



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8A

Anacostia, Fairlawn, Hillsdale, Sheridan

Monthly General Body Meeting

Tuesday, September 2, 2025 | 7:00 pm

Public Meeting Minutes – Detailed Summary

Virtual Meeting (access found at website oanc.dc.gov)

Agenda

HAPPY HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

AGENDA

- WELCOME | 5 MINS
 - ROLL CALL
 - APPROVE AGENDA
 - APPROVE MINUTE
- COMMUNITY DISCUSSION | 20 MINS
 - 6TH AND 7TH DISTRICT MPD UPDATES | 15 MINS
 - COUNCILMEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS | 5 MINS
- MAYORS' OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS | 5 MINS
- GUEST SPEAKERS | 65 MINS
 - DDOT UPDATE | 7 MINS
 - DREAMING OUT LOUD | JAREN HILL LOCKRIDGE | 7 MINS
 - CEDAR TREE ACADEMY | 7 MINS
 - COMP PLAN ANNOUNCEMENT | 7 MINS
 - DHS – FRIENDSHIP PLACE | 20 MINS (7 MIN PRESENT, REMAINDER DISCUSSION)
 - APLUS LIQUOR STORE | 7 MINS
 - L'ENFANT GRANT REQUEST | 5 MINS
- COMMISSION VOTES | 10 MINS
 - ABCA LIQUOR LICENSES
 - L'ENFANT GRANT
- ADJOURN

Opening

- Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM
- Roll Call Commissioners Present: Donohue (8A01), Foreman (8A02), Davis (8A03), Moore (8A04), White (8A05), McKinney (8A06), and Redman (8A07) present.
- Approval of Agenda: Unanimous
- Quorum Established: Yes

Commission Announcements and Community Discussion

- Cmr. Donohue hosted a Community Cookout: -75-100 attendees; local businesses contributed; positive engagement.
- Media Coverage: Commissioners Davis and Donahue gave several media interviews regarding Ward 8 and Minnesota Ave public safety issues.
- September 3, 10:00 am: "Pray for Our City" vigil—First Baptist Church of Deanwood, 10084 Fifth St NE.
- September 4, 12:00 pm: Prayer vigil—Freedom Plaza.
- September 13, 10:00 am: Ward 8 Clergy & Faith Leaders Meeting—Matthews Memorial Baptist Church, 2616 MLK Jr Ave SE.
- Care Anacostia supports five 8A schools (Ketchum, Boone, Savoy, Kramer, Anacostia HS); seeking volunteers to escort young people from Anacostia Metro due to increased federal policing.
- October 15: Celebration of Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) with DC Party Bike Rides—expected 1,500-2,000 participants, route: Dupont Circle to 16th & Marion Barry Ave SE.

- Commissioners Donahue & Davis commended MPD for recent progress in removing open-air drug sales by Boone Elementary and collaborating on community walks.
- Commendation for recent MPD enforcement results.
- Brief review of ANC grant line balance (-\$5,000 remaining out of \$11,000 budgeted).
- The budget and finance report will be voted on in the next quarter.

MPD Update

- 7D provided crime stats updates. Stats can be found here: <https://crimedatacards.dc.gov/>
- Focused on recurring “hot spots”; recent progress at 16th & W Streets.
- Joint work with developers and OAG for resident concerns.
- Clarified the legal processes and procedures for arrestee holding: Holding Process: District facilities are for short-term processing (max 3 hours). Longer stays occur due to
- DOC restrictions, medical needs, court closures, or significant incidents.
- No routine overnight housing in 7D. Meals provided for those delayed, but not ideal.
- No ability tonight to provide specific 30-day data—promised follow-up to ANC on extended detentions
- and care conditions.
- Action Item: Captain Pulliam to follow up with statistics and conditions for extended detentions in the last 30 days.

Presenters:

Dreaming Out Loud | Jaren Hill Lockridge

- Launching Marion Barry Avenue Market & Café in historic Anacostia. Focused on food sovereignty, supporting entrepreneurs, and a new food hub.
- Grand Opening: September 27, 2024 (10 am–4 pm)
- Announced "Food is Medicine" maternal nutrition series and plans for pet food education.

