

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 4D

ANNUAL REPORT



December 1, 2025



*Truesdell Elementary's new
playground after its modernization*

December 1, 2025

Nyasha Smith
Secretary to the Council
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Subj: ANC 4D 2025 Annual Report

Dear Secretary Smith,

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1-309.10(j)(1) and § 1-309.10(n-1), please find enclosed the 2025 Annual Report of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D, which details activities of the Commission from December 1, 2024 through December 1, 2025. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact us at 4D@anc.dc.gov.

On behalf of the Commission,

Jenn Kauffman
Commissioner, SMD 4D08
Chair, ANC 4D

CC: Members, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D,
Councilmember Janeese Lewis George, Ward 4,
Mr. Kent Boese, Executive Director, Office of Advisory
Neighborhood Commissions

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Kennedy Street's La Coop Coffee decorated with holiday cheer

Dear Residents, Neighbors, and Friends of the Brightwood Park and Petworth Communities,

On behalf of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D, it's an honor to reflect upon our past year of accomplishments in service of this vibrant corner of Ward 4.

This year has been a tumultuous one for residents, with many neighbors in ANC 4D having been directly and indirectly affected by the economic impacts of the federal layoffs and budget cuts, as well as the ongoing federal occupation that has infringed upon the civil rights of residents and separated immigrant families.

Our neighbors have shown up for each other through school caravans, mutual aid, and more – and we've ensured that we continue to foster joy through community events too.

At the beginning the year, the Commissioners of ANC 4D came together to establish what were the important values and goals that we wanted to serve as the north star for our work. We were eager to ensure that our work was rooted in accessibility, belonging, and a reflection of the needs of our community.

We are excited about the accomplishments we've made, and the progress that is to come in 2026.

- Commissioner Jenn Kauffman, ANC 4D Chair

COMMISSION MEMBERS



Commissioner Eliza Cava shares community resources and signs up residents for ANC 4D's mailing list at DPR's Movie Night in Lorenzo Allen Park.



Residents gather for a community walk along Kennedy Street with MPD and agencies and organizations fostering a safer community.

SMD 4D01

Antti Koskenrouta

SMD 4D02

Abel Amene

SMD 4D03

Brendi E. Bluitt

Vice-Chair

SMD 4D04

Eliza Cava

Grants Officer since Nov. 2025

SMD 4D05

Stephen Marencic, Jr.

Treasurer since Nov. 2025

SMD 4D06

Stoyan Dimitrov

Secretary until Apr. 2025

SMD 4D07

Kayla D. Baker

Treasurer until Nov. 2025

SMD 4D08

Jenn Kauffman

Chair

STRATEGIC GOALS

ANC 4D oriented its FY26 budget around three goals designed to make the Commission more effective and responsive to its constituents. These goals were selected because they work together to ensure that participation reflects the full diversity of the Commission, helping ANC 4D's activities to better reflect the needs of its constituents.

Increase Resident Participation

- Form resident-led Outreach Committee to support community engagement and communications
- Launch survey to identify other participatory committees
- Increase investment in communications outreach materials
- Increase number of ANC 4D sponsored events

Optimize Funds

- Increase in FY26 the number of Community Grants distributed.
- Revamp the Community Grants Program to enhance community engagement, increase the disbursement of funds, and ensure equitable geographic distribution across all ANC 4D.
- Open a savings account to earn interest on forward balances.

Increase ANC Capacity

- Invest in A/V equipment to support hybrid meetings.
- Hire a contractor to support with administrative functions.
- Allocate small budget to support Commissioners in carrying out their roles.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Springtime in ANC 4D

01. Advocacy

ANC 4D leveraged its voice as a commission to pass resolutions and present testimony representing the interests of our constituents – especially those who cannot speak because of fear of the federal occupation.

02. Accessible & Equitable Grants Process

ANC 4D, together with a Grants Committee comprised of residents committed to creating a more equitable and accessible grants program, rolled out revised grant guidelines, process and recruitment efforts to maximize grant-giving benefiting the ANC 4D community.

03. Improved Reporting & Transparency

ANC 4D's Treasurer addressed 11 outstanding compliance infractions, largely stemming from past grants, and successfully recovered \$13,410 in FY 2025. The grants guidelines were revised with then Treasurer Commissioner Kayla Baker to minimize future infractions.

