



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1A
JULY 15, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

- **Time:** Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM
- **Location:** Zoom
- **Present:** Commissioners Bhatia, Davidson, Easley, Lehmann Morales, McCarthy, Miller, Perri, Sherman, Chairperson, presiding, Thomas-Davis
- **Absent:** Commissioner Kelley
- **Quorum:** A quorum of 9 Commissioners was established
- **Note:** Commissioner Perri joined after the initial roll call. Commissioner Bhatia joined shortly after roll call began, and Commissioner Thomas-Davis clarified for the record that he was present.

Approval of Agenda

- **Motion:** Commissioner Miller moved to approve the agenda as amended.
- Commissioner Miller requested that Letter LR26-0014, a Letter of Support for LAYC's Tubman Mural Project - FY27 Public Art Building Communities Grant, and R26-0033, a Resolution Requesting Designation of Census Tract 2802 as a Qualified Opportunity Zone and Supporting Equitable Community Investment, be moved from New Business to the Consent Agenda. There were no objections.
- **Second:** Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion.
- **Outcome:** The agenda was approved as amended by voice vote 9 YEAS-0 NAYS-0 ABSTENTIONS.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- **Motion:** Commissioner McCarthy moved approval of the June 17, 2026, meeting minutes.
- **Second:** Commissioner Easley seconded the motion.
- **Outcome:** The June 17, 2026, meeting minutes were approved by voice vote 9 YEAS-0 NAYS-0 ABSTENTIONS.

Reports of Officers

- Secretary's Report
 - Commissioner Davidson reported that the Commission transmitted eight resolutions and letters from the prior month.

- The Commission received responses or follow-up related to BZA application numbers 21487 and 21474, the resolution Requesting ADA Public Right-of-Way Inspection and Corrective Action around DC USA and the Columbia Heights Civic Core, the Resolution Concerning Anti-Alip Treatments on Metal Grating in Central Columbia Heights, the Resolution Concerning Micromobility Enforcement, and The Commission's Letter Regarding Zoning Commission Case 25-06.
- Treasurer's Report
 - Commissioner Bhatia reported that the Commission's total available balance was \$61,243.96.
 - Expenses since the last meeting included regular expenses and payment to LAYC for seven months of meeting space.
 - Commissioner Bhatia also reported that OANC recommended full release of ANC 1A's July 2026 quarterly allotment in the amount of \$6,806.45.

Public Comments

- Commissioner Announcements
 - Commissioner McCarthy introduced himself as the new Commissioner for SMD 1A07, thanked residents and prior Commissioners for their support, and stated that he was honored to serve. He also commented on the Nightlife Noise Balance Amendment Act, expressing concern about impacts on restaurants, bars, and vacant commercial properties, while noting that he would not object to the Commission's proposed amendments being included in the consent agenda.
 - Commissioner Thomas-Davis discussed ongoing public health, public safety, and behavioral health concerns in Central Columbia Heights, including conditions around Civic Plaza, Metro plazas, and other public spaces. He stated that he had been in contact with the Department of Behavioral Health and encouraged residents to contact Commissioners if they see neighbors in need or have concerns about activity in public spaces.
 - Commissioner Miller noted the response from the Office of Disability Rights and asked residents with accessibility concerns around DC USA, the 14th Street corridor, and the Civic Plaza area to contact her so that concerns and documentation could be compiled. She also commented on R26-0033, noting that the proposed Qualified Opportunity Zone designation should be paired with equitable investment guardrails and complementary tools for residents, small businesses, vendors, and micro-entrepreneurs.
 - Commissioner Davidson announced that the July neighborhood cleanup was scheduled for July 26 at 1:00 PM at Civic Plaza.
 - Commissioner Easley noted that residents had contacted him about the potential removal of the Wonderland Ballroom streaterly and stated that he had contacted Commissioner Thomas-Davis regarding the matter. He also discussed a recent

incident on 14th Street involving MPD and federal officers, noting that the individual involved had been released and the family was together. He encouraged residents with questions about federal or National Guard activity in the area to contact him or attend the Public Safety Committee.

