



MINUTES

April 15, 2026 - REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Meeting Details

- **Date:** April 15, 2026
- **Time:** Meeting commenced at 7:07 PM
- **Location:** LAYC (1419 Columbia Rd) & Zoom
- **Quorum:** A quorum of 7 Commissioners was established.
- **Present:** Commissioners Achenbach, Bhatia, Easley, Kelley, Miller, Thomas-Davis, and Sherman
- **Absent:** Commissioners Davidson, Lehman Morales, and Perri

Approval of Agenda

- **Motion:** Commissioner Sherman moved to approve the agenda as presented.
- **Second:** Commissioner Achenbach seconded.
- **Discussion:** No edits or changes were requested.
- **Outcome:** The agenda was approved by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- **Motion:** Commissioner Sherman moved to approve the March 18, 2026, public meeting minutes.
- **Second:** Several Commissioners seconded the motion.
- **Outcome:** The minutes were approved by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

Community Presentations and Agency Updates

- **Metropolitan Police Department:** Captain Jessica Hawkins (4th District) and Commander Sean Connors (3rd District) provided updates on crime statistics in their respective districts and took questions from Commissioners.

Reports of Officers

- **Secretary's Report:** The last public meeting on March 18, 2026, was a relatively light one. The Commission approved one letter and two resolutions:
 - Letter Calling for Full Funding and Implementation of the Vacant to Vibrant Amendment Act of 2025 in FY27 Budget
 - Resolution of Support for the Substantial Change Application of Jadi Goose LLC to Queen's English (ABRA-113210) for a Sreatery Endorsement
 - Resolution Requesting Budget Allocation for Dog Waste Awareness Signage

The letter was signed and transmitted to the appropriate agency as was the resolution on Queen's English restaurant's streatory endorsement. The resolution on dog waste awareness signage was signed and will be transmitted to relevant agencies within the next week.

The Secretary announced that he will be moving to ANC 6D at the end of May. Therefore, as required, he has resigned from his SMD 1A07 seat and the Secretary office effective April 22, 2026. The Commission will vote to name a new Secretary at the May public meeting, and the seat may be filled after the Board of Elections has declared it vacant. He thanked his colleagues for all their support this past year and for being a fantastic, dedicated, inspiring group of commissioners working hard for their residents.

- **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer has worked with OANC to clarify information in the last two quarterly financial reports to ensure that the Commission receives its next allotments. We are waiting to hear back from OANC on any further information or clarifications needed.

The Commission's current balance is \$57,372.11, with regular recurring expenses being the main deductions on the account since the last update.

Commissioner Updates (Single Member District News):

- Commissioner Thomas-Davis noted longstanding efforts to improve Civic Plaza and announced the formal relaunch of the nonprofit, Civic Plaza Partners, originally established in 2015. He invited neighbors to let us know if interested in joining cleanup and reactivation efforts for the space.

He highlighted that parks and plazas in our area are often unwelcoming because of disrepair, lack of cleanliness, and loitering so is working with colleagues and agencies on a comprehensive maintenance and cleanup plan. He encouraged residents to contact himself and Commissioners Miller, Kelly, and Davidson, all of whom have parks in their districts, to ensure parks and plazas better serve community needs and support vibrant public life.

- Commissioner Easley invited constituents to engage more with MPD by attending Citizens Advisory Councils and public safety meetings (next one for Third District on April 28 at 8 PM) and offered contact information for follow-up.
- Commissioner Easley announced that the renamed alley between Harvard and 11th Street NW, Henry Baker Alley (honoring one of the first African Americans to attend law school in the area), will be dedicated at an upcoming unveiling event to be scheduled soon.
- Commissioner Sherman promoted the recurring Columbia Heights cleanup crew event, which meets at Civic Plaza (next one on Sunday, April 19th at 1 PM). He urged neighbors to join a WhatsApp group for volunteers, if interested.
- Commissioner Sherman also urged neighbors to save the date for Columbia Heights Day, an all-day neighborhood festival on Saturday, May 16th along 11th Street, with more details to come.

Community Presentations and Agency Updates

- Ryan (resident): Described daily exposure of adults and kids to secondhand smoke near DC USA and the Columbia Heights Metro western entrance, expressed fear of cancer, and urged the Commission to treat this pervasive health risk with life-saving urgency.
- Dan Hayes (resident, Oak Street, and Bike-to-Work Day organizer): Announced the long-running afternoon event to take place in Columbia Heights Plaza on Friday, May 15th from 4–7 PM, and thanked ANC for 15 years of support. Invited officials, candidates, and residents to attend.
- MOCR Update: Promoted the 10th Annual Spring Cleanup and asked commissioners to connect Ward 1 MOCRs with colleagues and with agencies like DPS, DPR, and DPW to help address Civic Plaza disrepair before summer.
- Nancy (resident on Fairmont Street): Criticized MPD's collaboration and comfort level with ICE and federal forces, cited racial profiling and fear among Latinx residents, and urged ANC to push for MPD not to hire ICE agents and to do more to protect immigrant communities.