Cedar Tree Academy Rezoning Update | Eric deBear (Land Use Counsel), Dr. Henderson (Cedar Tree Academy Director)

Project Location: 701 Howard Road SE

- Previously presented and received ANC and Zoning Commission support for a new school building and expanded capacity. Since then, the scope has been reduced due to funding cuts; the school has scaled back the project and is proposing to renovate and expand the existing building rather than complete a replacement. Still enables the school to serve the full elementary range (add ~8 classrooms, a gym, and a caf). Max Capacity: 680 students.
- The school plans on submitting its application to the Zoning Commission for substantial modification in October and hearing late in the year.
- Community concerns highlighted potential traffic/parking concerns due to multiple developments on Howard Road.
- Cedar Tree is committed to coordination with other developers and DDOT to minimize impact.
- Cedar Tree to return once the architectural plans are available and the application is submitted.

DHS | David Ross (DHS), Anthony Newman (DHS)

- Provided an update on DHS Valley Street Adult Transition Center/Shelter, Friendship Place. FP is closing, and residents would be relocated to other housing facilities.
- Facility currently has ~39 single adult residents (down from 56 at the August start).
- Targeting complete transition of residents out by the end of the month.
- Residents in “housing lease-up” process; coordination with DCHA and partners noted as complex.

- DHS will likely convert the property back to Shelter for Families, as designed initially for families, and will revert to this use post-transition.
- No families will move in immediately after singles exit; interim security and maintenance plan pending.
- ANC prioritized communication about move-out timeline, new provider selection, and building maintenance.

DDOT Presentation | Samuel Hammond, DDOT

- Corridor Safety Improvement project on First Sterling Street (from Howard to South Capitol Street). This project aims to improve safety on First Sterling, and it starts with the community's voice. The intent is to align with the Vision 2020 update and prioritize the High Injury Network. First Sterling is on a tier one corridor on the District High Injury Network. It's also noted in the Move DC as a bike priority. So the goal for the project is to reduce speeds, improve safety for people walking, taking the bus, and driving on the street, address safety and crash patterns at complex intersections, enhance crosswalk safety, and improve bus service and access to bus stops.
- Taking into consideration Barry Farm, a total of about 1,110 residential units, for the overall design of improving the intersection. Some things DDOT is considering:
 - Construction using concrete and then temporary materials for potential curb extension, median refuge, rapid flashing beacons, adding safe crosswalks that connect to bus stops, and evaluating bus stop placement with current standards to enhance safety and bus operation.
 - DDOT reviewed the crash report for existing traffic operations, collected accident and crash data, and is now working on the concept design. Before finalizing the design, they are looking for community feedback. The design process is expected to last from now to mid-2026, and we hope construction of improvements can start in late. Concerns:
 - Streets are being closed when games are in the Navy Yard
 - Concerns over just one lane (First Street to Howard) in each direction due to the heavy congestion
 - Community asked DDOT a question on trimming trees in the alleys – DDOT clarified that they only trim trees in public spaces and not private spaces

DC Office of Planning: Comp Plan Engagement

- Office of Planning is moving into the second phase of updating the comp plan. This phase will introduce some citywide growth scenarios, gather feedback on what they look like, and refine them. For engagement thus far
 - Through the vision survey, OP reached over 2,000 D.C. residents
 - 700 people reached through community meetings, and
 - 1600 at various pop-up and engagement events: roughly 55 events across all eight wards.
- Thus far throughout this process, they have heard that most people can reach their daily destinations in about 15 to 30 minutes. But East-West transit connections limit housing choice.
- Residents are also prioritizing access to grocery stores, parks and recreation, and metro stations or transit hubs within walking distance to their home. Or that's what they want to see in the future. We also heard that 76% of people expect to stay in D.C. over the next 10 years. And finally, stakeholders believe that new housing in D.C. should accommodate a range of incomes and housing sizes. Finally, the additional houses needed to accommodate the growth we're projecting over the next 25 years should be located near downtown transit hubs.
- The second phase has an entirely new engagement push. Please sign up for the Comp Plan/OP newsletter to stay up to date on upcoming meetings. We also released our engagement summary report at the end of August, and it is now available online at DC2005zero.com

- OP will be hosting the first of two workshops for the second phase, exploring Possible Futures to review some of those growth scenarios, and talking about the new flum or proposed
- revisions to the flum on October 25, 2024 (11:00 am–1:00 pm) at MLK Library

A+ Liquors (Class A License Application | Cameron Mixon (Counsel) and Romero Smith (Owner)

- Seeking ANC support for proposed storefront with "concierge service" focus, including gift pairing, local partnerships, "boutique" high-end alcohol shopping experience, and delivery service.
- Community impact: Promises of youth programming, local event support, and violence prevention support. Note that liquor funding cannot be used for on-site youth programming.
- Hours: 9 am–1 am proposed, but willing to reduce via settlement.
- Strong emphasis (by applicant) on not operating as a traditional low-service liquor store
- Significant organized opposition from neighbors and historic advocates. Key concerns:
 - Oversaturation of liquor outlets in the neighborhood
 - Proximity to residential/family/kids' spaces and Children's National
 - Potential for business model shift if original plan fails
 - No desire for another Class A (package-only) store—community seeks other amenities
 - Precedent for negative neighborhood impacts by similar businesses
 - Security concerns along a corridor with existing substance use, abuse, and safety concerns.