- Commissioner Sherman announced that Dine All Night applications were open for businesses. The program is scheduled for September 10-13 and is connected to Art All Night.
- Neighbor and Stakeholder Comments
 - Ella Rosenberg, a property owner at 3323 Holmead Place and parent, spoke in support of the proposed Park Road and Holmead Place crosswalk, citing safety concerns for children, pedestrians, scooters, and vehicles
 - Julia Friedmann, a resident of the 3300 block of Holmead Place NW, spoke in support of the crosswalk and described close calls involving drivers, cyclists, pedestrians, and residents using nearby businesses. She noted that a sign-on letter in support had been submitted by nearby residents and property owners.
 - Alina George spoke in support of Wonderland Ballroom and its streatory, describing the business as an important community gathering place and asking the ANC to help determine what had gone wrong with DDOT's process.
 - Aminah Taariq-Sidibe spoke in support of the bottle bill and asked the Commission to continue supporting bottle bill and environmental policy efforts.
 - Sara Lindstrom, a resident of the 1300 block of Park Road, spoke in support of the proposed Park Road and Holmead Place crosswalk, noting poor visibility, safety concerns for children, and the likely safety benefit of removing parking near the crossing.
 - Dennis Sendros spoke in support of the resolution to end exclusionary zoning, citing the District's housing shortage, high rents, displacement, homelessness, and the need for the Comprehensive Plan to allow more housing in exclusionary neighborhoods.
 - Ana DeLeon, on behalf of Chicatana Fine Mexican Cuisine, thanked the community during the restaurant's move to 1400 Meridian Place NW and spoke in support of a letter related to its liquor license transfer.
 - Diana Alonzo Watkins asked whether the Nightlife Noise Balance resolution would be discussed separately or as part of the consent agenda and stated that she was still reviewing the measure.
 - Andrew Hall, a resident of Girard Street NW who works in homeless services, spoke in support of the resolution to end exclusionary zoning, the proposed stabilization center, and the Park Road and Holmead Place crosswalk.

Community Presentations and Agency Updates

- Latin American Youth Center / Tubman Mural Project

- Marie Moll, Latin American Youth Center, presented on LAYC’s proposed public art project at Tubman Elementary School. She explained that a prior mural, “Columbia Heights Is,” created in 2008 on the Tubman retaining wall, was removed during the school rebuilding process. LAYC is applying for a DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities Public Art Building Communities grant to support a new mural.
- Ms. Moll stated that the project would involve artist Luis Peralta del Valle, a Columbia Heights-connected artist and graduate of Tubman, Lincoln, and Bell, and would incorporate input from community members and Tubman students. LAYC is collecting community feedback through a flyer and QR code asking residents what words describe Columbia Heights, what makes it unique, and what they love about living there.
- Ms. Moll described a tentative timeline involving wall preparation and youth training in the fall, winter planning, spring painting, and a potential community celebration before the end of the school year.
- Commissioners discussed the need for letters or confirmations from DDOT, Historic Preservation, DOB, possibly DGS, and Tubman regarding permits or approvals. Commissioners also discussed opportunities to restore the Irving Street mosaic wall in a future phase and the possibility of involving additional local artists in supporting roles.
- Ward 8 Woods / Trash-Free DC Communities
 - Vondre Walston, Ward 8 Woods, presented on Ward 8 Woods’ Trash-Free DC Communities project, funded through a DOEE grant. Columbia Heights is one of five selected neighborhoods. The project focuses on litter reduction, neighborhood pride, cleanups, public signage, and a “trash can litter lotto” that randomly rewards residents with gift cards for using public trash cans.
 - Mr. Walston described planned anti-litter signage created by artists connected to Columbia Heights through Beats, Rhymes & Life, as well as trash-can banners approved by DPW. He stated that the artwork was expected to be completed within days and implementation would begin within one to two weeks.
 - Commissioners asked about the project timeline, placement of signs and banners, durability, coordination with DPW, and how the ANC could help. Mr. Walston stated that no funding was requested from the Commission and that the primary request was community support, hotspot identification, volunteer participation, and connection to local organizations.
 - Commissioner Sherman noted that Commissioner Davidson had circulated a list of trash hotspots and that the ANC may include the information in its newsletter for additional resident feedback.

