



Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

Sept 2020 Meeting Minutes

DATE: 8 Sept 2020

ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Michael Shankle, Kevin Wilsey, Jamaal Burton

PRESENT: Commissioner Michael Shankle, Commissioner Kevin Wilsey, Commissioner Jamaal Burton, Elizabeth Miske, Gigi Nelson, Monica Palacio, Jeanne Lewis, Martin Miguel Fernandez, Nicole Goines, Lamonté T. Pryor, Captain Jonathan Dorrough, Lieutenant Michael Hamelin, Suzanne Sofge, Martha Saccocio, Sherry Gillespie, Larry Handerman, Albert, Howard Marks, Jo-Ann Neuhaus, Sidon Yohannes, Yavuz Pehlivanlar, Mike Berman, Neil Albert, Kevin Harriord, Barbara Wanchisen, Renee Ingram, Sarah Mehrotra, Claire Moreno

ABSENT: William Mascaro, Wendy Cadell

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Made by Wilsey, who introduced himself and other Commissioners. Noted 3 of 3 Commissioners present for a quorum.
2. **OPENING REMARKS/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Burton will not be running for his seat again and can be removed from Brief Community Announcements. Wilsey made motion to approve with this change, seconded by Burton. (Vote 3-0-0)
3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Wilsey made motion to approve August 2020 Minutes, seconded by Shankle. (Vote 3-0-0)
4. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Shankle provided the August treasurer's report. The current balance as end of August was \$58,642.09. There were no expenses or additions for the month.

Shankle recommends the Commission moves forward with FY21 budget (beginning October 1) by continuing with the current proposed budget for FY20. This includes \$7,284.00 in district allotments received throughout the year as income, and \$200.00 for communication costs, \$600.00 for office supplies, \$1800.00 for purchase of services (preparation of the meeting, website changes), and \$1,825.00 for a complete website overhaul (which was not done in FY20). Total of \$4,426.00 in total disbursement. Shankle made motion to move forward with the replication of FY20 for FY21, seconded by Wilsey. Vote (3-0-0)

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Introduction of ANC Candidates and Other Candidates Present:** Wilsey presents opportunity for introduction of persons running for the ANC and At-Large Council or Ward 2 Council.

2C01: Michael D. Shankle, 916 G Street, NW 20001, 617-304-4372

Michael.Shankle@gmail.com Commissioner ending second year. Shankle notes his involvement with and the continued importance of involvement in the areas of noise reduction, DDOT notice of changes happening in the ward, liquor license protests when applicable, and creating continued opportunity to make sure that community has voice in their government.

2C02: William Mascaro, 450 Massachusetts Ave., NW 20001, 202-820-6695, whmascaro@icloud.com Not Present

2C02: Elizabeth Miske, 450 Massachusetts Ave., NW 20001, 203-560-8743, elliemiske@gmail.com miskefor2C02.com. Labor Attorney and activist with government and people background. Wants to work towards more equitable area, advocate for racial justice, public health and safety, understand zoning, and hearing and addressing community concerns. Interested in expanded advocacy for communities. Wants to encourage collectivism and communication among ANCs. Interested in promoting online dissemination of information, having an online monthly newsletter, cross promoting other community events, and making connections more accessible. Miskefor2C02.com

2C03: Gigi Nelson, 631 D Street, NW 20004, 202-780-5388, Gigi2C03@gmail.com Wilsey notes he will not be running and that Nelson will be running for his spot. Nelson is a historian who visited DC in college and knew it would someday be her permanent home, has made that come true. She understands city history. Has been attending ANC2C meetings and has worked with the current commissioners note taking for the meetings. This is home, Nelson committed to making it the best it can be. Aware of neighborhood issues.

DC Council At-Large Candidate 2020: Monica Palacio, IND, 6625 Harlan Pl., NW 20012, 202-422-2191, MonicaforDC.com, monica@monicafordc.com. Civil rights lawyer, community organizer, advocate. Former Director of Office of Human Rights. Involved in outreach and education as significant part of work, led mayor's response team to hate crime spike in city against LGBTQ and race and faith minority groups. Has served on issues about youth violence, education, housing discrimination. Left position with OHR because she felt the city needs more diverse leadership and representation. Although 20% of the population. Not running to be the first in that category. Election is about saving lives and protecting families and protecting the city. Believes pandemic going to create more issues with evictions, business losses, etc. Wants to work on Public Safety, making sure we have the right responses to crime so citizens feel safe, Eviction Rights, and investments in Education so all families have a school where their child can get a quality and safe education.