04. Optimized Communications

ANC 4D overhauled its website, making it easier-to-navigate. It migrated its email list to GovDelivery to ensure ease-of-access for future Commissioners and cross-pollinated messages on multiple platforms. The Commission printed yard signs to distribute throughout ANC 4D to advertise meetings and increase participation.

KEY ISSUES & POLICY

RECOMMENDATIONS

ANC 4D addressed a wide array of issues as a Commission through resolutions, letters to District agencies, and testimony before the Council, centered around four main focus areas:

01. Protecting Home Rule and Civil Rights:

ANC 4D Commissioners passed resolutions and provided testimony before the Council on the federal government's assault on the District's autonomy and on the rights of Black and Brown residents. As part of this focus area, ANC 4D:

- Passed a resolution condemning federal overreach, supporting legal challenges contesting the August 2025 emergency order, and urging Congress to reject extending the order and rescind its \$1.1B hold on the District's locally-raised budget.
- Provided testimony before the Council's Committee on Public Works and Operations on Possible Human Rights Act violations under District government coordination with the federal occupation.
- Passed a resolution urging the Council to protect the city's Sanctuary City status by striking a subtitle that would strip these protections.
- Passed a resolution condemning the reinstatement of the officers involved in the killing of Karon Hylton Brown, whose death occurred in ANC 4D.
- Wrote a letter to MPD Chief Pamela Brown urging MPD leadership to prioritize addressing police misconduct and adopt the recommendations outlined in the July 2025 D.C. Auditor's report.

KEY ISSUES & POLICY

RECOMMENDATIONS

02. Ensuring a Safe and Healthy Environment

Policies that ensure a safe and healthy community are important to ANC 4D, and the Commission presented testimony and passed resolutions in support of the following matters:

- ANC 4D Commissioners passed a resolution and provided testimony in support of B26-0058, the Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Amendment Act of 2025.
- The Commission also passed a resolution urging the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, the Council of the District of Columbia, and the Mayor to develop and implement a citywide strategy for gun violence reduction through community-centric, violence interruption programs. The resolution also called for increase funding and resources for violence interrupter programs across all DC communities, noting that the loss of a Ward 4 risks the return of retaliatory, crew-based violence in the area.

03. Fostering a Vibrant and Equitable Community

When cities invest in equitable community development, it fosters vibrant neighborhoods and meets the diverse needs of residents. ANC 4D provided testimony before the Council regarding the following matters:

- ANC 4D urged the Council to ensure that the RFK Stadium deal contained binding protections for increased housing commitments, anti-displacement measures, good paying jobs, tax equity, and environment impacts.
- ANC 4D provided testimony before Council urging Councilmembers to consider a full-service library for the Kennedy Street/Brightwood Park/Manor Park communities and not the partial-service Community Commons proposed. The Mayor's proposed FY26 budget later swept funding for the library commons, which was restored by Ward 4 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George and the Council.

KEY ISSUES & POLICY

RECOMMENDATIONS

04. Supporting Housing & Small Businesses

ANC 4D supported efforts to increase housing units in the Commission and the license applications of small businesses along the Kennedy Street corridor:

- ANC 4D passed a resolution supporting maximum flexibility for RA-1 RA-1 zoning to add housing supply and help address the housing affordability crisis.
- ANC 4D heard from a number of property owners regarding zoning applications and submitted Form 129 in support of applications BZA No. 21271 and BZA No. 21376.
- ANC 4D considered small business owners regarding ABCA applications, and issued letters in support of ABRA-130386 and ABRA-129639.
- Commissioner Eliza Cava worked collaboratively with Epic Lounge and local residents to reach an ABCA Settlement Agreement and improve lines of communication allowing this new business to grow along our Georgia Avenue corridor.



From L to R: ANC 4D Chair Jenn Kauffman, DC Water CEO David L. Gadis, ANC 4D resident Brittney Gartrell, Wendy the Water Drop, and Washington Football Legend and NFL Hall of Famer Darrell Green celebrate the District's 10,000th lead service line replacement, which took place at Gartrell's home.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

ANC 4D Revamped Community Grantmaking in 2025

Grant Giving in 2025

In 2025, ANC 4D focused primarily on analyzing the state of its community grants program and restructuring the program to reflect needs identified in its assessment. While ANC 4D held off on soliciting applications during this evaluation, the Commission granted Petworth Peanuts \$3,500 to support its annual Sherman Circle Spooktacular event, for which ANC 4D had been a sponsor in years past.



