

2025

Annual Report

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A



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ANC 1A ACTIVITIES AND KEY ISSUES IN 2025

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A, through the efforts of its commissioners and committees, addressed a wide range of issues that affected our community by working closely with both government partners and neighbors. ANC 1A's activities, including many that resulted in letters and resolutions approved by the commission in 2025, reflect a deep understanding of and willingness to address these issues. This section summarizes the top issues discussed and voted on by the Commission this year.

Education, Youth, and Families

The ANC 1A **Education, Youth, and Family (EYF) Committee** convened monthly public meetings in 2025, collaborating closely with community partners, DCPS, DCPCS, DME, OSSE, DBH, DPR, and CBOs, while elevating urgent needs created by diminished family benefits, limited language access, transportation barriers, and escalating fear among immigrant families.

This year's work was shaped significantly by community testimony and agency feedback gathered at Committee meetings and from direct engagement with residents through networks of where families and partners emphasized:

- Pervasive fear of ICE activity and distrust of MPD
- Rising mental-health crises resulting from the current administration's actions and a lack of/need for culturally responsive, Spanish-language services
- Instability in access to health care caused by the DC Healthcare Alliance recertification requirements
- The importance of community-based supports, peer networks, and safe passage strategies.

Major Areas of Work - Summary

ANC 1A's EYF Committee worked across several areas, including budget advocacy, support for our immigrant community, family supports, and youth programming (see next section for details on resolutions and letters approved by the Commission in 2025):

- **Budget Advocacy (FY2026):** Identified and submitted testimony and requests to fill gaps in SPED, CTE pathways, OSA staffing, OST, Healthcare Alliance/Medicaid, youth homelessness, AFE, DPR urban-garden staffing, SNAP/TANF, HIV prevention, and Safe Passage public-safety investments. Priorities included restoring SNAP/TANF; increasing SPED staffing, OSA FTEs, and CTE access; protecting AFE (The Family Place, LAYC, YouthBuild); adding DPR Urban Garden FTEs (Powell Communal Farm); restoring LGBTQ+ youth homelessness funding; and reversing cuts to Medicaid, the Alliance, HIV prevention, and the Immigrant Children's Program.
- **LGBTQ+ Youth Health & World Pride 2025:** Supported LGBTQ+ youth health and housing lines in budget letters; backed youth arts/performance programming tied to World Pride to expand inclusive engagement.

- Supported equitable expansion of PKEEP seats and funding formulas that prioritize wards with higher child poverty; urged OSSE to report enrollment and access data by ward and provider type to target outreach and seat growth where gaps persist.
- **Community & Partner Meetings:** In January, the Committee hosted the Ward 1 Youth Safety & Collaboration convening (DCPS/DCPCS leaders, ANCs, youth-serving orgs) with guests from DMPSJ, MPD School Safety, and Learn24 to map priority corridors, clarify roles, and outline quick fixes toward a coordinated student-safety ecosystem. In September, we held a Ward-wide listening session (with Spanish interpretation and live captioning) with ANCs, school leaders, and Council/DME/DCPS/DBH focused on school climate, immigrant safety, and ICE-related attendance impacts. Together, these convenings shaped FY27 advocacy on school safety, Safe Passage, and cross-agency resource coordination.
- **Coalitions & Citywide Partnerships:** The Committee will continue participating in budget coalitions that unite diverse community interests to coordinate advocacy, strengthen testimony, and ensure shared priorities have greater impact. As a member of UDC's Ward Advisory Council (WAC), the Chair also helps connect neighborhood perspectives to citywide planning and research. In addition, the Chair is engaging with the DC Food Policy Council's ANC listening sessions to build a regular dialogue on food-system challenges and opportunities, linking school meals, urban agriculture, and food access to future policy and budget work.

Ongoing Work & Advocacy: Legislation & Comprehensive Plan

Building on the priorities above, the Committee will track and support legislation, prepare residents for oversight/budget hearings, and position our community for the next Comprehensive Plan update. This includes championing Universal School Meals, pressing DC Healthcare Alliance reforms (12-month renewals, virtual/phone options, stronger language access), expanding Spanish-language school-based MH capacity, and reimagining Safe Passage with Out-of-School-Time partners (e.g., Dance Institute of Washington, 826DC) so students are supported not only at dismissal but as they travel to and from enrichment. The Committee will ensure these same priorities shape long-term decisions about schools, public spaces, and services through support of the FY 2027 budget, legislation, and the pending Comprehensive Plan through the following:

- Community outreach & engagement: gather ward priorities around access, safety, and shared-use spaces through trusted school/CBO partners.
- Interagency collaboration: work with OP, DME, and CBOs to align data and research that inform inclusive recommendations.
- Training & capacity building: offer testimony-prep (budget literacy, data framing, tying stories to agency metrics) so families and youth influence hearings and plan updates.

Together, these actions connect ANC 1A's near-term advocacy, such as expanding access to meals, healthcare, mental health, and Safe Passage 2.0, to long-term planning. This will guide and lay the groundwork for the Commission's formal feedback on the Comprehensive Plan and

ensure future growth in Columbia Heights reflects the daily realities of families, youth, and schools. The Committee remains steadfast in centering its work on those most vulnerable and furthest from access and opportunity, continuing to advance a *whole-child, whole-family, whole-community* approach to our mission.