Applicant responded: Willingness to negotiate in settlement, commitment to being a quality business owner.

Super Grocery & Convenience, Inc. – Class B Beer/Wine Application (8A03) Discussion (no presentation)

- ANC noted prior ABCA enforcement actions against the store's previous owner for illegal activity.
- Ongoing neighborhood complaints re: loitering, illegal paraphernalia sales, opening 24 hours, and proximity to Boone Elementary School.
- ANC Recommendation: Opposition to license.

L'Enfant Trust | Lauren McHale (President)

- The trust owns Big Green House/1220 Mapleview Pl SE. Working to renovate and restore the home, which will be sold at an affordable price.
- Asking the ANC for funding for a temporary art/history mural on construction fencing. Hope the mural can feature Anacostia history and historic preservation, and possibly transition to permanent display. The funding request was for \$7500; however, the ANC chose to fund \$1500.
- Community recommended that they partner with BID and select a Ward 8 artist.
- ANC Feedback: Requested assurance that the mural would have a permanent "forever home" after construction.

MOCRS Update | Presenter: Quenton Miller

- Introduction of new MOCR staffer Quenton Miller
- Committed to coordinating with DPW for alleyway cleanups
- Main focus is on beautification West of the River due to the administration's beautification of DC push, thus resources are limited. Note that the community again complained that EoTR was being deprioritized.

Councilmember Trayon White's Office | Chief of Staff Sheila Bunn

- The council is still in recess and will resume session on September 16. Councilmember is using this time to shore up our team, prepare for the legislative session, which starts on the 16th of September, and plan some events during the last few weeks of recess.

- Our constituent services director is Commissioner Robin McKinney, and the constituent services coordinator is Fernando Smith. Many of you may know him from his violence interruption work. So we have two well-equipped community members working on behalf of Ward 8 to help resolve some of the issues we have here, and to collaborate with the community on ways we can move the needle in ward aid through public policy and legislation.
- The main thing that the Councilmember asked me to relay is that we want to be collaborative with the community. So in the coming months, we will hold a few town hall meetings to hear from the community and help shape the legislative agenda, focusing on the critical issues they want us to address. And going into the new legislative session, there will be the second vote on the RFK Stadium deal while RFK is in Ward 7. Tangentially, that does affect Ward 8. There were some benefits in the CBA, but we want to make sure, if at all possible, to strengthen those benefits for Ward 8, so that our Ward 8 businesses and residents can benefit from this development in Ward 7.
- Other legislative issues we're going to be looking at are some housing policies to try to tackle some of the problems that we are having with the landlords in our communities. We have some landlords who are Slumlords who are not taking care of our residents. Also trying to figure out ways to make sure our grand green spaces, like our parks and Fairlawn, are well cared for. They have the resources to keep out elements that are not desirable for our communities and our kids.
- If there are ideas legislatively that you think we should be working on, please reach out to us.

Commission Votes

- Commissioner Davis made a motion to oppose the ABCA license for Super Grocery and Convenience Inc., Class B beer and wine licence, seconded by Cmr. White. Motion passes unanimously.
- Cmr. McKinney moved a motion to oppose A+ Liquors' ABCA Class A liquor license, seconded by Commissioner Foreman. Motion passes unanimously.
- Commissioner McKinney moved a motion to provide a \$1,500 grant to L'Enfant Trust for art mural project contingent upon it finding a permanent home. Can I get a second? I second. Seconded by Commissioner Davis. Motion passes unanimously.

Action Items

- Email us to sign up for the ANC newsletter and list serve!
- DHS to return in October to provide a post-transition update, discuss security/maintenance, and more for the Valley Place property.
- DDOT hosts community conversations on First Steerling Street safety design

Adjournment: Cmr. White moved to close the meeting; the motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM. The Next regular ANC8A meeting is scheduled for October 7th, 2025.

/s/:

Prepared by: FRIA MOORE

Approved on: November 12, 2025

Attested by: /s/ FRIA MOORE