



## MINUTES

December 17, 2025 - REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held in person with virtual participation via Zoom. Commissioner Jeremy Sherman, Chairperson, was present and called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 PM. Chair Sherman noted this was the Commission's final meeting of 2025. In accordance with D.C. Official Code, the meeting was properly noticed in advance and open to the public.

### ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Commissioner Monte Achenbach, Secretary, proceeded with the roll call. The following Commissioners were marked as "present":

- SMD 1A01 – Jaspal Bhatia
- SMD 1A02 – Dieter Lehmann Morales
- SMD 1A03 – Carlo Perri
- SMD 1A04 – Jeremy Sherman
- SMD 1A05 – Christine Miller
- SMD 1A06 – Anthony Thomas-Davis
- SMD 1A07 – Monte Achenbach
- SMD 1A08 – Shira Davidson
- SMD 1A09 – Daniella Kelley
- SMD 1A10 – Billy Easley

All ten commissioners were present. Quorum established.

### SPECIAL MEETING RULES

Chair Sherman proposed special rules limiting discussion time to 3 minutes per commissioner with a maximum of two rounds of discussion for all items. Commissioner Thomas-Davis objected. Following discussion, the motion was seconded and passed by voice vote with objections noted.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded. Motion passed by voice vote with no objections.

## READING AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the November 19, 2025, meeting minutes was made and seconded. Motion passed by voice vote with no objections.

## REPORTS OF OFFICERS

- **Secretary Report (Commissioner Achenbach):** Reported that two resolutions from the November 19th meeting were transmitted: Resolution R25-51 supporting Red Rock's substantial change application, and Resolution R25-52 authorizing reimbursement to Chair Sherman for hybrid meeting equipment. Secretary noted the September resolution concerning policing and neighborhood safety may be revisited with incoming MPD leadership changes.
- **Treasurer Report (Commissioner Lehmann Morales):** Commission remains in good financial standing with current cash on hand of \$54,542.76. No major transactions since November. Working with executive committee to resolve OANC holds on allotment totaling approximately \$6,800, with nearly all documentation provided except for approximately \$205.63 related to Eden Brothers seed purchase receipts.

## GENERAL SPEECHES & PUBLIC COMMENTS

### Commissioner Announcements:

- Commissioner Davidson: Announced ANC 1A meet and greet scheduled for Sunday, January 25th, 4:30-6:00 PM; promoted anti-littering survey in partnership with Ward 8 Woods Conservatory
- Commissioner Easley: Expressed disappointment that MPD commanders responded to U.S. Attorney's Office and House Oversight Committee regarding crime statistics investigation but not to ANCs or DC Council oversight bodies
- Commissioner Thomas-Davis: Reported on Department of Behavioral Health's fourth community engagement session on DC stabilization center on Park Road; reiterated concerns about MPD's lack of response to Resolution 25-45
- Commissioner Kelley: Announced DDOT bikeways workshops with public comment period ending December 31st
- Chair Sherman: Announced Great Streets Retail Small Business Grants now open, deadline January 16th at 12 PM

**Public Comments:** Extensive public comment received on liquor license matters pending on agenda, with approximately 20 speakers (in person and virtual) addressing concerns related to Buddy's and Johnny's All-American establishments. Comments included both support for businesses and concerns from abutting property owners regarding noise and settlement agreement compliance.

## PRESENTATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL & EXECUTIVE

### Estelle McKinney, Councilmember Nadeau's Office:

- Public Life Study: Still delayed over one year; Office of Planning reports in final stages
- Streatery Regulations: Council passed bill lowering cost from \$20 to \$15 per square foot and allowing exemptions for enclosed/weatherized streateries
- Neighborhood Management Authority: Legislation establishes authorities for Greater U Street Corridor and Columbia Heights; working with Councilmember Allen's team on performance parking zone portion; hearing expected early 2026
- Federal Overreach Report: Staff compiled testimony from 50+ people regarding potential human rights violations; findings include loss of community trust in MPD, lack of transparency/accountability, and gaps in district law regarding Sanctuary Values Act. Report with recommendations forthcoming.
- McKinney announced this was her final week; relocating to Portland, Oregon

### Mayor's Office of Community Relations & Services:

- Anthony Robinson (Ward 1 Manager) introduced Andrew Shapiro as new Ward 1-4 business liaison
- Shapiro noted Great Streets session rescheduled to first week of January

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee meeting notes and minutes were available in the agenda packet online. Chair Sherman noted significant work reflected in consent agenda items. No verbal committee reports were given due to time constraints.

## CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were approved unanimously by voice vote with one abstention (Commissioner Thomas-Davis voting present):

- A. [Resolution Supporting Budget Stabilization for Harriet Tubman Elementary School in the FY27 DCPS Budget.](#) Sponsor(s): Commissioner Christine Miller
- B. [Resolution to Maintain FY27 Funding and Expansion of Safe Passage, Safe Blocks.](#) Sponsor(s): Commissioner Christine Miller

- C. [Resolution Protecting Health Coverage for Columbia Heights Families and Support for the “Keep DC Healthy” Campaign.](#) Sponsor(s): Commissioner Christine Miller
- D. [Resolution In Support of Restoring Funding for the Child and Adolescent Mobile Psychiatric Service \(ChAMPS\) as a Critical School Crisis Resource.](#) Sponsor(s): Commissioner Christine Miller
- E. [Letter of Support for BZA Case #21252A for the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba.](#) Sponsor(s): Commissioners Jaspal Bhatia & Dieter Lehmann Morales
- F. [Letter to Zoning Commission Case No. 25-06 Alley Lots Text Amendment Support with Enhancements.](#) Sponsor(s): Commissioner Dieter Lehmann Morales
- G. [Approval of 2025 ANC 1A Annual Report](#)

## NEW BUSINESS

- A. [Letter Requesting ANC 1A FY 2027 Small Business & Economic Development Budget.](#)  
Sponsor(s): Commissioner Jeremy Sherman
  - Chair Sherman presented letter advocating for: splitting Main Street program to give Columbia Heights dedicated funding separate from Mount Pleasant; implementing Street Vendor Advancement Act with materials and infrastructure; and creating new lease incentive program modeled after Chinatown program to support businesses reflecting Black and Latino neighborhood heritage.
  - Extensive discussion included concerns about Main Street program effectiveness, need for comprehensive economic development strategy, and importance of both policy changes and funding support. Commissioner Miller co-sponsored the letter.
  - **Vote (Voice): Motion passed with Commissioner Thomas-Davis voting no.**
- B. [Resolution Concerning a Protest of the Renewal of the Class “C” Tavern License held By Johnny at Eleventh, LLC t/a Johnny’s All-American \(Renewed Motion\).](#) Sponsor(s): Commissioner Anthony Thomas-Davis
  - a. This resolution was renewed from the November 19th meeting. Commissioner Thomas-Davis cited ABCA placard posting violations, persistent outdoor noise, sidewalk cafe/streatery violations including unauthorized food truck in streatery, and lack of response to outreach attempts. Business owner Branden participated virtually, denying allegations.
  - b. Discussion focused on appropriateness standards, evidentiary requirements, need for agreements with all establishments, and procedural due process. Chair Sherman provided overview of ANC role in liquor license process for public awareness.
  - c. **Vote (Roll Call):**
    - YEA: Achenbach, Bhatia, Kelley, Perri, Sherman, Thomas-Davis (6)
    - NAY: Miller, Morales, Easley (3)
    - ABSTAIN: Davidson (1)
    - **Resolution passed.**

C. [Resolution Concerning a Protest of and Opposition to a Petition of Buddy's, Inc. t/a Buddy's DC to Amend or Terminate the Existing Voluntary Agreement.](#) Sponsor(s): Commissioner

Anthony Thomas-Davis

- a. Commissioner Thomas-Davis explained business seeking to terminate 14-year-old settlement agreement. Extensive public comment period preceded discussion with approximately 20 speakers. Business owners Carly Hampton and Grant Mason spoke for 5 minutes, citing inequitable treatment, harassment from single neighbor, and request for fairness relative to other corridor businesses. Abutting property owners Guillermo and Jordan Almeida spoke regarding noise violations and desire to maintain settlement agreement protections.
- b. Lengthy commissioner discussion addressed: ABCA's prior determination that noise does not violate DC Code; attempts to reach new agreement; difference between appropriateness standards and voluntary agreement requirements; mixed-use corridor considerations; and protest as mechanism to facilitate mediation.
- c. [Emails received from neighbors regarding Buddy's](#) [folder link]
- d. **Vote (Roll Call):**
  - YEA: Achenbach, Bhatia, Kelley, Miller, Perri, Sherman, Thomas-Davis (7)
  - NAY: Davidson, Morales (2)
  - ABSTAIN: Easley (1)
  - **Resolution passed.** Resolution protests the petition to amend or terminate the voluntary agreement and supports maintaining existing agreement terms during negotiation process.

D. [Letter to District Department of Transportation Regarding Crosstown Bus Priority Project.](#)

Sponsor(s): Commissioner Daniella Kelley

- a. Commissioner Kelley presented Transportation Committee recommendation supporting DDOT Option 2 (24-hour center-offset bus lanes on Irving Street and Columbia Road) with additional amendments for pedestrian safety, traffic calming, and Tubman Elementary School protections.
- b. Commissioner Morales proposed friendly amendment adding three specific pedestrian safety recommendations including buffer zones, physical barriers at intersections, and extra safety measures near Tubman Elementary. Amendment accepted.
- c. Discussion addressed parking loss impacts, bus stop relocations, travel delay considerations, and balancing multimodal transportation needs. Commissioner Kelley noted Mount Pleasant ANC1E supports Option 1; expectation is DDOT will blend elements of both options.
- d. **Vote (Voice):** Motion passed as amended with two abstentions (Sherman, one other).

E. [Resolution Urging ABC Board to Make Completion of the Licensee Orientation Class a Requirement to Licensure.](#) Sponsor: Commissioner Thomas-Davis

- a. Commissioner Thomas-Davis requested unanimous consent to postpone measure to January meeting for further consideration. No objections. **Item postponed to January.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:31 PM.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

**Prepared by:** Mitra Moin

**Approved on:** January 21, 2026

**Attested by the ANC 1A Secretary: Monte Achenbach**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MAchenbach".