Housing and Zoning

In 2025, the ANC 1A Housing & Zoning Committee advanced a proactive, community-centered agenda focused on housing justice, transparent development review, and meaningful public engagement in citywide planning and legislative processes.

The committee established clear annual priorities in March, emphasizing stronger coordination with other ANCs, deeper engagement with the DC 2050 Comprehensive Plan, and revitalization of the Tenant Resource Fair. Throughout the year, members worked to rebuild institutional knowledge, strengthen multilingual and accessible tenant outreach, and explore new partnerships, including tabling at local markets and connecting with tenant unions and building management to expand reach.

The committee played an active role in long-term planning discussions by hosting Office of Planning presentations on the DC 2050 Comprehensive Plan and sharing information about OP open houses and DHCD Ward 1 listening sessions. Members consistently worked to ensure resident access to planning processes and highlighted the importance of visual, multilingual, and user-friendly public materials.

Development oversight remained a core function. The committee reviewed presentations from Sullivan & Barros (1332 Harvard St. NW) and Carballo Architecture (1327 Girard St. NW), raising concerns around affordability, community outreach, and excessive parking. Developers committed to returning with revisions that increased housing and reduced car dependence.

The committee also monitored major legislative issues, particularly the RENTAL Act, analyzing its potential impacts on ERAP and TOPA. Members coordinated with tenant organizers, tracked delays in Council referral, and discussed strategies for elevating Ward 1 concerns to decision-makers.

By fall, the committee expanded its focus to zoning reform through the Alley Homes Campaign, reviewing OP's proposed code updates and exploring whether ANC 1A should formally support aligned changes before BOZ's November hearing.

Overall, the Housing & Zoning Committee's 2025 work strengthened tenant outreach, increased community participation in development and planning issues, and positioned ANC 1A as an active contributor to citywide conversations about housing, zoning, and the District's long-term future.

Neighborhood Planning & Community Development

Since its formal establishment in October 2023, the [Permanent Special Committee on Public Life & Neighborhood Planning](#) (“SCPL”) has served as ANC 1A’s strategic vehicle for guiding neighborhood-wide planning, public space assessment, neighbor outreach and engagement, and community development to chart an integrated, long-range, data-informed vision for Columbia Heights that is constantly refined with community-centered input. The Committee operates under its enabling resolution adopted by the Commission, as amended September 11, 2024, and is charged with, among other mandates, “oversight of and continuing studies of all matters pertaining to ... the management, development, and preservation of public spaces and neighborhood life” within the boundaries of Columbia Heights.” SCPL’s focus is to advance a thriving Columbia Heights through integrated, community-based planning and proactive public life enhancements. The Committee, chaired by Single-Member District 1A06 Commissioner Anthony Thomas-Davis, envisions a neighborhood that is “vibrant, diverse, equitable, inclusive, accessible, welcoming, connected, clean, safe, sustainable, and resilient,” where residents and visitors alike feel a strong sense of belonging.

Over the 2024-2025 period, the Committee transitioned from a body of inquiry to a instrument for oversight, policy development, and community engagement. The Committee’s work focused on bridging the gap between District agencies and neighborhood realities and ensuring that the Columbia Heights-Mount Pleasant Public Life Study (“PLS”) reflects the true needs of residents and the local economy. The Committee zeroed in on finding solutions to the vending management issues plaguing the public realm and hampering business activity. Guided by constant stakeholder outreach, SCPL aligns its work with community goals that feed into unifying vision, ensuring neighborhood plans and their implementation reflect shared values and long-term priorities. SCPL established several subcommittees and taskforces or working groups to support its work, including a subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, subcommittee on Neighborhood Branding & Design, and a task force on Senior Resources and Age-Friendly Communities. This structure enables SCPL to tackle a broad array of concerns — from immediate public space maintenance to long-term neighborhood, planning, design, and identity — with an organized, community-oriented approach. The committee aims to continue with this structure during the two-year commission period and has seen success over the previous calendar year.

SCPL has met regularly since its inception, with official minutes, recordings, and agendas publicly posted on the Commission’s website. Through these meetings, publicly posted agendas, and published minutes, transcripts, and recordings, SCPL has established transparent, accessible committee-level processes and created a framework for ongoing resident and stakeholder engagement and institutional memory. At meetings, SCPL has addressed a variety of topics, including: (1) Updates on the PLS and initial findings and draft recommendations by District Office of Planning; (2) Collaboration with other Commission committees (*e.g.*, the Committees on Transportation, Small Business & Economic Development) on cross-cutting

matters such as vending zone management and streateries, offering opportunities for formal comments from these committees; and (3) Identifying early-stage community engagement strategies for the Comprehensive Plan rewrite, spearheaded by the Office of Planning as the DC 2050 initiative,¹ in concert with relevant committees to host workshops and listening sessions to gather input.

