

Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

October 2021 Meeting Minutes

DATE: October 12, 2021

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

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Shankle called the meeting to order at 6:01pm over Zoom (available at <https://www.anc2c.us/video-recordings>).
- 2. INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS:** Commissioner Ellie Miske is not in attendance due to illness.
- 3. QUORUM:** A quorum of two of three commissioners present.
- 4. OPENING REMARKS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Shankle reviewed the agenda (available at www.anc2c.us). Nelson made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Shankle. (Vote 2-0-0)
- 5. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2021 MINUTES:** Shankle made a motion to approve the August and September 2021 minutes, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 2-0-0)
- 6. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Nelson provided the September treasurer's report. The September opening balance was \$57,873.39. There were two activities: the quarterly allotment in the amount of \$1,821.05, and the disbursement of \$175 for the meeting minutes. The September closing balance was \$59,520.44.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. 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 provided general announcements. First, Mayor Bowser and DDOT announced an immediate acceleration of the Vision Zero Project. Starting now DDOT will conduct safety improvement projects at 100 intersections annually within the District's high crash and high injury corridors. Progress on these projects will be published on the DDOT website. Second, the Streatery program has been extended and DDOT has extended Streatery permits. Third, the Test Yourself program is still available at the MLK library for free COVID-19 testing.

Florio provided updates on the alleyway between 5th and 6th Street above H Street NW. Members of the community had a meeting with the Department of Public Works (DPW) a couple weeks ago to discuss the concerns about the alleyway. DPW installed "no illegal dumping," "no loitering," and "no drinking" signs in the alleyway and installed a camera to

monitor illegal dumping. The Department of Health is actively baiting the alleyway for rodents. The Department of Health's Division of Food conducted a door-to-door inspection of the nearby businesses on September 21 and 24, 2021. One building owner was fined by DPW for illegal dumping and a judge determined that the individual is liable for the public space surrounding his properties. DPW is taking an active role to ensure people are in compliance with illegal dumping orders.

Constituents asked various questions about the Pat Handy shelter, including constructing public bathrooms. Another constituent brought up two locations that have been under construction for a while with seemingly little progress. Shankle noted that constituents should flag places for him and Florio to check out during their neighborhood walk.

2. Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto Update – Victoria Casarrubias, Executive Assistant and Scheduler

Casarrubias gave general updates from Councilmember Pinto's office. First, the legislative session is back in action. Highlights include the passage of the Protecting Our Children Emergency Amendment Act of 2021, which extends virtual learning options to students whose doctors recommend they learn virtually or have a high-risk person in their home. It does not apply to students who are eligible for the vaccine. The Act also puts in place more testing requirements and requires schools to notify families if there is a positive case in their child's classroom. The Council also extended the foreclosure moratorium to February 4, 2022.

Second, the Ward 2 redistricting hearing will take place on October 25, 2022 at 2pm and there will be a citywide hearing on November 5, 2022 at 12pm. Third, Councilmember Pinto advocated for the Mayor to extend the ticket amnesty, and the Mayor agreed to extend the program to the end of this year. Fourth, the new fiscal year began on October 1, 2021. Councilmember Pinto is working with District agencies to get clear timelines for Ward 2 projects that were funded in the budget. Casarrubias finished the Councilmember's updates with a reminder to get the flu and COVID-19 booster shot, and to continue to test for COVID-19.

3. MPD 1st District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Jonathan Dorrough, Jonathan.Dorrough@dc.gov, 202.729.2179

Captain Dorrough provided the monthly crime report. There is still an increase in stolen autos, especially hop-in stolen autos. Property crime is up slightly, but still well below pre-pandemic levels. Violent crime is at the same level as last year, which was historically low. There was one specific incident, a shooting at 6th and H Street NW. Early on a Sunday morning, three individuals fired multiple shots into a vehicle that was occupied by three victims. No one was hit. The case is still under investigation; it seems like a targeted incident. During the investigation, MPD discovered that there was a nightclub running out of 609 H Street NW called Club 202. The place has been shut down for licensing issues.

Shankle asked about stabbings in the H Street block. Captain Dorrough noted no reported stabbing in the last month, but MPD did note several non-reported incidents. Captain Dorrough also confirmed that a narcotics unit is still present in Chinatown. Reginald

Black, a constituent, offered to hold teach-in services about homelessness services and Homeward DC.

4. **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**
No updates provided.

LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY

1. **Brett Curtis, Special Events Manager, Local Trot for Hunger - November 25, 2021, bcurtis@some.org, (202) 797-8806**

Brett Curtis was not present. Shankle gave an overview of local Trot for Hunger event on November 25, 2021. The 1-mile and 5k races will begin on Freedom Plaza and the route mainly follows Pennsylvania Avenue. Setup begins at 2-3am, registration starts at 7am, and the race will conclude by noon. Reginald Black raised a concern about street closures for parking and transit/bus access. Shankle said the Commission will ask WMATA and the taskforce to provide notifications about the bus reroutes.

Shankle made a motion to send a letter of support for the Local Trot for Hunger, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 2-0-0)

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSING (ABRA)

TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC SPACE

1. **H Street NW Bus Priority Projects concepts, Spring Worth, Project Manager, DDOT, (202) 673-1736, spring.worth@dc.gov and Jamee Ernst, Transportation Planner**

Worth began her presentation on the H Street NW Bus Priority Project. She gave a brief overview of the overall Bus Priority Project and how the H Street NW project furthers DDOT's vision. The H Street NW Bus Project spans between 14th Street NW and North Capitol Street. The goals are to improve bus speeds, reliability, and pedestrian access.