Committee Updates

The Chair noted that committee meeting notes were included in the meeting agenda packet for the following committees:

- Committee on Education, Youth, and Family - The Committee did not meet during the prior month.
- Committee on Housing and Zoning - The Committee did not meet during the prior month.
- Committee on Public Safety - The Committee met on June 30, 2026.
- Committee on Small Business and Economic Development - The Committee met on June 29, 2026.
- Committee on Transportation - The Committee met on July 8, 2026.
- Permanent Special Committee on Public Life and Neighborhood Planning - The Committee met on June 24, 2026. Commissioner Thomas-Davis discussed the upcoming DC 2050 Comprehensive Plan process and encouraged residents to submit ideas for engagement events, surveys, housing walks, and other tools to help the Commission prepare recommendations once the draft plan is released in September.

Consent Agenda

- **Items Included:**
 - **Letter 26-0012:** Letter of Support for a Stipulated License Application for HMJJJ LLC t/a Chicatana Fine Mexican Cuisine (ABRA-129515)
 - Sponsor: Commissioner Lehmann Morales
 - **R26-0036:** Resolution Concerning Support for the Nightlife Noise Balance Amendment Act of 2025 and Enhancement of Enforcement Authority for the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration
 - Sponsor: Commissioner Thomas-Davis
 - **R26-0033:** Resolution Requesting the Designation of Census Tract 2802 as a Qualified Opportunity Zone and Supporting Equitable Community Investment
 - Sponsors: Commissioners Sherman and Miller
 - **Letter 26-0014:** Letter of Support for LAYC's Tubman Mural Project and FY27 Public Art Building Communities Grant Application
 - Sponsor: Commissioner Miller
- **Motion:** Commissioner Lehmann Morales moved approval of the consent agenda.
- **Second:** Commissioner Bhatia seconded the motion.
- **Outcome:** The consent agenda was approved by voice vote 9 YEAS-0 NAYS-0 ABSTENTIONS.

New Business

Grant Application for 10th Street Block Party 2026

- Natalie Castillo Mueller submitted the grant application for the 10th Street NW Block Party 2026. Commissioner McCarthy presented the grant application on Ms. Castillo Mueller's behalf because she was unable to attend the meeting. The application requested \$500 from ANC 1A.
- The block party event is scheduled for August 29, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM, on 10th Street NW between Monroe Street NW and Otis Street NW, within ANC 1A. The application states that event permits are required and in hand.
- Based on the application, the requested ANC grant funds would be used for community activities, including children's activities, art supplies, and games. The applicant's budget states that ANC funds would cover approximately \$400 for inflatables and a bubble machine and \$100 for art supplies such as chalk and crayons. The total projected event cost is \$1,500, with other expenses for food and entertainment to be covered by local community donations.
- The applicant stated that the block party had been common more than a decade ago, was revived in 2024, and has been successful over the past two years in providing entertainment, activities for children, and opportunities for neighbors to connect. The application states that the event does not duplicate DC Government services because the District does not provide block-by-block community-building services and that ANC funding would be used together with funds raised by neighbors.
- The application states that the event's public purpose is to strengthen neighborhood relationships, build community connections, further include the neighborhood in local networks, organizations, and resources, and use the event to diffuse tensions and build camaraderie. The applicant estimated attendance of approximately 100 individuals and noted that past block parties helped organize a community listserv used to share local news, events, and neighborhood issues.
- Commissioner McCarthy stated that the neighborhood was still identifying a fiscal agent and that DDOT approval for the street closure had already been obtained.
- Commissioner Sherman noted that the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions reviewed the grant application and confirmed that it was a permissible use of ANC funds.
- Commissioner McCarthy stated that because of his personal involvement with the event, he would abstain for ethical reasons. No other conflicts of interest were stated during the discussion.
- **Motion:** Commissioner McCarthy moved approval of the grant application.
- **Second:** Commissioner Davidson seconded the motion.
- **Outcome:** APPROVED by vote 8 YEAS-0 NAYS-0 ABSTENTION, with Commissioner McCarthy recusing himself. Disbursement is contingent on confirmation of the fiscal sponsor.