SCPL ensures that public life and neighborhood planning matters that come before the full commission remain integrated, proactive, and accountable — bridging resident input and agency action. Over the past calendar year, SCPL has undertaken a series of substantive actions and advanced multiple initiatives, engaged in community outreach and collaborative efforts, and laid the groundwork for long-term public realm and neighborhood planning. Below are major highlights and actions:

Continued Coordination of the Columbia Heights–Mt. Pleasant Public Life Study

The 2024 launch of the Columbia Heights–Mt. Pleasant Public Life Study² (“PLS” by the DC Office of Planning (“OP”) catalyzed SCPL’s formation.³ Since then, SCPL has positioned itself as the community’s voice and coordinator for ensuring the study reflects local conditions, concerns, and aspirations. Much of that work centered around community outreach for related engagement sessions and workshops, working with residents and other neighborhood stakeholders to appropriately express their concerns to OP, gathering priorities and visions for public use and public realm changes, inclusive streetscape design, and overall maintenance and investment in the public realm for greater community and economic development. All this work was intended to provide a grassroots counterbalance to top-down planning efforts, even with OP’s willingness to be a close partner with the Commission throughout the study. One key point of contention that the committee remains focused on is whether the PLS moved beyond “renovation” concepts toward a “reimagining” of the public realm, which the SCPL specifically advocated for, including a holistic redesign of the Civic Plaza and surrounding green spaces.

SCPL has not only monitored the progress of the PLS but prepared to evaluate implementation of its findings — including identifying funding opportunities for capital improvements and maintenance, in concert with OP, the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (“DMPED”), Department of General Services (“DGS”) and other key government partners. In anticipation of the final study release in late 2025, the Committee laid the groundwork for an inter-agency implementation plan to prevent the study from becoming a shelf document, with the Commission working with the Council to secure commitments for a \$500,000 investment in

¹ Office of Planning, “DC 2050, A Plan for All 8 Wards”, <https://dc2050.dc.gov/>.

² District of Columbia Office of Planning, “Columbia Heights and Mt. Pleasant Public Life Study,” <https://engage.dc.gov/B12816> (last visited November 30, 2025).

³ A Resolution Establishing A Special Committee on Public Life Columbia Heights, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A (November 8, 2023), https://dgcovict-my.sharepoint.com/:b/g/personal/1a_anc_dc_gov/IQBrhbROW2WjQ5QZcsav_kVVATlvio9NzhZCcu_TfikpC0k?e=x49aZA.

FY26 for early implementation. Like its predecessor plan, the 2004 Columbia Heights Public Realm Framework" (which was informed by the "1997 Community-Based Plan for the Columbia Heights Metro Station Area"), the success of this plan requires deliberate, ongoing efforts to operationalize, invest in, and strategically implement the findings and recommendations. The Committee will continue its works to advance recommendations to the Commission focused on oversight and interagency collaboration and budget negotiation to ensure short- and long-term funding – operating and capital – can be devoted to long-term solutions and infrastructure based on the study.

Importantly, the Committee remains focused on reviewing other earlier neighborhood-planning documents — such as the Columbia Heights Neighborhood Investment Fund Plan (2008), the Central 14th Street Vision Plan and Revitalization Strategy (2012), among others — to re-evaluate those findings and recommendations, understand what has changed since their publication, identify what worked with their implementation and didn't, as well as what findings were not enacted or operationalized, and integrate any discernable conclusions into current and future neighborhood planning initiatives, including a new retail action strategy that integrates findings from the PLS that improve the vibrancy of our neighborhood economy and the District's financial health.

Continued Focus on Public Realm Oversight

The committee's focus remains on comprehensively improving how people—residents and visitors alike—experience public space throughout Columbia Heights. As a vibrant, dense, ever-bustling neighborhood with many diverse communities, the committee recognizes that everyone wants to experience what the public realm offers in different ways. The committee works to enable this by creating and sustaining an environment with the proper social infrastructure and planning to deliver a world-class urban public square for all.

On September 5, 2024, SCPL, under the chairmanship of Commissioner Thomas-Davis, held a [public hearing](#) (in person and via Zoom) on "Management of the Columbia Heights Civic Plaza," drawing testimony from community members, stakeholders, and District government officials. The hearing explored the main public square in Columbia Heights, the Civic Plaza. SCPL's goal was to identify gaps in service, determine agency responsibility, and establish a framework for continuous follow-up and accountability. The hearing unearthed a number of chronic challenges but also several key opportunities, and following the hearing, the Commission unanimously adopted the official Hearing Record and a set of recommendations⁴ urging District agencies — including the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Department of General Services (DGS), Department of Public Works (DPW), and the Office of Planning — to take

⁴ Hearing Record, Public Hearing on Management of the Columbia Heights Civic Plaza, Special Committee on Public Life, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A, (September 8, 2024), https://dcgovict-my.sharepoint.com/:b/g/personal/1a_anc_dc_gov/EWNEuoQrsdhDpL8mFnjNNh4Bc53_AEY1WAURkka71TukXw?e=J4V975.

decisive action on maintenance, cleaning, enforcement against nuisances, and long-term “placekeeping.”

Unfortunately, these District agencies have still failed to address these recommendations, despite repeated requests for service delivery to address them. The Committee has rigorously tracked capital improvements, specifically the \$750,000 appropriated in the FY2025 budget for renovation and repairs of the “Resonance Fountain,” which largely functions as a splash pad, as well as the 14th and Girard Street Park. Commissioner Thomas-Davis, whose single-member district includes Civic Plaza has transmitted several oversight letters seeking documents and information, receiving sparsely justifiable responses of inaction. DGS provided no justification for the incomplete repairs and patchwork fixes of the Resonance, nor why the 14th and Girard Street Park’s splash pad was never completed. DPR never responded, further demonstrating its failure of care for most of the parks and public space assets across Columbia Heights under its purview.