Photo courtesy of Petworth Peanuts

Program Evaluation

An evaluation of the program over the past three years yielded three important insights: 1) previous grant giving was centralized entirely in the Petworth portion of the Commission, with no grants distributed in support of programming benefiting the Brightwood Park section of ANC 4D; 2) there were few applications, resulting in fewer disbursements than ANC 4D's budget allows; 3) past ANC Treasurer compliance infractions generally stemmed from late receipts from previous grantees; and 4) portions of the existing guidelines were unclear or not followed in practice.



Local artists showcasing art on Kennedy Street

This analysis made clear that as ANC 4D revamped its community grant process, it needed to optimize the program to ensure a more equitable allocation of funds, reduce the burden on the Treasurer role and strengthen compliance, enhance community involvement in the grants process, and ultimately lead to many more applicants and successful grant projects funded by a “Stronger 4D.”

COMMUNITY GRANTS

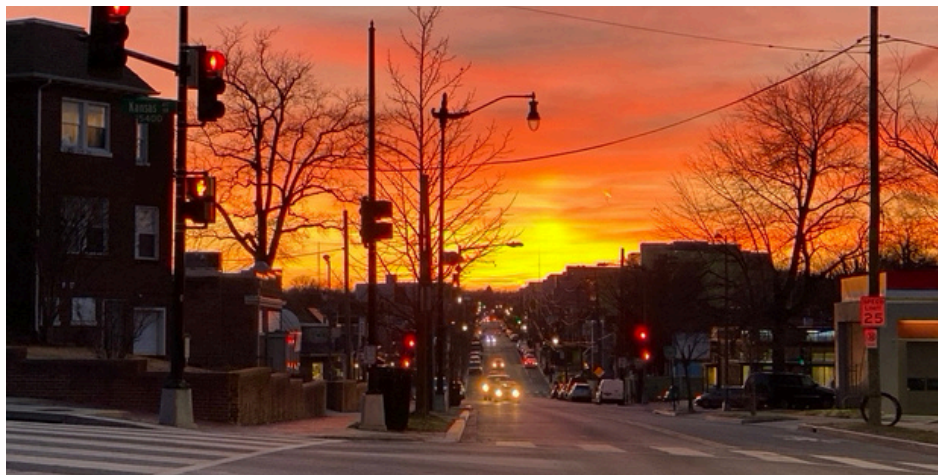
Program Revamp

ANC 4D announced the formation of a Grants Committee in August 2025 and recruited the public to join and help shape the future of the program. The committee quickly got to work, led by Grants Committee Chair Angela Page and Vice-Chair Commissioner Eliza Cava. The Committee developed updated guidelines and application materials to clarify procedures, improve accountability, streamline administrative burden, and enhance fairness in the grant-making process.

In November 2025, ANC 4D reviewed and voted to approve the Grants Committee's proposed recommendations to the guidelines, revised application materials, and proposed bylaws and standing rules amendments to align with the recommended changes. In its FY26 budget, ANC 4D anticipates granting \$15,000 in community grants.

The next grant application deadline is January 1, 2027. To help publicize these grants and maximize the number of applications received, the committee is also responsible for advertising and soliciting grant applications ahead of each deadline/review period. After each deadline, the Grants Committee will conduct a first review of applications for completeness and consistency with these guidelines, OANC grant requirements, and DC law. Finally, the Grants Committee Chair will forward a recommendation regarding completeness and consistency to ANC 4D for consideration as it votes on applications.

The sun sets on Kansas Avenue



FINANCIAL REPORT

Due to historical underspending over the previous three years and this year's pause on the allocation of ANC 4D community grants in order to revamp its grant-giving process, the Commission carried forward a significant balance into FY 2026.

FY26 Ending Balance Estimate	\$39,031
FY26 Allotment from OANC	\$21,190
FY26 Funds Available	\$60,221

ANC 4D passed the following budget for FY 2026, with a significant increase in its grants allocation:

Direct Office	\$2,000
Communications (events, printing, mailings)	\$18,000
Office Supplies (supplies, A/V equipment)	\$7,500
Grants	\$15,000
Purchase of Service (contractor to support secretary role)	\$4,000
Bank Fees	\$300
Misc.	\$1,500
Transfer to Savings	\$8,000