

Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

June 2021 Meeting Minutes

DATE: June 8, 2021

ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioner Michael Shankle, Commissioner Gigi Nelson, and Commissioner Ellie Miske

PRESENT: Mike Anderson, Priscilla Baek, Reginald Black, Galin Brooks, Michael DeBernard, Fr. Vincent DeRosa, Captain Jonathan Dorrough, Joe Florio, Lieutenant Michael Hamelin, Austin Himes, Genevieve Hulick, Thomas Lee, Howard Marks, Ben Merrick, Jo-Ann Neuhaus, David Ross, Emre Tiftik, Josh Turnbull, and Laura Zeilinger

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Shankle called the meeting to order at 6:05pm over Zoom (available at <https://www.anc2c.us/video-recordings>).
2. **INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS**
3. **QUORUM:** A quorum of three of three commissioners present.
4. **OPENING REMARKS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Shankle reviewed the agenda (available at www.anc2c.us). XX made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by XX. (Vote 3-0-0)
5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** XX made a motion to approve the May 2021 Minutes, seconded by XX. (Vote 3-0-0)
6. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Nelson provided the May treasurer's report. Opening balance: \$56,578.34. There was one disbursement of \$175 for May's minutes. Closing balance: \$56,403.34.

--- Video recording starts here---

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

7. Director Laura Zeilinger, Department of Human Services, dhs@dc.gov, (202) 671-4200

Zeilinger provided an overview of Mayor Bowser's FY2022 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan. She noted the financial impact of the pandemic and the federal funding available to the District.

The biggest investments in the District's proposed budget are for education and human services. Other significant policy priorities within the budget include: (a) public education & learning acceleration, (b) childcare, (c) healthcare, (d) affordable housing, (e) public safety & gun violence prevention, (f) economic Recovery for residents, businesses, and neighborhoods, (h) transportation and the Environment, (i) capital

improvements, and (j) a \$17.5 billion investment in the city's shared recovery and growth.

Zeilinger said there is an anticipated 3-year recovery period from the pandemic, and 2-3 years of funding to spread out federal resources to avoid deep cuts to essential services. She also confirmed that the budget is balanced. The presentation can be found at <https://mayor.dc.gov/fy2022-fairshot-budget> in addition to Ward 2's fact sheet.

8. Ward 2 Mayor's Liaison – Joe Florio, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services, Ward 2 Liaison, Joseph.Florio@dc.gov, 202-805-7122.

Florio started with a COVID-19 re-opening update. The last round of re-openings is Friday, June 11, 2021. Nightclubs and large sport entertainment venues can resume normal operations and capacity. Mask mandates remain up to residential buildings and businesses. Masks are still required on Metrorails and buses, taxis, ride shares, public transportation into the District, airplanes, schools and childcare facilities, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, workplaces (when required), and healthcare settings.

Florio then provided an update on the Pat Handy shelter and the alleyway. DHS said security patrols are occurring only around the immediate area of the shelter, not the alleyway or the surrounding blocks. DPW said there will be parking enforcement officers to investigate the alley twice a day. DOH said rat abatement would continue. DGS put two new dumpsters at the rear of the shelter and secured recycling services for the shelter until the end of the occupancy period. Shankle asked about timeframe on shelter. Hulick said that that construction on the new shelter is to begin in September, so the current building will have to be unoccupied by then.

Shankle and other constituents expressed continued concerns over the Pat Handy shelter and the alleyway. Concerns expressed include: the untimely response from the government, parking enforcement, the insufficiency of the dumpsters, defecation and urination in the alley, illicit activity, safety, prostitution, harassment, and the cultural and racial equity issues with how the situation is being handled.

9. Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto Update -- Brooke Pinto Councilmember, Ward 2, bpinto@dccouncil.us, 202-724-8058 or Genevieve F. Hulick, Chief of Staff, ghulick@dccouncil.us.

Hulick gave general updates from Councilmember Pinto's office. Pinto held outdoor office hours in Farragut Square to give residents a chance to meet with her. She welcomes suggestions about where to have outdoor office hours in 2C. Parking enforcement and street sweeping are back. Residents can reach out to Pinto's office if they have trouble getting a DMV appointment; new appointments are released on Tuesdays at 3pm. The Mayor's ticket amnesty program lasts through September 30, 2021.