SCPL has positioned the Civic Plaza not merely as a passive public space but as a critical node of community life — one whose maintenance, design, and management directly correlate to quality of life, safety, economic activity, and neighborhood pride. This same philosophy is being applied to other parks and public space across the neighborhood commission area.⁵ The Committee intends to continue its focus on radically reimagining our parks, plazas, and other public spaces as a means to enhance quality of life and improve community outcomes that are linked to them, such as retaining long-term residents, attracting visitors and tourists, and supporting and advancing our local economy.

The Committee has also dedicated significant resources to monitoring the implementation of the Columbia Heights-Mount Pleasant Vending Zone. Since assuming public space into its purview at the start of 2025, the Committee identified severe gaps in the enforcement of the *Street Vendor Advancement Act of 2023*. Through meetings with the Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection (DLCP), which Commissioner Thomas-Davis held in July 2025, the Committee highlighted that despite the law’s implementation, unregulated vending continues to negatively impact brick-and-mortar businesses and pedestrian accessibility on 14th Street, NW, primarily along the 3200 block. The Committee is working with the Commission on review of pending legislation before the Council – B26-0370, the “Vending Compliance and Modernization Amendment Act of 2025,” introduced by Chairman Phil Mendelson at the request of the Mayor, and B26-0332, the “Vending Modernization Amendment Act of 2025,” introduced by Ward 1 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau – with plans to hold a public hearing and/or community listening sessions, aiming to provide the Commission with actionable recommendations that can inform substantive changes to these bills.

⁵ Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A, “Area Parks, Plazas, Recreation Centers, and Other Public Life Assets” (August 5, 2025), www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1hm6AbW7ABwOyECR_mmOCzWQliFcKeIc.

Relatedly, the Committee has monitored the District Department of Transportation's streatery program,⁶ particularly as it has transitioned from the COVID-era temporary program to a permanent one with new approved guidelines⁷ and proposed joint rulemaking with the Department of Buildings ("DOB").⁸ The Committee has regularly discussed business compliance under the temporary guidelines and the need for more stringent enforcement under new guidelines and regulations. Still, the Committee heard from numerous business owner about the challenges they've faced under the transition to the new, permanent program, including the associated costs for permitting and architectural design and the anticipated monthly costs to operate the streatery. The Committee has conveyed and received similar feedback from the Committee on Small Business and Economic Development ("SBED"), which has regularly offered comments on the matter to the Commission. SCPL is further examining the impacts of the 11th Street Bike Lane Project⁹ on the corridor and the streateries along it, with a resolution sent to the DDOT requesting more information about the project and impacts on streateries and other infrastructure. SCPL released a survey to small business owners on 11th Street inquiring about their understanding of the bike lane project and how they feel it will or won't disrupt streatery use. Overwhelmingly, many small business owners expressed concerns about the project and the lack of engagement or updated information from DDOT.¹⁰ The Committee will continue to monitor implementation of the permanent streatery program, and work in conjunction with the Committee on Transportation to assess implications associated with the bike lanes project, and with SBED ensuring that guidance is provided to small business owners requiring technical assistance and other support.

Engagement in the Comprehensive Plan DC 2050 Process

Given the District-wide rewrite of the Comprehensive Plan through the "DC 2050" initiative,¹¹ SCPL has assumed a leading role for ANC 1A per its enabling resolution and will organize community outreach and serving as a conduit for public review and comment in collaboration with single-member district Commissioners and the Commission's standing committees. The Committee is preparing to identify a process for drafting summaries, amendments, and redlines for elements most relevant to Columbia Heights, such as land use, public space, parks, transportation, growth, housing, and collect public feedback through online forms and public meetings once the plan drafts are made available from OP. In doing so, SCPL will ensure that Columbia Heights does not merely respond or react to top-down planning but actively shapes

⁶ District Department of Transportation, "Streateries", <https://publicspaceactivation.ddot.dc.gov/pages/streateries>.

⁷ District Department of Transportation, "Streatery Guidelines" (December 2024), <https://app.box.com/s/a8t90eowqqdigut4tdcm4kcg9zvh7xcu>.

⁸ District of Columbia Register, Volume 72, Number 18, "Transportation, District Department of - Notice of Proposed Joint Rulemaking - Amending 16 DCMR Ch. 43, etc. – Streateries" (May 2, 2025), <https://dcregs.dc.gov/Common/DCR/Issues/IssueCategoryList.aspx?CategoryID=14&IssueID=1137>.

⁹ District Department of Transportation, "Bike Lanes - 11th Street NW," <https://bikelanes.ddot.dc.gov/pages/11th-street-nw>.

¹⁰ Note: survey data available from Commissioner Anthony Thomas-Davis; email a request to 1A06@anc.dc.gov to receive it.

¹¹ *Supra* note 1.

how the neighborhood will evolve over the next 20+ years — balancing growth, equity, climate resiliency, environmental sustainability, and neighborhood and community cohesion.

