



# Government of the District of Columbia

## Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

### November 2020 Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** 10 Nov 2020

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

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Kevin Wilsey, Commissioner Michael Shankle, Commissioner Jamaal Burton, Gigi Nelson, Nicole Goines, Lamonté Pryor, Councilmember Brooke Pinto, Reginald Black, Santiago Arboleda, Barbara Wanchisen, Suzanne Sofge, Howard Marks, Capt. Jonathan Dorrough, Ritanch Hans, Shamyra Edmonds, Jon Gann, Linda Greenan

**ABSENT:** Wendy Cadell, Lieutenant Michael Hamelin

- 1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS / QUOROM:** Made by Wilsey, who introduced himself and the two other Commissioners. Noted 3 of 3 Commissioners present for a quorum.
- 2. OPENING REMARKS / APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** No changes to the agenda. Wilsey made motion to approve, seconded by Burton. (Vote 3-0-0)
- 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Wilsey made motion to approve Oct 2020 Minutes, seconded by Shankle. (Vote 3-0-0)
- 4. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Shankle provided the October Treasurer's Report. The balance at the beginning of October was \$58,642.09. There was one withdrawal for minute preparation for \$525.00. There were no additions for the month. Ending balance \$58,117.09.

#### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto Update - Brooke Pinto Councilmember, Ward 2, [bpinto@dccouncil.us](mailto:bpinto@dccouncil.us), or Lamonté T. Pryor, Scheduler/Executive Assistant, [lpryor@dccouncil.us](mailto:lpryor@dccouncil.us)**

Shankle offered congratulations on Pinto's re-election and opened the floor to Councilmember Pinto.

Pinto stated that ANC2C has been one of the hardest hit areas during COVID-19. Hospitality and retail sales are at lowest levels in decades, corresponding economic crisis, low foot traffic a huge hindrance. Traffic will likely will not return to levels needed until virus is under control. Provided reminder to wear masks, continue social distancing and not let up the vigilance.

Pinto stated she is very pleased to have been re-elected, looks forward to the opportunity to serve for the next 4 years. Wants to hear from constituents. Stated pleased with reactionary behavior between election and when winner was announced. Requested removal of plywood from windows as soon as possible. Will continue to work with MPD, BIDs, ANC's, and community members to ensure a safe environment for peaceful protestors to exercise their constitutional right while also protecting residents and businesses from small group using violence. Will continue to work with MPD and Homeland Security while planning for Inauguration of President Elect Joe Biden and Vice President Elect Kamala Harris.

Pinto noted that based on feedback, the DDOT has postponed the 7<sup>th</sup> St. Bus Lane Proposal (Car Free Lane through 7<sup>th</sup> ST) pending further research. She noted that it is incredibly important that the community have an opportunity to provide feedback, and that there is an understanding that increased access to bus routes is important to many.

The MLK Library was re-opened in September ahead of schedule and under the projected cost. Pinto sent kudos to DC Public Libraries. The Library has resources and technology that will enrich 2C and the city as a whole. Pinto listed a podcast station, dance studio, employment services and other resources that are available to be accessed.

Pinto noted continued concerns about the homeless population. In September, a community meeting was hosted with residents, executive offices, and community organizations. Pinto is committed to working with DHS, DMHSS and encampment

coordinator to move residents into housing as quickly as possible. The team is also attending BID meetings regarding Pat Handy Shelter renovation. Over next year moving residents to 1009 11<sup>th</sup> ST NW while renovation happens. Anticipate residents moved before end of this year. Construction starting this winter anticipated to be completed next winter. Pinto stated that Chief of Staff Genevieve Hulick is point of contact for any homeless issues but can reach out to Pinto as well.

#### Legislative Update:

Pinto introduced designation of John Lewis Way on H ST between 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> ST. Pinto introduced Medical Necessity Restroom Act of 2020 to provide individuals with eligible medical conditions to be able to use public toilet facility at a retail establishment under certain conditions.

Pinto co-introduced the revised Streatery and Pop Up Locations Program Act which passed unanimously and extends the registration validity date for Streateries until December 2021.

Pinto co-introduced the Local Business Enterprise Clarification Act, which closes a legal loophole that allowed entities not intended to be included in the Certified Business Enterprise Program to obtain those benefits. Program was designed to support local DC businesses.

Another piece of legislation protects women and minority owned business.

Unemployment Update: Unemployment benefits have been extended to District Employees for another 7 weeks.

#### Transportation and Environment:

The Council tightened regulation of rental scooters, requiring they be locked up after use, one rider per user, watching for inebriated drivers, etc.

The Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety voted to move the Vulnerable User Collision Recovery Amendment Act out of the committee, which will bring greater fairness to pedestrians and bicyclists who have received injuries from accidents with vehicles.

Four Bills were voted out of Committee, sent to Council for a full vote. Mentioned Three: The Energy Efficiency Standards Amendment Act considers efficiency standards to help address climate change goals. The Dynamic Performance Parking Zone Amendment Act gives the parking executive more flexibility in setting rates in those zones. The Zero Waste Omnibus Amendment Act will make several changes to the District Waste Management system. The goal is to increase the amount of waste diverted from landfill to 80%, only at 23% now.

Affordable Housing: Committee on Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization held a public hearing to discuss the Rent Stabilization Program Reform Expansion Amendment Act as well as Hardship Petition Bill. The former protects and expands the district's rent stabilization plan, the latter prevents housing providers from unfairly raising rent in rent stabilized units.