Letter 26-0013: Letter of Support for NOI 26165 MSED for a New Crosswalk at Park Road NW and Holmead Place NW

- Commissioner Sherman introduced the letter supporting DDOT's Notice of Intent to install a new crosswalk at Park Road NW and Holmead Place NW, along with required no-parking zones, pedestrian warning signs, hatched pavement markings, and flex posts.
- Commissioner Sherman stated that the intersection had been a long-standing concern, that neighbors frequently cross there despite the absence of a marked crosswalk, and that illegally parked cars often block sightlines. He also noted that more than 20 nearby residents submitted a letter supporting the crosswalk and that DDOT had selected a design preserving as much parking as possible while satisfying safety and ADA requirements.
- **Discussion**
 - Commissioner Thomas-Davis opposed the letter, stating that he did not believe the proposed crosswalk would meaningfully improve pedestrian safety and that DDOT had not adequately engaged affected residents. He raised concerns about locating a crosswalk directly in front of residences, parking removal, and the need for broader traffic safety treatments.
 - Commissioner Miller supported moving forward, while noting that implementation should be monitored and revisited if the crosswalk does not address safety concerns.
 - Commissioner Sherman stated that he had not received opposition from residents in his SMD and believed the residents at or near both ends of the proposed crosswalk supported it. Commissioner Thomas-Davis stated that residents who contacted him had concerns about the location and possible modifications.
- **Motion:** Commissioner Sherman moved approval of the letter of support.
- **Second:** Commissioner Bhatia seconded the motion.
- **Outcome:** APPROVED by vote 8 YEAS-1 NAY-0 ABSTENTIONS, with Commissioner Thomas-Davis voting no. Commissioner Thomas-Davis noted for the record that he would transmit dissenting views to DDOT.

R26-0035: Resolution Concerning Establishing a Steering Committee for the Proposed Park Road Stabilization Center

- Commissioner Thomas-Davis introduced the resolution concerning the proposed stabilization center at 1338 Park Road NW, the former Engine Company 11 firehouse. He stated that the facility, under construction with an expected opening in late 2027 or early 2028 subject to appropriations, will serve adults in acute substance use crisis through short-term medically monitored care and pathways to treatment.
- Commissioner Thomas-Davis emphasized that the resolution was not about whether the facility should exist, but about preparing the community and establishing a steering committee to discuss construction impacts, mobility, traffic, emergency vehicle movement, neighborhood concerns, and broader behavioral health issues.
- **Discussion**

- Commissioners discussed whether the proposed steering committee would duplicate or sideline efforts to secure a Good Neighbor Agreement with the Department of Behavioral Health.
- Commissioner Easley and Commissioner Sherman expressed concerns that the ANC had recently adopted a stabilization-center resolution and that the steering committee might create a parallel structure.
- Commissioner Thomas-Davis stated that DBH was presently opposed to a Good Neighbor Agreement but was open to partnership, recurring discussion, and possible future agreements if needed.
- Commissioner Davidson supported the resolution but asked that expectations be made clear to committee participants regarding the advisory nature of the body and the level of agency commitment.
- Commissioner Sherman emphasized that the facility would affect residents beyond SMD 1A06, including nearby residents in 1A04 and 1A02. Commissioner Thomas-Davis clarified that all Commissioners would be ex officio members and that other Commissioners could appoint or recommend participants as appropriate.
- **Motion:** Commissioner Thomas-Davis moved approval of the resolution.
- **Second:** Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion.
- **Outcome:** APPROVED by roll call vote 8 YEAS-0 NAYS-1 ABSTENTION.
 - YEAS Commissioners Bhatia, Davidson, Easley, McCarthy, Miller, Lehmann Morales, Perri, Thomas-Davis
 - NAYS None
 - ABSTENTION Commissioner Sherman