Hulick then provided legislative updates. There are two pieces of legislation that address noise concerns. The Amplified Noise Amendment Act would implement a plainly audible standard and enforcement standards when regulating noise in public space generated from amplifying sound devices. It has been referred to the committee as the whole, and they hope for a hearing in the fall. The Harmonious Living Amendment Act

would regulate sound for new residential construction and require soundproofing for entertainment venues and soundproofing for any new building. It has been referred to the Committee on Business and Economic Development as well as the committee as the whole. A hearing will happen in the fall after budget season. Pinto is additionally working on small business legislation.

Pinto's Budget Advocacy Letter included the following items that were ultimately included in the budget proposal: school based mental health clinicians, \$13 million for high dose tutoring, more permanent supportive housing vouchers, funding for the K Street transit way, and a LGBTQ resource center. She will be fighting for additional funding for permanent supportive housing vouchers, "clean teams" for our business improvement districts, small businesses, the Great Street programs throughout Ward 2, and a new Shaw Middle School.

10. MPD 1st District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Jonathan Dorrough, Jonathan.Dorrough@dc.gov, 202.729.2179, and/or Sgt Erica Dortch-Jones, Erica.Dortch-Jones@dc.gov.

Captain Dorrough provided the monthly crime report. There was one narcotics-related robbery that happened at the 600 H Street bus stop. Four people have been arrested. There has been a huge uptick on property crime, back to pre-pandemic levels. Stolen autos are the main concern. The narcotics unit is active in Chinatown and they have made many arrests.

Regarding the Pat Handy Shelter, Captain Dorrough said their main focus has been on violent crime and narcotics. They will address the quality of life concerns, but don't want to arrest people for non-illegal activity. As to the buying/selling of narcotics, residents should send evidence to the MPD. Captain Dorrough explained the burden of proof needed to make arrests. Constituents expressed concerns over the illicit activity happening around the Part Handy shelter and alleyway.

Shankle pointed out prostitution/sex worker flyers on G Street between 9th and 10th Street. Captain Dorrough said they would look into this.

11. MPD 2nd District Crime and Community Awareness, Lieutenant Michael Hamelin, michael.hamelin@dc.gov, 202.715.7340, and/or Sergeant John Sprague, john.sprague@dc.gov.

Lieutenant Hamelin noted that crime is similar for Police Service Area (PSA) 209. The majority of crimes are property crimes; there have been no violent crimes within the last 30 days. There was a homeless outreach event last month and another event in the fall. He asked up about the prostitution activity/flyers. Shankle said that he has not seen sex acts on G Street, but has seen flyers. Himes said he has seen sex acts on 807 6th Street between H and I Street.

LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY

12. 600 Block of H ST NW crowding and pedestrian safety around the bus shelter (Southside of Street). Commissioner Shankle, 2c01@anc.dc.gov, 617-304-4372 and

Galin Brooks, Director of Planning, DowntownDC BID, galin@downtowndc.org, 202-270- 0366.

Shankle presented the concerns about the bus shelter near the Metro Center/Chinatown metro stop. Concerns include: constriction (funneling) at the bus shelter location, congregation of non-bus riders, pedestrian safety, and criminal activity. One proposed recommendation is to move the bus stop completely to another location. This doesn't seem feasible because the bus stop is near Metro Center/Chinatown metro stop, a major transportation point to the city. A second recommendation is to request that the shelter is moved completely from the street.

Brooks, from the downtown DC business improvement district (BID), said her office has heard similar concerns from business owners, residents, and property owners in the area. Constituents echoed the concerns of safety and congestion.

Shankle made a motion to send a letter to DDOT to explore remedies for the safety and congestion concerns associated with the bus shelter, seconded by Miske. (Vote 3-0-0)

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSING (ABRA)

13. Puro Gusto NA, LLC t/a Puro Gusto as 1345 F Street NW, Washington DC, 20001, ABRA-118150, Attorney Matt Minora, mminora@malliosbrien.com

Minora stated the application is for a retailers Class C restaurant license for Puro Gusto LLC t/a Puro Gusto. The restaurant will be an upscale Italian café serving breakfast, all-day menu items, and Italian beers, wines, and cocktails. The interior seating capacity is 70 with a total occupancy load of 145. The application also seeks a sidewalk café endorsement for a maximum of 30 seats and a request for an alcohol carryout and delivery endorsement (with a purchase of a food item). The hours of operations for both interior and exterior are 6am-2am during the week, and 6am-3am on the weekend. The hours being sought for alcoholic beverage sales for the interior and exterior are 8am-2am during the week, and 8am-3am on the weekend. Minora noted that the restaurant is far away from residences, which is why they are asking for these later hours. The hours sought for alcohol carryout and delivery are 8am-1pm during the week, and 8am-2am on Saturday. The application initially requested the ANC's support for a stipulated license but that will no longer be necessary because construction has been delayed.

