was also conversation about the use of vacant lots to generate economic activity. Commissioner Feld thanked Dr. Hewitt and **Tadia “Ty” Abilla** on *behalf of Comm. Lipton and herself*.

Metropolitan Police Department

Lt. Alexis Sakulich, Metropolitan Police Department, representative for the Metropolitan Police Department’s (MPD) Second District reported on crime and other safety issues.

- *ANC2D Thirty -day Crime report:* Zero reported crimes in the last thirty days. However, have seen an increase in bicycle, package and e-scooter thefts. Recommended people use the U-locks instead of the cable locks.
- Commissioner Lipton mentioned that her neighbor had a package theft a few weeks ago, and asked if it happens from single homes, should they report them? Lt. Sakulich, said especially with Amazon, people tend not to report because Amazon will refund and redeliver. Also mentioned that there are Amazon locker locations nearby. Can have the packages delivered there.
- *Chair Feld thanked Lt. Sakulich on behalf of Comm. Lipton and herself for her service.*

Update on DC Board of Education issues, from Ward 2 Rep on the Board of Education

Rep. Allister Chang , Allister.chang@dc.gov, Nalee Kim, admin@allisterchang.net

Rep. Chang flagged his top priorities: 1. Ward 2 families looking for more rigorous course options in middle school and high school—please contact Rep Chang to testify at an upcoming public meeting; 2. Literacy --70% are not reading at grade level; though in Ward 2 has on avg. 90% score but in Ward 2 could be as low as 10%; 3. First year teacher training and support is another focus. Asked people to fill out his survey which was dropped in the link in the chat.

Congressional Update

Representative Adeoye “Oye” Owolewa, DC Representative to the US Congress email: office@repyedc.com

Rep. Oye talked about the DC budget and preserving DC Medicaid. Would see 25,000 residents lose their Medicaid in the Mayor’s budget. That means losing access to healthcare and the ability to pay for health services. He’s the US representative for DC. He talked about his differences between him and Congresswoman Norton, including an office and staffers and how they are both fighting for DC to have full control over our own resources and how he is the only DC healthcare worker in the Council/DC Congress.

He also discussed providing services to Federal workers who were affected by layoffs and his efforts to bring someone to DC to hire workers.

Marie Drissel asked why the DC hospitals aren’t advocating against cuts to Medicaid in the proposed Mayor’s budget that reduces potential reimbursement rates for hospitals and physicians and remove people 21 years and older from the DC healthcare alliance. Rep. Oye mentioned how the cuts can adversely affect low-income families, and they may have to forfeit their single source of wealth-- their homes. 2/3 of bankruptcies are based on medical debt. He stressed the importance of having insurance.

Comm. Lipton asked the number one thing they should do to preserve cuts to Medicaid. Comm. Feld asked for the three messages re: preserving healthcare which Rep. Oye said were: 1) maintain the 25,000 keep on Medicaid, 2) Don’t bump folks 21 and over off DC health alliance Medicaid lines; 3) Maintain reimbursement rates for healthcare workers. In terms of what to do, Rep. Oye said they should testify. He offered his phone number if anyone wants to get in touch. 202-390-9480.

Traffic Safety Input (TSI) Updates from the District Department of Transportation

Christophe Wassmer, the Ward 2 Community Engagement Specialist for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), gave an overview Traffic Safety Input (TSI) Updates and other issues from the District Department of Transportation including:

- Comm. Feld mentioned that Christophe has both Ward 2 and 3 now as part of his purview
- *Traffic Advisory for Connecticut Ave DC Streetscape*: Median between S and Calif. Street. Sidewalk construction and street work in the early fall.
- *Callbox Update 24th and Mass. Avenue*: Successful handoff to our vendor, coordinating on timeline.
- *Sheridan Circle Medians*: DDOT, Office of the Director and Stormwater Management Team joined Restore Mass Ave (Deborah Shapley and John Buntin): Did weeding at the Sheridan Circle medians. Weeds were out of control and blocking some of the sightlines and it is now clear. Commissioner Feld also mentioned that now we can get the fountain going.
- *Comm. Feld also asked for an email update on the signs that need to be replaced etc.*
- *Chair Feld thanked Christophe Wassmer on behalf of Comm. Lipton and herself for his support and recognized that DDOT has more ANC 2D projects/issues than any other govt. agency.*
- Question: How will the parade next weekend impact city streets? Christophe, couldn't say for certain, but knows that the Mayor requested that the Feds pay for any damage to the streets

New Business/Old Business

DC Water Main Replacement Project update.

John Ingle, Construction Manager, john.ingle@dcwater.com, Sean Moore, sean.moore@dc water.com (virtually), Darren Siegmeister (in person). Andrew Donnelly Andrew.Donnelly@dcwater.com, project manager (in person).

For Water Main Replacement Updates, email: Lead@dcwater.com or email John Ingle or Andrew Donnelly on construction or opportunities re: replacing lead water mains. If not, call DC Water hotline: 202-787-4044. Sean Moore indicated that everyone on specific blocks where replacement is urgent should be getting emails. Andrew Donnelly took people through a presentation re: the replacement of the lead pipes and encouraged people to sign up to get the replacement free of charge; it will depend on if your watermain needs replacement.