R2637: Resolution Concerning Columbia Heights Neighborhood Beautification and Establishing a Comprehensive Strategy for Scalable Volunteer Work and Community Revitalization

- Commissioner Thomas-Davis introduced the measure as Chair of the Permanent Special Committee on Public Life and Neighborhood Planning. He stated that the Committee reported the measure favorably by unanimous vote at its June 24, 2026, meeting after significant resident and community engagement.
- Commissioner Thomas-Davis described the resolution as a framework to coordinate and scale long-running cleanup and beautification efforts, including litter reduction, tree box care, graffiti response, sidewalk issues, plaza conditions, public art, resident engagement, and agency coordination. He emphasized that the strategy is not intended to replace District services, but to organize volunteer efforts while holding agencies accountable.
- Discussion
 - Commissioners generally supported the goals but raised concerns about implementation capacity and scope.

- Commissioner Easley stated that he would support the measure but noted that it was a large undertaking and should be implemented in conjunction with SMD Commissioners.
- Commissioner Davidson expressed concern that the resolution's framing appeared to contrast with existing neighborhood cleanup efforts, asked how agency coordination and metrics would work, and requested that resident feedback be included as a key measure of success.
- Commissioner Sherman noted that the plan included baseline assessments, dashboards, annual surveys, a tree canopy campaign, public art planning, service-level agreements, performance reporting, a branding campaign, and long-term capital investment, and questioned whether the Commission had the capacity to implement such a broad plan.
- Commissioner Miller supported the resolution but raised concerns about overpromising and asked for a three-month touchpoint to assess progress.
- Commissioner Thomas-Davis responded that the plan was intentionally ambitious but not exhaustive, that it relied on agency and community partners, and that the Commission should use it to establish a more coordinated strategy.
- **Motion:** Commissioner Thomas-Davis moved approval of the resolution.
- **Second:** Commissioner Easley seconded the motion.
- **Outcome:** APPROVED by voice vote 8 YEAS-0 NAYS-1 ABSTENTION, with Commissioner McCarthy abstaining.

Resolution Concerning Supporting the Responsible Deployment of Autonomous Vehicle Ride-Hailing Services in the District of Columbia

- Commissioner Easley introduced the resolution supporting a regulatory framework for autonomous vehicle ride-hailing services in the District. He stated that the District's pedestrian safety efforts, including Vision Zero, had not been sufficient and that autonomous vehicle regulation could provide a path for improved safety while generating revenue and requiring investment.
- Commissioner Easley summarized elements of the proposed Council legislation, including a permitting structure, high permit fees, a vehicle miles fee, a 200-vehicle cap until 2028, and a fund allocating revenue toward public infrastructure, WMATA, DDOT, and labor and workforce development. He also noted amendments related to blocking bike lanes, with exceptions for exigent circumstances such as emergency vehicles.
- Commissioner Thomas-Davis recused himself from discussion and voting.
- Discussion
 - Commissioner McCarthy supported the measure, stating that if autonomous vehicles are likely to come to DC, the Commission should provide input.