Shankle noted a cigar bar right next to the location that is open until 3am; the requested hours are not inconsistent for the community standards. Shankle made a motion to send a letter of support for Puro Gusto's ABRA license, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 3-0-0)

14. Bar Spero L.L.C., Attorney Matt Minora, 250 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington DC, 20001, mminora@malliosbrien.com

Discussed the requested hours of operation from 9am-1am (inside, outside, and summer garden) as a follow up from May's meeting. Miske said the property manager of the nearby residence had no concerns and, furthermore, the proximity to residences

didn't raise a problem. Miske made a motion to send a letter of support, seconded by Shankle. (Vote 3-0-0)

- 15. Update about Taste LLC:** The ANC sent a letter of protest regarding Taste LLC's request to occupy additional space and extend hours. They were unable to reach a community agreement by the time the protest period was to expire. If a letter of agreement is reached, the ANC will withdraw the letter of protest.

TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC SPACE

PLANNING, ZONING, ENVIRONMENT, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

OTHER

- 16. Support for Public Arts Project in 2C.** Galin Brooks, Director of Planning, DowntownDC BID, galin@downtowndc.org, 202-270-0366 and Lisa Marie Thalhammer, Artist, lm@lisamariestudio.com.

Brooks presented a new project the DowntownDC BID is working on with a local artist, Lisa Marie Thalhammer. The project is a two-week mural festival downtown featuring murals made by 4-6 artists. The theme is "Ladies First"—female artists painting murals of important women in history of the area. The project is working with property managers of private buildings to gain consent for the murals to be painted on blank walls. The murals don't have to be permanent, but the goal is for them to be up 5+ years. The project seeks a letter of support from the ANC to accompany their application for a Public Art Building Communities grant. Miske made a motion for a letter of support, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 3-0-0)

- 17. Resolution support.** Ben Merrick, organizer with Metro DC DSA & Defund MPD Coalition, benjamin.merrick@hey.com and Imara Crooms, organizer with Metro DC DSA & Defund MPD Coalition, imaracrooms@gmail.com.

Merrick gave an overview of the campaign, vision, and goals of Defund MPD Coalition, which is composed of 29 local community organizations. Their core demand is to defund the MPD and invest in resources to promote a holistic approach to public safety within the community. Their five goals are: (1) reduce MPD budget by 50%; (2) educate with care and compassion by removing all police from DC schools and funding more support resources for schools; (3) fund the community using the savings from a reduced MPD budget; (4) unify the community by creating a non-police 911 response and non-police responses; (5) non-violence in all public services; and (6) demand that the Council and Mayor vote "no" on all MPD budget increases.

Constituents expressed concern about the mission, goals, and the divisiveness of the organization while citing examples of how the police have been helpful in the community.

Shankle asked if the organization wants the ANC to support their resolution. Merrick confirmed that that he wants to work with the ANC to craft a resolution. Nelson

said she appreciates the goal of reimagining how we policy our community, but she disagrees with the name Defund MPD because of its divisiveness. Miske brought up the resolution that ANC 2b formed in collaboration with the Defund MDP Coalition. Shankle said he wants to see the data behind the goals and how the vision was created. He also agreed that the name is divisive. Shankle proposed to table the resolution until there are further discussions.

18. Update on Pat Handy Center relocation to 11th ST NW by Commissioner Nelson.

Nelson noted that the management of the old location is changing when it moves to the new location. She doesn't have clarity on who is running the men's shelter on 3rd Street. Nelson said she would circle back with Pathways, ask who is managing the men's shelter, and invite them to the July ANC meeting. It was discussed that the ANC should move forward with a special meeting with the men's temporary shelter like it's doing with the Pat Handy shelter.

ADJOURNMENT: Nelson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Shankle. All three members were in favor of adjourning meeting

Minutes Submitted by: Laura Stateler

Minutes Approved by:

Next Meeting: July 13, 2021, 6:00PM

ANC Commissioners and Website

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www.anc2c.us

Subscribe to the ANC 2C listserve at www.anc2C.us.

Meetings are scheduled for the Second Tuesday of each month.