DC Council At-Large Candidate 2020: Jeanne Lewis, IND jeannelewisatlarge.com

– From DC. Wilsey added based on note received in chat. Originally from DC, DC is home. Has grown in a lot of ways but feels policy has not grown with it. Progressive policies on paper are actually pushing people out. Worked social Justice, non-profits through college. Bring experience back to local politics more like home. Working to find best practices to continue to grow city but censure people and censure home instead of just balancing the books. Equitable development, security needs to be provided for small businesses. With current protests we need to make sure we protect homes and welcome visitors. Sustainable housing needed, also needs to be affordable, and transportation decisions made to preserve it. Excellent schools so youth have a future in our city. DC is made up of its people. Committed to building community and home with a sense of vision. Missjeannelewis.com

DC Council Ward 2 Councilperson: Martin Miguel Fernandez, IND, P.O. Box 34234, 20043, 202.350.1207, martin@martinforward2.com. Lives and works in DC. Works Science and technology policy for a nonprofit, previously for the federal government. DJ background gives him understanding of service industry internally as well as public health understanding from current work. Running foremost because Ward 2 has been run by Jack Evans his entire life, and he doesn't feel that replacing him with someone with campaign finance violations and a conservative voting record are a way to move forward. Priorities include affordable housing, public safety, focusing on investments in the city technology, and expanding municipal broadband network. Over 20,000 students don't have access to high speed internet. Telehealth, business relief also important, revenue down as much as 90% downtown. Need government to step in to prevent downtown from vacant storefronts. Service industry workers need to have protections in place: access to PPE, right to refuse to return to work, access to unemployment if so, protection of excluded workers.

2. **Ward 2 Mayor's Liaison – Nicole Goines, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services, Ward 2 Liaison, Nicole.Goines@dc.gov:** Goines states the District reported today 47 new positive Covid cases, for a total 14,362 overall positive cases. No additional reported deaths, but 611 District residents have lost their lives due to Covid 19. Visit coronavirus.DC.gov/data for more information on testing sites and data. The Mayor announced a \$3.3m Internet for All initiative to provide free internet access for up to 25,000 low income DCPS and public charter school students and their families. High risk state list has been updated today, added Montana and Ohio; Alaska and Arizona have been removed.

The Third Annual Maternal Health Summit will be held Sept 15 at 2pm. Purpose is to bring together health professionals to take on the challenge of addressing disproportionately high levels of maternal mortality experienced by people of color. For more information, go to dcmaternalhealth.com/register.

Mobile app launched to apply and recertify for public benefits. This way residents can apply and recertify for cash, food and medical benefits. Go to dhs.dc.gov/dcaccess for more information.

Community Town Hall every Wednesday at 5pm. This week will discuss phase reopening and other issues of focus.

3. **Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto Update - Brooke Pinto Councilmember, Ward 2, bpinto@dccouncil.us, or Lamonté T. Pryor, Scheduler/Executive**

Assistant, lpryor@dccouncil.us: Pryor states Pinto has gotten a preliminary agreement on postponing additional construction on the 7th St. Car Free Lane until after the Open Comment Period is over. This pushes the start until after September 21, pending what comments may come from residents and constituents during Open Comment Period.

The 7th Street NW Car Free Lane Project Listening Session with Pinto and DDOT will be held September 10 at 6pm; interested residents and constituents invited to attend.

A COVID-19 Recovery and Legislative Tele-Townhall will be held September 15 at 7pm.

A Homelessness Community Meeting (Zoom) will be held September 17 at 7pm.

Registered for all three can be found at tinyurl.com/PintoSeptember2020. Questions may be submitted there as well.

Pinto has started a newsletter for updates, residents can check it via enews.dccward2.us/mail/util.cfm?gpiv=2100162377.1651.256&gen=1

Parents with children that have had virtual learning challenges should contact Pinto's office so these challenges can be addressed immediately.

Shankle notes that DDOT is planning to repave 7th Street from Massachusetts to Pennsylvania tomorrow at night with one day notice, and requests that Pryor take this info and community concern about DDOT's failure to engage with community back to Pinto to address. Pryor states he will do so.

4. **MPD 1st District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Jonathan Dorrough,**

Jonathan.Dorrough@dc.gov: Dorrough reports only 1 violent crime in last 30 days, and it was closed out. Property crime down 64% from last year, crime down 66% overall.

