

ANC 1A

May 20, 2026 - REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Meeting Details

- Date: May 20, 2026
- Time: Meeting commenced at 7:06 PM
- Location: LAYC (1419 Columbia Rd) & Zoom
- Quorum: A quorum of 7 Commissioners was established.
- Present: Commissioners Davidson, Easley, Lehmann Morales, Miller, Perri, Sherman, and Thomas-Davis
- Absent: Commissioners Bhatia and Kelley
- Vacancy: One seat remained vacant following Commissioner Achenbach's resignation.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- Motion: Commissioner Lehmann Morales moved to approve the meeting minutes from the April 15, 2026 meeting.
- Second: Commissioner Miller seconded the motion.
- Outcome: The minutes were approved by voice vote, 7-0-0.

Election of Secretary

- Summary: Because the Secretary position was vacant, Commissioner Easley served temporarily for roll call and quorum. Commissioner Miller nominated Commissioner Davidson for Secretary. Commissioner Thomas-Davis nominated himself. Both nominees were permitted to speak briefly.
- Outcome: Commissioner Davidson was elected Secretary by roll-call vote.

Reports of Officers

Secretary's Report

- Commissioner Davidson stated that she had no formal report, having just been elected Secretary, and thanked Commissioner Thomas-Davis for his prior service and institutional knowledge.

Treasurer's Report

- In Commissioner Bhatia's absence, Chair Sherman provided the Treasurer's report.
- Current balance: \$62,970.08.
- Recent disbursements included payment to Mitra Moin for administrative services and a recurring X/Twitter subscription.
- A check was issued to District Bridges for the Holmead Place Block Party grant but had not yet been cashed.
- The Commission anticipated issuing payment for the Columbia Heights Day grant after confirming that the vendor had established an LLC to properly receive payment.
- The Quarterly Financial Report had been submitted to OANC, and the Commission was awaiting confirmation or any follow-up.

Approval of Agenda

- Chair Sherman noted that the agenda approval had been skipped inadvertently and returned to it before the first presentation.
- Amendments:
 - The resolution supporting the nomination of James Turner to the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board was removed from the consent agenda and moved to New Business.
 - Commissioner Thomas-Davis was allowed time during general comments to address a Board of Zoning Adjustment matter.
- Outcome: The agenda, as amended, was approved without objection.

Community Presentations and Agency Updates

Columbia Heights and Mount Pleasant Vision Framework for Public Realm Design

- Presenter: Le An, Senior Urban Designer, DC Office of Planning.
- Summary: Mr. An presented the finalized Columbia Heights and Mount Pleasant Vision Framework for Public Realm Design, including its complete Spanish translation. The framework is intended to guide improvements to public spaces in Columbia Heights and Mount Pleasant and includes public life study findings, a design framework, and implementation priorities.
- Mr. An reported that OP had continued community engagement, including a Mount Pleasant Library event with bilingual staff, and that printed copies of the report were available for public viewing.
- Implementation updates included:
 - DDOT's ongoing Crosstown Bus Priority work, including analysis of curb extensions, widened sidewalks, bus lanes, street trees, and landscaping.
 - DPR's secured FY26 funding of \$500,000 for implementation work, with a potential federal grant that could increase available funding to \$1 million. Potential improvements discussed included Columbia Heights Civic Plaza landscaping, a refreshed splash pad or water feature, and new furnishings.
 - DLCP's work on vending zone management, including internal vending zone managers, coordination with Beloved Community Incubator, vendor licensing support, and a possible peddler model. Mr. An noted that enforcement remains limited because of staffing constraints and that the vending zone map remains aspirational until more resources are available.
- Commissioners asked questions about the timeline for implementation, how the \$500,000 would be divided between Columbia Heights and Mount Pleasant, how the study's observations were conducted, opportunities for interim improvements before major capital projects, and how agencies would remain coordinated.

Ward 1 Council Budget Update

- Presenter: Councilmember Brianne Nadeau.