- Robert Myers (resident at Park & 14th): Reported a sharp increase in open-container arrests with federal agents present and attached to MPD, described a recent Georgia Avenue incident he viewed as racially targeted against Black men, and called the pattern horrifying and urgently in need of scrutiny.
- Leah Lake Kudu (resident in Commissioner Daniela Kelley's SMD on Girard Street): Opposed National Guard presence in DC absent war or disaster, equated federal agents/Guard with ICE and urged commissioners to actively uphold the Sanctuary Values Act and resist federal immigration enforcement in the neighborhood.
- Edward Wycliffe (District Bridges, Director of Strategic Partnerships): Announced Columbia Heights Day on May 16th along the 3200–3400 blocks of 11th Street, noted an ANC grant application to help fund a local artist's mural to be painted on the wall of the Coupe. Invited collaboration on both the festival and District Bridges' community navigation services for unhoused and underserved residents, urging anyone interested to contact him through their website, www.districtbridges.org.
- Nicole Rivero (Chief of Staff to Councilmember Nadeau and ANC 1A resident): Encouraged public input on the DC 2050 comprehensive plan by April 30th at www.DC2050.dc.gov, invited residents and ANCs to testify at Council budget hearings, and explained new Council legislation (overriding the mayor's veto) increasing transparency and accountability for MPD–federal collaboration, including release of body-worn cameras in incidents of use of deadly force.
- Shane McCarthy (resident on 10th St NW): Thanked Commissioner Achenbach for his service and strongly supported funding the Holmead Block Party, emphasizing that block parties, like the one he organized last year on 10th St, build community and help prevent crime more effectively than many traditional meetings and talks that are organized.
- Julia Friedman (resident on Holmead Place, in Commissioner Sherman's SMD): Promoted the second annual Holmead Place block party on May 9th, sought ANC funds for compostable supplies, kids' activities, and a local band, and invited commissioners and neighbors to attend and strengthen community ties.
- Commissioner Thomas Davis (committee chair): Updated that his committee was organizing ANC 1A's engagement with the new 20-year comprehensive plan, elevated issues like climate resilience and park/plaza maintenance and coordinated with multiple agencies to pursue incremental improvements and address concerns such as street-vending impacts on the 3200 block of 14th Street.

Consent Agenda

The following items were presented for approval under the consent agenda. These items are approved collectively unless a member requests to remove an item for separate discussion.

- **Items Included:**
 - a. **Resolution Amending ANC 1A Community Grant Guidance to Increase Award Amounts and Remove Award Limitations**
Sponsor(s): Commissioner Jeremy Sherman
 - b. **Resolution to Designate OANC as Agent Related to DIFS and PASS Accounting System Maintenance**
Sponsor(s): Commissioner Jaspal Bhatia
- **Motion:** Commissioner Sherman called for approval of the consent agenda.
- **Outcome:** Approved collectively by voice vote (7-0-0).

New Business

- **Second Quarterly Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2026:**
 - a. **Summary of Discussion:** n/a
 - b. **Outcome:** Approved by a voice vote of 7-0-0.
- **Grant Application for Holmead Place Block Party:**
 - a. **Summary of Discussion:** Commissioner Sherman introduced the grant as sponsor, noting it is the second annual block party on Holmead Place between Park Road and Monroe Street, with District Bridges serving as fiscal agent. Applicant Julia Friedman confirmed the DDOT permit was already approved and described outreach plans including kid-distributed flyers and coordination with neighboring buildings. Commissioner Bhatia reminded all parties that receipts must be submitted back to the ANC per OANC requirements. Commissioner Thomas-Davis asked about traffic and cleanup logistics; Friedman confirmed a traffic control plan consistent with last year's approach and the existence of a resident cleanup committee.
 - b. **Outcome:** The resolution was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.
- **Grant Application for Columbia Heights Day 2026:**
 - a. **Summary of Discussion:** Commissioner Sherman introduced the \$1,000 grant to partially fund a community mural on the side wall of The Coupe as part of Columbia Heights Day on May 16th. Commissioner Bhatia raised concerns about whether funds could permissibly flow to an individual muralist and noted a misalignment between the application's engagement metrics (the full festival) and the specific funded item (the mural). Edward Wycliffe (District Bridges) clarified that the muralist is in the process of establishing an LLC to receive funds. Commissioner Thomas-Davis opposed the grant, noting that District Bridges already receives significant DC government funding, that the mural would benefit private property, and that compliance details should be finalized before a vote; he also asked about the mural's content and community input process. Wycliffe described the concept as a placemaking mural celebrating

Columbia Heights landmarks and community identity. Commissioner Sherman responded that disbursement would only occur once all OANC requirements were met, and noted that the Commission has previously authorized grants with the understanding that funds would not be issued if compliance could not be confirmed.

b. **Outcome:** Approved 6-0-1.

Adjournment

- **Time:** 8:56 PM
- **Next Meeting:** May 20, 2026, at 7:00 PM (In-person at LAYC & on Zoom).

Prepared by: Monte Achenbach

Approved on: May 20, 2026

Attested by the ANC 1A Secretary: Monte Achenbach