Wilsey requests information on enforcement of the 7th Street repaving. Dorrough states they have reached out to DDOT regarding the public safety aspects of this project. States there will be a detail warning people for a few weeks (does not have details yet), run out of the Traffic Division, probably out of overtime, followed by normal enforcement. Access for officers and vehicles to maintain a presence on 7th Street seems to have been worked out.

Increased public space is a concern if that would lead to increased disorder. Will be monitored, and they will maintain ongoing conversation. May need to continue to engage other city agencies and partners. Also keeping an eye on environmental design.

Sofge asks about the cash only sports betting in Chinatown. Dorrough states there has been a lot of activity, but no problems. MPD met with them several times over several weeks, and off-duty officers were hired to provide additional security. Traffic is a huge concern with double parking, etc., DPW is only enforcing egregious violations. Traffic will be larger issue once back to normal. Narcotics activity created more concern about resource stretching. MPD has added a daywork mountain bike officer to the area and that has been successful.

5. **MPD 2nd District Crime and Community Awareness, Lieutenant Michael Hamelin, michael.hamelin@dc.gov:** Hamelin reports 2D is in the same position with low crime rates. Largest issue with thefts with burglaries next. All crime is significantly down.

6. **Department of Public Works, Wendy Cadell, Inspector, Wendy.Cadell@dc.gov:** Not present.

7. **DC Public Library, MLK Reopening, Martha Saccocio, Interim Director, Community Engagement, 202.604.8241, martha.saccocio@dcpl.dc.gov:** Saccocio provided PowerPoint of updates. MLK Library has been closed for about 2.5 years, the building has been completely transformed. Will host 250,000 books, more than 100 computer stations, a 290-seat auditorium, rooftop reading terrace, meeting and study rooms, conference center and event space. While the opening ceremony is on hold, the MLK Library is scheduled to open for limited services September 24.

Peer Outreach Specialists will be operating out of MLK Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting September 29.

Gillespie asked if current library cards will be valid. Saccocio stated they have extended library card expiration dates. Advises to try to use online, if doesn't work can call the library or use online chat for assistance.

Unidentified person requests how library is going to handle the homeless population.

Saccocio reiterates that they will have Peer Outreach Specialists available. Also states that with current standards, there is no 'hanging out' in the library, computer time, etc., has time limits and once done, people need to leave. Social worker on staff with peer specialists will help connect people to city services.

Gillespie asks about Café plans. Saccocio states there will be one but not open initially, unsure of opening date.

Shankle addresses question in chat about pod reservation. Saccocio states that all meeting spaces can be reserved online or by calling the library. As of now they will be set as they are (no table/seating changes).

Neuhaus reiterates concern about homeless sitting for hours in outdoor patio area. Saccocio states that as of now no one can sit in the library. Normally computer sessions are 70 minutes, max 2 per day. Café operation being finalized. Customers not required to make a purchase to sit there, and staff will not check housing status of any guest for admittance. Neuhaus requests information about conference rooms for ANC meetings. Saccocio states once the library is open, they would love to have the ANC meetings hosted there if fit within library hours. Neuhaus asks about the vacant space between the library and the church. Saccocio states there is conversation with the church and that there will be more information coming.

8. **Department of Human Services, Programming at MLK Library. Larry Handerhan, Chief of Staff, larry.handerhan@dc.gov:** Handerhan presents PowerPoint on Human Services in ANC 2C to show what's being worked on right now.

DHS and DCPL Partnership at MLK Library – they are working together closely to make sure this is an open space for ALL residents and a place of connectivity. Don't anticipate having a transportation stop at the library going forward. Will be re-evaluated later. Loitering was a large issue in the past. When the library does open, there will be dedicated onsite support. Full programming return will include access to DC agencies, providers, and legal services.

Downtown Day Service Center – Providing limited services during Covid including restrooms, showers, laundry, phone charging, and emergency clothing.

www.downtowndc.org/program/the-center/ Are now paying providers to cover every square block of the city to engage with unsheltered residents of the city.

Handerhan lost from the call, Albert speaks to the following:

Franklin Park – Closure and Alternate Weekend Services – BID set up on Vermont Avenue to set up the same services on Saturdays and Sundays. 225-250 people were served.

Contact numbers provided for the following:

DHS Shelter Hotline 202.399.7093 Call for transportation to shelter or other resources, wellness checks, comfort items, or concerns related to individuals experiencing homelessness.

DBH Community Response Team 202.673.6495 Call if an individual is experiencing a psychiatric crisis and is unable or unwilling to travel to receive mental health services.

DMHHS Encampment Team: encampment.reports@dc.gov Reach out to report an encampment to the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS) for evaluation and follow up.