- Summary: Councilmember Nadeau provided an update on the FY27 budget process and described committee actions to restore or fund priorities after significant proposed cuts.
- Topics included proposed cuts to paid family leave, emergency rental assistance, permanent supportive housing, TANF, Alliance, childcare subsidies, and the Pay Equity Fund.
- She discussed committee funding for the Community Navigators program, healthy food access, Produce Plus, farmers market support, health coverage, federally qualified health centers, LGBTQ+ programs, Vida Senior Center, shelter capacity, public restrooms, smart trash cans, and implementation of the Columbia Heights and Mount Pleasant public life study.
- She stated that funds had been directed toward OP and DPR to support implementation of the public life framework, including funding for a Columbia Heights/Mount Pleasant vending zone manager and OP implementation work.
- She also discussed a proposed 2% surcharge on passive income, expected to raise approximately \$120 million in FY27, to help restore major budget cuts.
- Other updates included curfew legislation, housing production legislation, the bottle bill, the Neighborhood Management Authority, and funding needs for Bruce Monroe.
- Commissioners asked questions about the Columbia Heights Dog Park, public safety grants, Malcolm X/Meridian Hill Park, public restroom funding, vacant storefronts, juvenile justice, and federal funding risks.

General Comments

- Commissioner Thomas-Davis emphasized the importance of restoring funding for the Columbia Heights Dog Park project and stated that residents continue to ask for the project to move forward.
- Commissioner Thomas-Davis also discussed BZA Case No. 21446 concerning 1324 Kenyon Street NW, involving two special exceptions and one area variance. He stated that agency and zoning-administration issues had prevented a formal Commission report from being presented and that he intended to submit an individual statement. He reported hearing from two residents, one in mixed support and one in full support.

- Commissioner Perri noted his role as Vice Chair of the Mayor’s Juvenile Justice Advisory Group and requested public input on the recently passed curfew law, including from parents, teenagers, and other community members.
- Andrew Hall, a nearby resident, spoke in support of rezoning and development at 1327 Girard Street NW, citing the need for more affordable housing and urging the ANC to support additional units for extremely low-income households.
- James Flank, a resident of ANC 1A08, also spoke in support of development at 1327 Girard Street NW, stating that new housing can help open up older and more affordable units and that the location is appropriate for additional housing.
- Alannah Bell, a resident of ANC 1A09, spoke in support of the rezoning and development on Girard Street, describing the proposal as consistent with housing and affordability goals and urging the Commission to send a letter of support when appropriate.

Committee Reports

- Chair Sherman noted that committee reports and minutes were included in the agenda packet and encouraged residents and Commissioners to review recent committee work and upcoming committee meetings.

Consent Agenda

The following item was presented for approval under the consent agenda:

- Letter to DCPL concerning maintaining services at the Mount Pleasant Library
- Sponsor: Commissioner Miller
- Motion: Commissioner Lehmann Morales moved to approve the consent agenda.
- Second: Commissioner Miller seconded.
- Outcome: Approved by voice vote, 7-0-0.

New Business

A. ANC 1A FY27 Budget Feedback and Priority Recommendations Letter

- Sponsor: Commissioner Sherman

- Motion: Commissioner Sherman moved to approve the FY27 budget feedback letter, with minor formatting or grammatical edits allowed before transmittal.
- Second: Commissioner Davidson seconded.
- Summary of Discussion: Commissioner Sherman introduced the annual ANC 1A budget feedback letter to the Council of the District of Columbia. He stated that the letter covered a range of topics, including public safety, housing, education, food, small business, and other issues raised through the Commission's work throughout the year. Commissioners had reviewed and edited the letter before the meeting.
- Outcome: 6-0-1

B. Resolution Requesting Local Partnership in the Stewardship of Meridian Hill / Malcolm X Park

- Sponsors: Commissioners Davidson and Bhatia
- Motion: Commissioner Davidson moved approval of the resolution.
- Second: Commissioner Miller seconded.
- Summary of Discussion: Commissioner Davidson introduced the resolution as adapted from a measure passed by ANC 1B and customized for Columbia Heights. The resolution called for local partnership and improved stewardship of Meridian Hill/Malcolm X Park, recognizing the park's importance and ongoing maintenance challenges.
- Commissioners discussed whether the resolution was needed given existing work by ANC 1B and others, and whether it should be understood as criticism of current stewardship efforts. Commissioner Davidson clarified that the intent was not to rebuke ongoing efforts, but to support a stronger partnership structure and identify opportunities for collaboration when federal capacity is limited.
- Outcome: Approved by voice vote, 6-0-1.

C. Resolution Concerning Neighborhood Input for Community Safety Programs and Grant Awards in Columbia Heights and Ward 1

- Sponsor: Commissioner Thomas-Davis
- Motion: Commissioner Thomas-Davis moved approval of the resolution.