Charting a forward-looking strategy for public life in Columbia Heights

Despite major challenges identified over the past year (that reflect years of inaction by the District government and will similarly require much time to correct), the efforts and work of SCPL reveal persistent issues that the Commission has acted, by resolution, to address, based either on its formal recommendations to the body or based on findings uncovered during its committee deliberations. Some key challenges have been consistently communicated by the Committee:

- ***Deferred maintenance and inadequate management of public space.*** The Civic Plaza remains plagued by sanitation problems (bird droppings, litter accumulation, grounds upkeep), mismanagement of amplified sound use, and inconsistent enforcement of rules. Other areas of the public realm similarly face the same challenges, and several park spaces are in a state of disrepair that limit their full use. District agencies must make an adequate level of investment in basic city services, or more strategically deploy those services, to address any resource constraints and implement sustainable maintenance of Columbia Heights public realm. Additional funding was requested in the FY2026 Budget for the Ward 1 Clean Team, which services the 14th Street NW corridor between Columbia Road NW and Spring Road NW, from the Department of Small and Local Business Development (“DSLBD”).
- ***Agency coordination and accountability gaps.*** Resident feedback shows frustration with slow or inconsistent responses from District agencies tasked with cleaning, maintenance, public space regulation enforcement, and capital improvements. This highlights systemic challenges in aligning multiple agencies — from DPW to DPR, DGS, DMPED, and OP — under a unified vision of “placekeeping.”
- ***Sustaining and increasing community engagement in neighborhood planning matters.*** With the PLS release and Comp Plan rewrite underway, SCPL will work to keep activated and interested residents engaged in planning processes, while identifying ways to provide more consistent resident and stakeholder involvement across long-term planning initiatives. Key to accomplishing this must be the District’s willingness to deliver information and resources when requested by the Commission, and to be a more direct partner in facilitating engagement and outreach for its own projects, rather than solely relying on Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to shoulder that burden alone.

Conclusion

Over the past year, the Permanent Special Committee on Public Life & Neighborhood Planning

has transformed from concept to action — anchoring neighborhood and community concerns about public life and community development into concrete processes, hearings, plans, and strategic vision. By centering resident voices, holding District agencies accountable, and working toward sustainable public-realm management, SCPL is shaping a Columbia Heights that is more equitable, livable, and resilient. As the 2025 Comprehensive Plan rewrite proceeds in earnest and new planning opportunities emerge, the Committee stands ready to guide, advocate, and deliver tangible results and recommendations to the Commission for residents, businesses, and visitors. The Committee will also continue to identify ways to recognize and promote the full spectrum of Columbia Heights' diverse history and culture. The Committee's work will remain guided by the understanding that successful neighborhood planning requires patience, partnership, and a willingness to engage deeply with complex issues. By maintaining its strategic focus on long-range, integrated planning, and its commitment to inclusive community engagement, SCPL will continue to shape a future for Columbia Heights that ensures its best days lie ahead.

Public Safety

The **Committee on Public Safety** maintained its focus on community outreach, coordination with relevant District agencies, and continued engagement with leadership in the Metropolitan Police Department's Third and Fourth District, which cover our area. These goals were made more difficult by decreased trust in MPD due to the increased federal intervention in the District and concerns that MPD's crime statistics might be intentionally misrepresentative. The full Commission recognized the importance of these issues. It responded with several resolutions demanding more transparency from MPD on the quality of its crime statistics, that the District urge its federal partners to identify themselves in public, and also called for the firing of two officers involved in the shooting Karon Hylton-Brown.

This year, the Committee fostered joint meetings between community members and violence interrupters to make VI's more responsive to their demands. In ANC 1A's budget letter, the Committee urged full funding be granted to the Department of Youth and Rehabilitative Services so it can offer better and more effective services to youth under its supervision. The Committee also held a joint gun prevention strategy forum with ANC 6B, which included experts on from St. Louis, Baltimore and other major metropolitan areas. This event led to the Commission sending a letter to both the DC Council and the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice calling for the District to implement a strategic plan to reduce gun violence.

Small Business and Economic Development

In 2025, the **Committee on Small Business & Economic Development Committee**, chaired by Commissioner Jeremy Sherman, and Commissioner Jaspal Bhatia serving as Vice Chair,

continued advancing projects and policy priorities aimed at strengthening Columbia Heights' commercial corridors, supporting local entrepreneurs, and addressing storefront vacancies.

- ***Business Licensing & Settlement Agreements:*** The committee coordinated and reviewed settlement agreements with several local businesses, including Land of a Thousand Hills Coffee (2601 14th St NW), Garden Hill Cannabis (3414 11th St NW), and Buho's Restaurant (3521 14th St NW), and ensuring that new and renewed agreements addressed community concerns around security, noise, and responsible operations
- ***Cannabis Licensing & Market Saturation:*** The committee served as a forum for discussion and debate about the growing concentration of medical cannabis retailers in Columbia Heights. Members noted that while additional businesses can contribute to activation and foot traffic, oversaturation could hinder long-term diversity and competitiveness, particularly as many dispensaries source from the same limited group of producers. The committee explored whether policy tools like license caps, geographic spacing, or parity with alcohol rules might improve market balance, but ultimately chose not to advance a formal resolution this year.
- ***Legislation and Policy Advocacy:*** The committee provided extensive feedback and drafted resolutions for the Commission's consideration on several major legislative and planning initiatives affecting local commerce.
 - This included the *Neighborhood Management Authority Act of 2025*, introduced by Councilmember Nadeau, which would establish a dedicated public-private entity to coordinate economic development, public space management, and safety services in Columbia Heights. The proposed authority would operate similarly to a Business Improvement District but with broader representation and dedicated public funding streams. Committee discussions emphasized inclusive governance, limits on board terms, equitable representation across the 14th Street core and 11th Street corridor, and clear transparency in financial oversight
 - The committee also advocated for improvements to the Vacant to Vibrant Amendment Act of 2025, now enacted into law, to strengthen enforcement against long-term vacancies and support adaptive reuse of empty storefronts
 - The committee is now working on ANC 1A's FY 2027 Budget Requests, calling for targeted investments in small-business technical assistance, commercial-corridor revitalization, and expanded support for the Columbia Heights Main Street program.
- ***Business Recruitment & Landing Page:*** A major 2025 initiative was the development of a Columbia Heights Small Business & Economic Development Landing Page, led by committee members Gui Almeida, Christina Ospina, and Andrew Hall. The site, now nearing completion, will feature a map-based directory of available retail spaces, neighborhood demographics & transit data, profiles of local businesses and events, and links to resources for prospective entrepreneurs
- ***Promotions & Community Activation:*** The committee continued to champion and promote creative approaches to increase foot traffic and neighborhood pride such as