For more information regarding DHS Covid Modified Operations or Storyboard:

<https://dhs.dc.gov/page/dhs-modified-operations-during-covid-19>

<https://dhs.dc.gov/storyboard>

Other Issues: Larry Handerhan, Chief of Staff Larry.Handerhan@dc.gov

9. **Downtown DC Business Improvement District. Neil Albert, President and Executive Director, Neil@DowntownDC.org:** Albert notes that they are happy with the partnership with DHS, hoping they can get more nonprofit partners to help with Vermont Avenue services.

States Pre-Covid, the Day Services Center saw 150-170 individuals daily. Currently by appointment only, seeing about 50 people/day. Goal to get to 70-75/day. About 2,250 meals served in August on Vermont Avenue.

Albert states the BID looks at drivers of downtown DC economy on a quarterly basis, and annually provides a State of Downtown report, both available on their website. Downtown DC has been hit hard by COVID. The Office Market seems to be holding steady. Every other sector has been hit hard. Hotel revenue was at 5% of 2019 revenue in April and May, now up to 15%. Restaurants have temporary and permanent closures and those that are open are at 20-25% of 2019 levels. Only 1 of 8 museums is currently open. The Capital One Center and the convention center, major drivers of revenue, are both still closed.

Regarding 7th Street, BID has been facilitating community feedback to the proposal and working with DDOT to ensure minimal economic impact. They are pleased implementation has been delayed.

BID has been collaborating with Barry Gutin from Cuba Libre regarding the 8th Street Streatory. Envision using the entire lot, table service only. Hoping to be in place by September 18 and run for 6 weekends. Friday 5p-11p, Saturday 12p-10p, Sunday 12-10. Max of 6 people per table, masks required when not eating.

16th Street has been closed since late May/early June. Working with Golden Triangle BID to find best way to reopen and pay tribute to the BLM movement while accommodating business on the street. Considering arts walk in that area like the one by St. John's Church. BID's goals are to keep DC clean and safe. Please reach out if questions or concerns.

Shankle requests information about boarded up businesses – can we get the boards removed. Albert states BID working with MPD, and at current time there is no credible info that boards need to be kept up for safety. Some businesses are waiting on glass that is on backorder. Some have gone out of business, so until there is a new tenant the landlord is keeping the boards up.

Neuhaus suggests murals on boards as a potential solution. Albert notes they did do this, and that some of the boards were put on display around the city when they came down. Neuhaus is suggesting the painting be done on the boards that are staying, or on glass of vacant buildings. Albert states that most of the ones where the boards are staying up, ownership is not interested in doing so.

Wilsey notes that while residents have been part of BID for last three years, more representation from people who live downtown on the Board would be ideal. It's primarily

business owners. Albert states there are two residents on the Board, goal to get it to 4. Only apartment dwellers are allowed as of now. Albert encourages people to reach out to him if interested.

Marks concerned about COVID-19 and the opening of sports betting location. No social distancing although masks are generally seen. Wants Albert to bring this to their attention. Albert agrees that this is an issue, will raise with Monumental.

LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY

Alcoholic Beverage Licensing (ABRA)

1. Yardbird Southern Table and Bar, 901 New York Avenue, NW – (ABRA - 116575). New Retailer's Class "C" – Restaurant. Andrew Kline, Esq. 202.686.7600, akline@theveritaslawfirm.com.

Sidon Yohannes with the Veritas Law Firm states hours requested for outdoor portion are Sunday-Thursday 8a-2a and Friday and Saturday 8a-3a. They are willing to amend application hours to midnight for the outside area if need be but want to do it prior to the Protest deadline of September 28.

Shankle states he's comfortable with the hours outside being until 12a. Wilsey agrees. Shankle and Wilsey agree they have no issue with inside hours. Wilsey recommends sending a letter of support once he receives notification the outdoor hours have been amended, seconded by Shankle. Vote (3-0-0)

TRANSPORTATION / PUBLIC SPACE

1. **SweetGreen, 624 E Street NW. New Sidewalk Café Un-Enclosed, DDOT-10804891.** Taylor Duman, permits@accupermit.com.

Not Present. Shankle presents the printout that was provided and speaks to the establishment request. SweetGreen would like to place two (2) tops, and (1) 4 top tables outside. Luke's Lobster next door already has some outdoor seating. Shankle states no issue with request. Wilsey agrees anything they can do to allow businesses to have outdoor seating should be fast tracked. Shankle recommends the permit be approved, seconded by Wilsey. Vote (3-0-0)

Neuhaus requests mirroring NYC in DC's outdoor dining. Wilsey states that outdoor cafes that go into the street are going through DDOT without ANC input.