Worth presented the H Street design concepts for the four different segments between 14th Street and North Capitol: Option 1—a no build with minimal changes such as bus stop rebalancing and bus stop consolidation. This option would not meet the Project's goal. Option 2—the recommended option—a selected build option. It includes adding curbside bus lanes on H Street between 14th Street NW and North Capitol Street. The bus lanes would only be in effect during the peak periods of 7-9:30am and 4pm-6:30pm. There would be minimal to no impact on parking. In Segment 2 and Segment 4 of the corridor, there would be a lane reduction from 6 lanes to 5 lanes in order to accommodate the bus lane. In Segment 1 and Segment 2, there would be no reduction to the six lanes. With the proposed changes, there would be a 15% improvement in bus travel times. Other proposed improvements include bus stop rebalancing, a queue jump (a signal that gives buses priority at intersection) at the westbound H Street NW & New Jersey Ave stop, and midblock

pedestrian improvements on 4th and 5th Street along H Street NW. Worth also gave an overview of the other options that are no longer being considered.

Worth opened the discussion for comments. Shankle asked about the offset lanes and right hand turns with the proposed plan, and expressed concern about the slowdown of right-turning vehicles. Worth said that cars would be able to use the bus lanes to make right hand turns and acknowledged that there might be slowing at certain intersections.

Reginald Black voiced concerns about the bus routes and the overall reduction in travel times. He also expressed concern about pinching traffic and enforcing the bus lanes. Worth said DDOT is working with MPD and DPW on bus lane enforcement. This year DDOT kicked off pilot stationary and bus-mounted cameras for research purposes. They plan to roll out a bus camera enforcement program in 2022, which would include money for cameras. Automated traffic enforcement either in form of bus-mounted or stationary cameras would be incorporated into the H Street project. Shankle asked about the involvement of WMATA. Worth said they have been very involved. Black wants to see how the WMATA proposed bus reroutes fit into this plan and the number of stops consolidated.

Shankle asked if a 15% decrease in bus time travel, or a reduction of a couple minutes, is worth the investment. Worth said that the feedback DDOT has received indicates the investment is worth it and that they will provide more information about the exact time reduction. Shankle would like to see a report card after the project goes into place that evaluates its success.

Black voiced additional concerns. First, whether aggressive drivers would take advantage of the transit signal priority and cause safety concerns. Second, if the plan would negatively impact transfers to northbound or southbound buses. Worth said the proposal should not impact bus transfers.

Nelson wanted to ask Andrew DeFrank about bike racks and widening sidewalks. Worth said she would take these issues back to DeFrank.

Shankle noted the open comment period on the proposed plan is through October 29, 2021.

PLANNING, ZONING, ENVIRONMENT, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

1. Chipotle signage proposal at 710 7th Street NW.

Shankle presented the design plans for the overhead and projecting signage for a new Chipotle store. The signage passed the Chinatown Steering Committee. A constituent flagged that the Chinese translation reads “Barbeque” restaurant. Shankle made a motion to send a letter of support for the signage, noting the translation, seconded by Nelson. (Vote 2-0-0)

OTHER

1. Alexander Rose-Henig, Head of School Basis DC, discussion of concerns regarding students, (202) 384-3142, alexander.rose-henig@basised.com

Rose-Henig is the Head of School at Basis DC, a grade 5-12 public charter school in the ANC 2C. He came to introduce the school, and to hear any concerns about the school’s expanded use of space during the pandemic.

Basis DC is a top ranked school that serves 650 students all over the city, including 70 families in Ward 2 and many in the Chinatown neighborhood. Since the school started 10 years ago, 100% of its students have been accepted into a four-year university.

Due to the school's downtown location and lack of owned outside space, the students utilize surrounding public spaces such as sporting venues for recreation activities and parks and open spaces. This year, with the pandemic, residents and local businesses have flagged some concerns with the student's expanded use of space on sidewalks and parks. Rose-Henig opened the discussion to hear constituent concerns.

Thomas Lee and his wife asked about the 2017 proximity preference proposal that would allow for students to go to a nearby school, such as Basis DC, instead of a farther away inbound school. Rose-Henig said for the family to email him to look into lottery preference at Basis DC.

Kevin Wilsey, who runs the Landsberg apartments across the street from the school, raised a concern about the traffic. He asked to set up a time to discuss the best way to control the traffic especially around apartment's garage. Another constituent, Suzanne Sofge, flagged that parents are using the two reserved zip car spots across the street during drop off. Reginald Black asked if the school has unstably-housed students. Rose-Henig said less than 5% of students this year that fit that criterion.

2. Gottlieb Simon, Executive Director of ANC's Retirement.

Shankle announced the retirement of the ANC's Executive Director, Gottlieb Simon. He was asked to retire by the DC Council earlier this month to the surprise of many people. Shankle signed a letter to the DC Council regarding his departure and the vacancy of his role.

ADJOURNMENT: Shankle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm, seconded by Nelson. Both commissioners were in favor of adjourning meeting (Vote 2-0-0)

Minutes Submitted by: Laura Stateler

Minutes Approved by:

Next Meeting: November 9, 2021, 6:00PM

ANC Commissioners and Website

Michael Shankle 2C01@anc.dc.gov

Elizabeth Miske 2C02@anc.dc.gov

Gigi Nelson 2C03@anc.dc.gov

www.anc2c.us

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Meetings are scheduled for the Second Tuesday of each month.