“Heights Night”, a neighbor-driven effort encouraging residents to dine and shop locally every Tuesday, as well as city wide efforts like Dine All Night and DC Holiday Hunt.

- ***Streateries***: Throughout the year, the committee tracked DDOT’s transition to a Permanent Streatery Program, helping local restaurants navigate evolving permit requirements and advocating for clarity around debris-removal and enforcement deadlines. Committee members emphasized the need for equitable treatment of businesses and better coordination among DDOT, DPW, and the Main Street program.

Transportation

The ANC1A Committee on Transportation remains an active group of neighbors advocating for safe, clean and fast transportation for all residents of ANC1A.

In 2025, the Committee on Transportation:

1. Advocated for and supported the development of numerous pedestrian safety resolutions that advanced neighborhood priorities like:
 - Safe and accessible transit options for all Columbia Heights residents
 - Efficient multimodal transit including buses, bikes, scooters, metro and more
 - Effective traffic management
 - Crosswalk and sidewalk safety improvements
 - Roadway hazard improvements
 - Improved pickup and delivery systems
1. Provided recommendations and insights to the ANC 1A Commission, WMATA and DDOT on projects like:
 - WMATA’s Better Bus Network
 - DDOT’s Crosstown Bus Priority Project
 - DDOT’s 11th St. Protected Bike Lane Project

Also in 2025, the Committee discussed numerous transportation-related topics affecting the neighborhood. These include the vacant state of DCUSA’s parking garage, the shortage of Capital Bikeshare stations and bikes in Columbia Heights, the notoriously chaotic nature of the intersection at 14th and Irving, biking accidents throughout the commission area, new seating proposals at select bus stops, sidewalk mobility in areas with vendors, daylighting at high traffic intersections, and more.

Throughout this year and in the years to come, the ANC1A Transportation Committee is dedicated to discussing changes to our streetscapes, sidewalks and other transportation

infrastructure that will improve safety and mobility in Columbia Heights. The committee meets monthly to discuss shortcomings, opportunities and ideas for the transit systems and infrastructure that move the residents of Columbia Heights each and every day.

KEY ISSUES VOTED UPON IN 2025

ANC 1A approved resolutions, correspondence, and settlement agreements in 2025, which covered a wide range of topics. These are organized below by the dates of the public commission meetings in which they were approved and include the titles of the measures. For easy reference, the titles are linked for access to the full text of each measure.

Resolutions

January 8, 2025:

- [R25-0001: A Resolution Concerning the Schedule of Meetings of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A for 2025](#)
- [R25-0002: A Resolution Concerning the Appointment of Committee Chairpersons and Members for 2025](#)
- [R25-0003: A Resolution Concerning the Re-Installation of a Trash Receptacle at 1001 Harvard Street NW](#)
- [R25-0004: A Resolution Concerning the Installation of a Trashcan in SMD 1A10](#)

February 12, 2025:

- [R25-0005: A Resolution Concerning Establishing Committee Chairs and Members](#)
- [R25-0006: A Resolution Concerning the Reimbursement of Funds to Commissioner Anthony Thomas-Davis](#)
- [R25-0007: A Resolution Concerning the Establishment of Meeting Operating Rules for a Three-Month Trial Period](#)
 - [REP25-001, Dissenting Opinion of Commissioner Anthony Thomas-Davis, dissenting in the Commission's passage of the resolution to establish trial meeting operating rules](#)
 - [REP25-002, Concurring Opinion of Commissioner Christine Miller, concurring in the Commission's passage of the resolution to establish trial meeting operating rules](#)

March 19, 2025:

- [R25-0008: Resolution in Support of Vacant to Vibrant Amendment Act of 2025](#)

April 16, 2025:

- [R25-0011: Resolution Concerning Strategic Parking Enforcement and Transportation Improvements On 14th Street NW Between Columbia Rd NW and Monroe Street NW](#)
- [R25-0012: Resolution Concerning Accelerating Small Business Success and Revitalizing the Local Economic Development Landscape in Columbia Heights](#)
- [R25-0013: A Resolution to Declare the Sense of the Commission Concerning Columbia Heights Neighborhood Investment and Revitalization](#)
- [R25-0014: A Resolution Supporting the Alley Naming at 1016 Harvard Street NW \(Square 2857, Lot 813\)](#)
- [R25-0015: Resolution Concerning Opposition to Notice of Intent 25-92-TESD from the District Department of Transportation](#)
- [R25-0017: Resolution Concerning Expanded Pollinator Gardens in Columbia Heights](#)

May 21, 2025:

- [R25-0018: A Resolution Concerning Condemning The Reinstatement Of Officers Convicted In The Murder Of Mr. Karon Hylton-Brown](#)
- [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](#)
- [R25-0020: A Resolution Concerning Support for the Neighborhood Management Authority Act of 2025](#)
- [R25-0021: A Resolution Concerning Authorizing Expenditures for an Administrative Assistant to Support the Operations of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A](#)
- [R25-0022: A Resolution Concerning Support of the Application of the D.C. Preservation League for 3045 15th Street NW to be a Historic Landmark](#)
 - [REP25-0005: Report of the Permanent Special Committee on Public Life and Neighborhood Planning](#) to accompany R25-0022, concerning Case 25-06 from the Historic Preservation Review Board
- [R25-0023: A Resolution Concerning Urgent Crosswalk Maintenance & Safety Improvements Along 14th Street NW Commercial Corridor](#)
- [R25-0024: A Resolution Concerning Grants for World Pride 2025](#)

June 18, 2025

- [R25-0026: A Resolution Concerning Protest of the Class "C" Restaurant Alcohol License Renewal of 3313 11th Hospitality, LLC t/a El Chucho – Cocina Superior \(ABRA-085471\)](#)
- [R25-0027: – A Resolution Concerning Calling on DDOT to Conduct A Comprehensive Review of Traffic Patterns on the 1300 Block of Spring Road NW](#)
- [R25-0028: A Resolution Concerning Preserving Washington, D.C.'s Sanctuary City Protections and Safeguarding the Columbia Heights Community](#)

- R25-0029: A Resolution Concerning Celebrating Columbia Heights' LGBTQ+ History and the Cultural Legacy of Bob's Inn and Nob Hill
- R25-0030: A Resolution Concerning Designation of Curbside Pickup-Drop-off Zone on Park Road NW
- R25-0033: A Resolution Concerning the Appointment of Chairperson for the Committee on Transportation

July 16, 2025

- R25-0034: A Resolution Concerning Support of the Fair Housing Practices Amendment Act of 2025
- R25-0035: A Resolution Concerning Approving the Issuance of OANC Technical Assistance Funds to Support Hybrid Meeting Equipment Costs
- R25-0036: A Motion to establish a Special Rule for consideration of A25-0005, A Voluntary Agreement Concerning DC Garden Hill, LLC t/a DC Garden Hill Georgetown (ABRA-128404), to be a Medical Cannabis Retailer, at 3414 11th St NW, and to provide for extended public comment time on the same
- R25-0037: A Resolution Concerning the Authorization of Funding for Columbia Heights Walking Tours in Fall 2025
- R25-0038: A Resolution Concerning Recognition of Saint Oscar Romero of the Americas and the Shrine of the Sacred Heart Church

September 3, 2025

- R25-0040: A Resolution Concerning Condemning Federal Overreach in District of Columbia Policing and Demanding the Immediate Return of Local Funds

September 17, 2025

- R25-0043: A Resolution Concerning Protecting Small Businesses Amid Ongoing Transportation Improvement Planning Along the 11th Street, N.W. Corridor
- R25-0045: A Resolution Concerning Policing, Security, and Neighborhood Safety in Columbia Heights
- R25-0048: A Resolution Concerning Urging Congress to Oppose the U.S House Committee On Oversight & Government Reform's 14 Bills Rolling Back D.C. Self-Governance

October 15, 2025

- R25-0050: A Resolution Concerning Urging the Accountability and Identifiability of Federal Agents and Officers Operating in the District of Columbia

November 19, 2025

- R25-0051: Resolution Concerning Support for Redrocks Substantial Change in Class C

License

- [**R25-0052: Resolution Authorizing Application for OANC TAF and Reimbursement to Commissioner Jeremy Sherman for Hybrid Meeting Equipment**](#)

Correspondence

January 8, 2025

- [**LTR25-0001: A Letter to Tiffany Crowe, Director of the Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection \(DLCP\), Concerning Street Vending Implementation & Management Updates**](#)
- [**LTR25-0002: A Letter Concerning Support for 2025 St. Jude's RockNRoll DC Half Marathon**](#)

February 12, 2025

- [**LTR25-0003: A Letter in Support of BZA Application No: 21252 of the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba**](#)

March 19, 2025

- [**LTR25-0004: A Letter Concerning Support for A Special Exception at 2710 Sherman Ave NW to the Board of Zoning Adjustment \(BZA\)**](#)
- [**LTR25-0005: A Letter Concerning Support In the Matter of Naming an Alley at 1016 Harvard St. NW \(Square 2857, Lot 813\) to the Council of the District of Columbia**](#)

April 16, 2025

- [**LTR25-0007: Budget Request for DC Peace Team Workshop Series on De-escalation and Safety Training**](#)
- [**LTR25-0008: A Letter Concerning Reallocating ANC 1A Funds for World Pride 2025**](#)

May 21, 2025

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

June 18, 2025

- [**LTR25-0010: A Letter of Support for a Stipulated License for Uptown Beer and Wine \(ABRA-132663\) at 2701 14th Street NW, Unit 2**](#)
- [**LTR25-0011: A Letter Concerning Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Feedback Priority Gaps to the Council of the District of Columbia**](#)

July 16, 2025

- [**LTR-0012: A Letter Concerning Support of Case No. 21319, an application for an Area**](#)

Variance for property at 1332 Harvard St. NW, Square 2855, Lot 0817 (SMD 1A09), to the Board of Zoning Adjustment