Shankle asks about the 8th Street Streatery, Wilsey notes that the ANC was in favor of the concept but haven't seen details come forward. Albert states they had to reach out to every property owner, some were not quick to respond. Design has evolved with feedback.

Finalized plans should be available tomorrow or Thursday. Berman notes there is also a

zone in Techworld if they have restaurants interested. Prep is a challenge for restaurants that are not in the immediate area. If they can get onsite preparation of food that would help the restaurants but those are DDOT and Health Department issues.

Berman states tents will stay up for the duration and be ballasted with concrete blocks.

Storage containers will house tables and chairs when not in use. Berman states if successful they will add heaters to maintain service longer.

Marks asks about facilities. Berman states that they looked to building owners to provide, but only Cuba Libre is making theirs accessible, so looking at portable units.

Shankle makes a motion to send a letter of support to DDOT for the 8th & H, I, K St. Streatery Layout, Wilsey seconded. Vote (3-0-0)

Neuhaus asks about ABC license, Albert states the city has a provision for this.

2. **ANC Resolution. District Department of Transportation, NOI# 20-007-TDD, Car Free Lanes in Ward 2,**

https://ddot.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddot/page_content/attachments/7th%20Street%20NW%20One%20Pager_v5.pdf. **Haley Peckett, Project Manager, Project**

Delivery Division, haley.peckett@dc.gov: Wilsey states he wants to send something from the ANC and wants to incorporate main points as he feels the 7th Street Car Free Lanes project has not been planned properly, and has not considered the people who live or have businesses on 7th Street. Feels strongly there should be a review of comments, the DDOT should not just receive comments and do the work anyway.

Neuhaus states that 7th Street is one of two streets that go North – South and continue past Penn Quarter, and the only straight commercial street to get to the southwest. Feels closing it is a bad planning idea. Wilsey agrees. Neuhaus doesn't think DDOT is considering traffic post COVID-19 and doesn't think the project increases vitality. Shankle notes they have comments about impact on the neighborhood and to residents. Notes that DDOT has not addressed how residents are going to access their buildings, example given of bringing home groceries. Wilsey notes receiving Uber eats will also be a challenge. Sofge notes concern with locations of unloading zones and pedestrian drop offs, in that restaurants cannot afford to lose their seating space to accommodate them. Neuhaus states parents with young children will be especially challenged to unload kids and groceries. Shankle notes no sense of how the businesses along 7th Street feel. Albert states the BID has facilitated 2-3 forums and have gotten feedback from several businesses, estimates 90% are opposed. DDOT's reason for doing this is that it will save a minute of bus time. The consensus: now is not the time to do this. Businesses are relying on Uber Eats and outdoor seating for their survival. He believes DDOT heard that last week, but not sure. BID won't do anything to impede economic vitality, made recommendation that DDOT not go forward with this. Suspects this is going to be delayed indefinitely. Shankle notes DDOT has a Notice of Intent stating

comments are due September 21. DDOT has said they've received few comments. Shankle recommends anyone having a concern should put in writing and send to Peckett. Albert reiterates that if you don't make your voice heard during the timeframe, your opinion will not be counted. BID is encouraging the businesses to do so. Wilsey questions repaving of 7th Street. Albert states he did get unsubstantiated info that it is part of the Mayor's initiative to pave streets in every ward and this is part of it for Ward 2. Neuhaus states that Indiana Avenue will be cut off. Sofge states she did mention that to Peckett at last ANC meeting and followed up in writing. Marks states he assumed that light duty trucks would be allowed, looked up FAQs, says delivery trucks like FedEx, etc., will be able to be ticketed with the way its currently written. Shankle offers assistance with creating letter, Wilsey states he will start it. Wilsey makes a motion to send a letter to DDOT incorporating comments from constituents and will work with the other two commissioners to do so. Albert suggests incorporating comments from Monumental, Oxford Property, Carmine's Restaurant, Hip City Veg. Marks recommends reaching out to Hertz rental facility in the arena as they would be forced to close. Sofge offers to send in highlights from her condo board. Shankle recommends anyone sending in comments also forward them to the ANC. Wilsey makes a motion to send a letter to DDOT, seconded by Burton. Vote (3-0-0)

ADJOURNMENT: by Shankle.

Minutes Submitted by: Gayle Gardner

Next Meeting: October 13, 2020, 6:30pm

Minutes Approved: October 13, 2020