- The DC Water Construction dashboard shows where water mains will be replaced.
DCWater.com/lead is where to find the dashboard. Andrew reviewed different areas where the water main installations will take place concurrently, compressing the schedule to four months.
- There was discussion on how this water main project would affect the DC Deckover Project on Connecticut Avenue and potential traffic issues.

Application for new signage at St Margaret's Episcopal Church, 1830 Connecticut Avenue, tracking no. 466744

,

Laura Mercier

Laura@econosigninc.com (virtually).

Laura shared the two new signs; one at Connecticut and the other at the corner of Connecticut and Bancroft. The signs are not illuminated. Have already gotten approval from other agencies, just checking in with the ANC. Won't take long for installation. Commissioner Feld moved to approve the new signage. Commissioner Lipton seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Chair Feld expressed the ANC and community's gratitude to St. Margaret's for hosting the ANC meetings and indicated we were happy to support their application.

Update on Kalorama Market Loading Zone Application,

Daniel Pettita kalorama.market@gmail.com, owner Kalorama Market was supposed to attend, but did not due to a miscommunication re: his attendance.

Comm. Lipton gave an update indicating that the Kalorama Market was re-opened by Daniel Pettita and his wife and mentioned that the market is an asset for the community. The big problem is there are no places for delivery trucks and there are 5 deliveries a day/ 5 days a week. He has requested a loading zone immediately in front of the Kalorama Market on Calif. Street/at the Intersection of Phelps directly in front of the market. Would take up 2-3 parking spots.

NOI notice # 25-157-TOA was given on June 5 from DDOT Re: Relocated Commercial Loading Zone for Kalorama Market 2160 California Street NW. The notice mentioned that DDOT intends to relocate a commercial loading zone on the 2100 Block of California Street NW to be in front of the Kalorama Market. A 'No Parking Entrance' zone will replace the existing loading zone in front of the 'Ora' building, and additional Zone 1 RPP spaces will be signed on Phelps PI NW. **NOTE: THIS SHOULD BE ZONE 2 NOT ZONE 1.** DDOT has received feedback from the community that there is congestion, and vehicles do not have access to curb spaces for deliveries adjacent to Kalorama Market on the 2100 Block of California Street NW.

To remedy this, DDOT intends to relocate the existing loading zone in front of the Ora Building at 2144 California Street to be in front of Kalorama Market. DDOT will replace the Ora's loading zone with a 'No Parking Entrance,' to keep that building's curb clear for users. DDOT will also sign additional RPP spaces on Phelps PI NW. The loading zone will be in operation from 8am – 5pm, Mon – Fri with a 2-Hour limit.

Comm. Lipton mentioned that we want to support small businesses in the community, and he and his wife live in our ANC. People can indicate if they support/have a problem and then DDOT will ultimately install it.

Spanish Steps Wedding Ceremony on August 1st, 2025 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. (ANC Sheet for Spanish Steps Activity—ask Fund?) at 1725 22nd St. NW, WDC, 20008

Commissioner Feld moved to approve the application. Comm. Lipton seconded. We wished them a very happy life together and thanked the Spanish Steps Preservation Project and Endowment Fund in advance as they come after the event and clean up any refuse that people leave.

Updates

Announcements and Open Comment

Betty Kotcher Callbox Restoration update—gave update during the DDOT discussion above. Asked about if DDOT has original artwork, or does new artwork created. Christophe said they are restoring the call box and getting the colors correct. He indicated that it would be too complicated to fund the artwork for the callbox. Betty gave background on the callbox project and mentioned that 7 of the boxes were restored; 2 boxes had new artwork. *Woman of Influence* will feature Francis Perkins, first female cabinet member, Eleanor Roosevelt and Sandra Day O'Connor, prominent women who lived in this neighborhood. The other call box artwork will feature the Taft bridge, very important in letting the city expand northward. And now the third one being restored on Mass Ave and will need new artwork created for it. Asked for donations for all the work being done, brought brochures, and opportunities to make contributions. Currently can't contribute on the website which will be re-done soon. Please write a check to: Sheridan-Kalorama Callbox Restoration Project, Mail to Holly Sukenik 2401 Tracy Place NW, WDC, 20008.

Conor Wolchesky, President, Friends of Mitchell Park update--talked about the Film in the Field Series this summer, and a magician coming to the park. He also mentioned two projects—with DPR and DGS, lights that run along the walkway between Bancroft and S Street, and an Irrigation system that lost pressure due to city construction issues when ramps were being installed.

Date of Next Meeting

Chair Feld said that the ANC's next meeting will take place on Monday September 8th, 2025, at 7:00 pm at St. Margaret's and via zoom and wished everyone a wonderful summer.

Adjournment

Chair Feld adjourned the meeting at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Feld, ANC 2D Chair and Secretary.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carole A. Feld". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'C' and a stylized 'F'.