Settlement Agreements

March 19, 2025

- **A25-0001: ANC 1A Voluntary Agreement with Jadi Goose LLC T/A Queens English (SMD 1A04)**

June 18, 2025

- **A25-0003: A Settlement Agreement Concerning Best Stop Dispensary (ABRA-129285) at 3439 14th Street NW**
- **A25-0004: A Voluntary Agreement Concerning Uptown Beer and Wine (ABRA-132663) at 2701 14th Street NW, Unit 2**

July 16, 2025

- **A25-0005: A Voluntary Agreement Concerning DC Garden Hill, LLC t/a DC Garden Hill Georgetown (ABRA-128404), to be a Medical Cannabis Retailer, at 3414 11th St NW (SMD 1A04)**

ANC 1A COMMUNITY GRANTS

ANC 1A supported several community initiatives in 2025 through its grants program. These grants were approved through an application process established by the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC):

• 10th Street Block Party

Grant of \$500 to Shane McCarthy on behalf of a group of 10th Street Neighbors for the 10th Street Block Party held on September 6, 2025. DDOT and MPD approved closure of the street between Monroe St and Otis Pl NW for day of family-friendly festivities, games for kids, music, and opportunities for neighbors to connect.

• WorldPride 2025 Community Grants

In recognition of the District's celebration of WorldPride 2025, ANC 1A set out to identify and fund opportunities in our community that would uplift underrepresented and marginalized queer communities, particularly BIPOC and trans residents, and strengthen neighborhood ties by offering welcoming, multigenerational spaces for celebration. Two grants supported local organizations to create inclusive, affirming programming during WorldPride 2025, celebrating LGBTQIA+ history, identity, and artistry through accessible neighborhood events.

1. Memorial AIDS Quilt – Latinx Community Exhibition

A public exhibition of selected blocks from the AIDS Memorial Quilt alongside

the Tenango Pride Flag at the Mexican Cultural Institute in Columbia Heights during World Pride 2025. Curated in partnership with Capital Pride Alliance as part of Latinx Partner Pride, the installation honors Mexican and Chicanx individuals lost to AIDS while providing an accessible, reflective, and educational space for residents, workers, and visitors. The project centered Latinx voices, fostering community healing through remembrance and cross-cultural solidarity. This event was free and open to the public.

2. *CineQueer for World Pride 2025*

A free community film screening series presented by a local organization, Dandelion Collective DC, in partnership with the Wicked Queer Film Festival. CineQueer featured curated screenings by queer and trans filmmakers, including documentaries and performance-focused works, with opportunities for discussion and reflection. ANC 1A was able to help in building community through accessible arts programming and create inclusive, multigenerational spaces for dialogue, celebration, and cultural connection in the neighborhood.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Commission approves a budget at the start of each fiscal year. On September 4th, 2024, the Commission voted unanimously to approve its FY 2025 proposed budget of \$28,507.40 submitted by the Treasurer. The total costs included in the final budget can be found below:

- Administrative personnel (\$9,000.00);
- Direct office cost (\$3,600.00);
- Communications, including constituent relations management tools (\$3,097.40);
- Office supplies, equipment, printing (\$1,250);
- Grants and sponsorships (\$7,250.00);
- Bank charges (\$360.00); and
- Other costs (\$1,000.00).

The Commission also recently approved its Fiscal Year 2026 budget on September 3rd, 2025, composing a total of \$35,791.63 and including the following expenses:

- Administrative personnel (\$7,200.00);
- Direct office cost (\$2,400.00);
- Communications, including constituent relations management tools (\$4,991.63);
- Office supplies, equipment, printing (\$0.00);
- Grants and sponsorships (\$10,000.00);
- Bank charges (\$XX); and
- Other costs (\$7,000.00).

This budget reflected ANC 1A's increased willingness to support community projects with grants and sponsorships.

For more information on Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A's finances, including audited reports by the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia, please visit <https://anc.dc.gov/node/1478251>.

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1–309.13(d)(1), the District of Columbia Auditor is responsible for routinely auditing the financial accounts of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, as well as submitting a consolidated report of all financial activity of all Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to the DC Council.

ANC 1A awarded grants and sponsorships to the following recipients in 2025:

- Columbia Heights Day (\$1,000.00)
- World Pride 2025 (\$5,826.00)
 - Queer Film Institute (\$1,000.00)
 - Capital Pride Alliance (\$2,826.00)
 - BloomBars (\$2,000.00)

APPENDIX: Key Acronyms & Abbreviations

This appendix provides definitions for frequently used acronyms appearing throughout the **ANC 1A Annual Report**. It is intended to make the report more accessible to residents, agency partners, and community stakeholders.

Acronym	Full Name
ANC	Advisory Neighborhood Commission
DBH	Department of Behavioral Health
DCHR	Department of Human Resources
DCPS	District of Columbia Public Schools
DCPCS	District of Columbia Public Charter Schools
DDOT	District Department of Transportation
DGS	Department of General Services
DME	Deputy Mayor for Education
DMPSJ	Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice
DOEE	Department of Energy and Environment
DPR	Department of Parks and Recreation
DYRS	Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services
FPC	DC Food Policy Council
FY	Fiscal Year
MPD	Metropolitan Police Department
OANC	Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions
OSSE	Office of the State Superintendent of Education
OST	Out-of-School Time (Programs)
PKEEP	Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
UDC	University of the District of Columbia
WAC	Ward Advisory Council