- Commissioner Miller stated that she had initially been uncomfortable with the legislation but appreciated the changes Commissioner Easley made to strengthen the resolution.
- Commissioner Lehmann Morales opposed the measure, citing concerns about more vehicles, labor displacement, reliance on tech companies, and outsourcing pedestrian safety responsibilities to private companies.
- Commissioner Easley responded that the concerns were valid but that the proposed framework meaningfully addressed safety, labor, and accountability issues.
- **Motion:** Commissioner Easley moved approval of the resolution.
- **Second:** Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion.
- **Outcome:** APPROVED by roll call vote 7 YEAS-1 NAY-0 ABSTENTIONS, with Commissioner Thomas-Davis recused.
 - YEAS Commissioners Bhatia, Davidson, Easley, McCarthy, Miller, Perri, Sherman
 - NAY Commissioner Lehmann Morales
 - RECUSED Commissioner Thomas-Davis

R2639: Resolution to End Exclusionary Zoning Throughout the District of Columbia

- Commissioner Lehmann Morales introduced the resolution, co-sponsored by Commissioner Miller, urging the Office of Planning to end exclusionary zoning as part of the DC 2050 Comprehensive Plan update.
- Commissioner Lehmann Morales stated that exclusionary zoning limits large portions of DC's residential land to single-family detached homes, constrains housing supply, contributes to high rents and displacement, and perpetuates racial and economic segregation.
- The resolution calls for context-sensitive infill, adaptive reuse, easier accessory dwelling unit construction, streamlined approvals, and financial tools such as property tax abatements, community land trusts, and permanently affordable homeownership models.
- Commissioner Miller emphasized that Columbia Heights and Mid-City already carry substantial housing density and that reforms should apply equitably across all eight wards, including high-opportunity areas that have historically resisted housing production. Commissioner Easley asked to be added as a co-sponsor.
- **Motion to Recommit**
 - Commissioner Thomas-Davis moved to recommit the resolution to the Committee on Housing and Zoning with instructions to amend and report it back by the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting.
 - Commissioner Thomas-Davis stated that he supported addressing the housing shortage but believed the resolution required a fuller record because of its district-wide land use implications, including the roles of the Office of Planning and Zoning Commission, the relationship between the evidence and the requested

zoning changes, litigation risks in other jurisdictions, infrastructure impacts, and anti-displacement guardrails.

- Commissioner Davidson seconded the motion to recommit.
- Commissioner Lehmann Morales opposed the motion, stating that it would set a concerning procedural precedent and that concerns could have been addressed through the committee process.
- Commissioner Miller stated that she viewed the resolution as aspirational and focused on framing the Commission's position for the Comprehensive Plan rather than rewriting zoning regulations.
- **Outcome:** The motion to recommit FAILED by roll call vote 1 YEA-8 NAYS-0 ABSTENTIONS.
 - YEA Commissioner Thomas-Davis
 - NAYS Commissioners Bhatia, Davidson, Easley, McCarthy, Miller, Lehmann Morales, Perri, Sherman
- **Motion to End Debate**
 - Commissioner Davidson moved to call the question.
 - **Outcome:** The motion to end debate was approved by voice vote, with Commissioner Thomas-Davis opposed.
- **Outcome on Main Resolution:** APPROVED by voice vote 7 YEAS-1 NAY-1 ABSTENTION. Commissioner Thomas-Davis voted no. Commissioner Perri abstained.

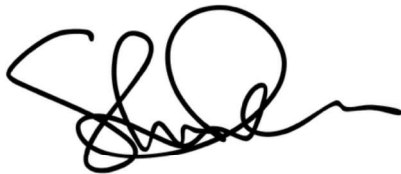
Adjournment

- **Time:** 10:24 PM
- **Next Meeting:** September 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM, unless a special meeting is called.
- **August Recess:** ANC 1A will be on recess during August. Chair Sherman noted that no special meeting was planned at the time of adjournment, but residents may continue to contact Commissioners or email 1A@anc.dc.gov.

Prepared by: Commissioner Shira Davidson

Approved on: **September 16, 2026**

Attested by the ANC 1A Secretary:

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

Shira Davidson