- Second: Commissioner Perri seconded.
- Summary of Discussion: Commissioner Thomas-Davis introduced the resolution, stating that District funds for violence intervention and community safety programs should be subject to more meaningful neighborhood and ANC input. He emphasized the importance of evaluating whether grantees are present, effective, and focused on the appropriate areas.
- Commissioners discussed the scope of the resolution, the statutory notice requirements for ANC input on certain grants, and how ANC participation could improve accountability and public trust. Some Commissioners supported the goal while noting that advance review of grants may be challenging in practice.
- Outcome: Approved unanimously by voice vote, 7-0-0.

D. Resolution Requesting the Immediate Release of Accurate Crime Statistics in MPD's Third and Fourth Districts

- Sponsor: Commissioner Easley
- Motion: Commissioner Easley moved approval of the resolution.
- Second: Commissioner Sherman seconded.
- Summary of Discussion: Commissioner Easley introduced the resolution, which requested accurate and timely crime data for MPD's Third and Fourth Districts. Commissioners discussed concerns about the availability and reliability of public safety data and the importance of accurate statistics for understanding neighborhood conditions and evaluating public safety strategies.
- Outcome: Approved unanimously by voice vote, 7-0-0.
- Commissioner Sherman noted that Commissioner Davidson had to leave the meeting early and Commissioner Easley resumed role of Secretary for the rest of the meeting; decreasing attendance to 6 Commissioners total.

E. Resolution Authorizing Expenditures and Establishing a Hiring Process for an Administrative Services Contractor to Support ANC 1A Operations

- Sponsor: Commissioner Sherman
- Motion: Commissioner Sherman moved approval of the resolution as amended.

- Second: Commissioner Perri seconded.
- Summary of Discussion: Commissioner Sherman introduced the resolution as an internal operational matter. He stated that the Commission had previously used administrative contractor support and that the absence of such support created significant burdens for officers and Commissioners. The resolution authorized increasing the monthly budget for the position from \$100 to \$700 and establishing a hiring process led by the Chair and Secretary, with a recommended candidate to return to the full Commission for approval.
- Commissioners discussed the proper role of an administrative contractor, whether the position would duplicate officer duties, how much involvement all Commissioners should have in the hiring process, and whether the draft agreement or position description was sufficiently developed. Commissioner Sherman clarified that the vote was not to approve a final contract, but to authorize the process, budget, and recruitment.
- Amendment: Commissioner Sherman amended the measure to allow Commissioners to weigh in on the position description and to meet the recommended candidate before final Commission action.
- Outcome: Approved by voice vote, 5-1-0

F. Resolution Concerning Amendments to the Bylaws of ANC 1A

- Sponsor: Commissioner Thomas-Davis
- Motion: Commissioner Thomas-Davis moved approval of the resolution.
- Second: Commissioner Perri seconded.
- Summary of Discussion: Commissioner Thomas-Davis introduced a proposed bylaws amendment to remove references to an executive committee and address concerns about officer roles and administrative support. He argued that the full Commission is the decision-making body and that the bylaws should avoid suggesting that authority rests with a smaller executive group.
- Commissioners discussed whether the executive committee language created confusion, whether officer coordination should remain informal, and whether a broader review of the bylaws would be preferable to a one-off amendment.
- Outcome: Commissioner Thomas-Davis withdrew the measure before a vote.

G. Resolution Supporting the Nomination of James Turner to the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board

- Sponsor: Commissioner Thomas-Davis
- Motion: The resolution was moved for approval.
- Second: Commissioner Lehmann Morales seconded.
- Summary of Discussion: The resolution had been removed from the consent agenda for discussion. Commissioner Thomas-Davis stated support for seating a Ward 1 resident on the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board and described Mr. Turner as exceptionally qualified. He also raised concerns about procedural issues he observed during an ABCA protest matter, including the role of ANCs as statutory parties and the treatment of ANC participation in protest proceedings.
- Outcome: Approved by voice vote, 5-0-1

Adjournment

- Time: Approximately 10:31 PM
- Next Meeting: June 17, 2026, at 7:00 PM, at LAYC and on Zoom.

Approved on: June 17, 2026

Attested by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Shira Davidson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Shira Davidson, ANC 1A Secretary