Comprehensive Plan Announcement: This Thursday and Friday, public hearings are being held to discuss the District's Comprehensive Plan Amendment Act for 2020. Legislation guides the district's growth over the next 20 years in areas around public education, racial equity, transportation, affordable housing, development, and land use. Can still sign up to testify, either live or with written testimony at <http://www.chairmanmendelson.com/CompPlan>.

New website is now live: [www.BrookePintoDC.com](http://www.BrookePintoDC.com)

Constituent Services Form is a new tool that will allow them to better track and respond to requests, but also provide clear data so in 6 months – 1 year. They can see en masse the types of complaints more frequently received and be more strategic in their approach and response.

Pinto thanked Commissioners Wilsey and Burton for their service, and congratulated Elizabeth Miske and Gigi Nelson on their election. Their office will be in touch soon regarding swearing in ceremony.

This week is 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual DMV Black Restaurant Week 12.8-12.15. Visit [www.DMVBRW.com](http://www.DMVBRW.com) to find restaurants to visit.

Shankle asked if there are any current initiatives in place to address the economic conditions that are happening. Pinto stated there is immediate relief in forms of grant money. Waiting on \$755m in Federal funding. Continuing the Streatery Program, closure of 8<sup>th</sup> ST. Additional city spaces are being found for other businesses to give them access to gain revenue. Particularly because it is so warm, taking advantage of that as much as they can. The longer-term mission is a dozen tax proposals to provide incentives for short term leases, ensure businesses can defer expenses, write off expenses like furniture, different interest rates for loans, insurance, etc. Looking for relief from both sides, the grant program and tax relief.

Shankle asked about the scooter lock requirement. Pinto stated it's called a "lock to" requirement. Scooters on sidewalks are dangerous, and it was found that just saying so wasn't effective. The requirement that scooters be "locked to" a pole, a rack, means scooter companies are retrofitting devices to provide for that functionality. This has been done in Minneapolis and Chicago and both have seen a substantial reduction in number left in sidewalk and in number of injuries. Notes legislation probably not finished, but hopeful that it helps.

Shankle asked about parking spaces missing the placard numbers - has anyone has encouraged the vendors or DDOT to get the numbers back in place? Pinto noted this has not been addressed and will follow up with Shankle directly. Shankle noted having walked and mapped a number of locations last fall that were missing the numbers.

Hans noted he lives at 400 Mass and says cars are speeding into 395N, loud engines. He asked if there a speed camera there, if not, can one be added? Pinto stated she was unable to answer and requested that Hans provide his contact info in the chat so that she can follow up with him.

Marks complimented Pinto on providing community input to DDOT regarding the car free lane. He then asked how victimless crimes (noise ordinances) can be addressed or escalated, without having to involve police. Pinto mentioned crime / criminal justice / reform may be great idea for the next Board Level Community Meeting.

Black stated he was on the Community Roundtable where he heard there was construction was going to happen, and that homeless residents were going to be moved. He works to help provide sanitary products to homeless, would like more info on that. Pinto stated that the Pat Handy shelter will be renovated starting this winter. Residents will be moved to 1009 11<sup>th</sup> ST NW. They are monitoring closely to ensure residents are moved appropriately and respectfully and that no one is left behind. Requested that if he hears anything or has any concerns to reach out to her office.

Working with DHS, DMHHS and the encampments coordinator to provide PPE and opportunities for them to move into housing. Chief of Staff Genevieve Hulick is responsible, reach out to either of them to get resolution.

Sofge noted that she had written to Pinto previously and wanted to reiterate what was said. Homelessness, businesses closing, restaurants struggling all heartbreaking. They are trying to be customers but are concerned with the aggressive behavior of a small subset of homeless that are in the neighborhood. Unsure which agency to call for help but has seen them scaring people away from the very businesses we need to survive.

Pinto stated it's recognized and that a myriad of agencies involved and collective approach. If violent or harassing, MPD should be called. This helps address the immediate issue and then arms agencies to know where additional staffing is needed. If a mental health care challenge, can call Department of Behavioral Health and they will send people to the scene to provide supports the individual may need. Sofge asks if there is resource to have someone walking through the neighborhood.

Police has been busy with other bigger things, takes time and sometimes the person leaves before they arrive.

Pinto agreed a great idea and stated they are working to find additional resources to have community-based patrols to look to prevent incidents rather than respond to them.

**2. Ward 2 Mayor's Liaison – Nicole Goines, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services, Ward 2 Liaison, [Nicole.Goines@dc.gov](mailto:Nicole.Goines@dc.gov)**

Goines notes that the Travel Advisory has been updated. Anyone visiting DC needs to get tested within 72 hours of travel. Visitors should not come to DC if have been in contact with a confirmed case. If visiting DC for more than 3 days would need to get tested again within 3-5 days of arrival. Can get free test in DC at district wide sites. More info at [coronavirus.dc.gov](http://coronavirus.dc.gov). Traveling DC Residents: even if traveling from low risk state or country, must limit daily activities and self-monitor for 14 days or limit activities until receive a negative result. At home testing is also available, more information on website.

Go to [www.Mayor.DC.gov](http://www.Mayor.DC.gov) for info on Veterans Day services and hours.

Happy demonstrations were peaceful. Asking business owners to take down boards / fencing. DPW coordinating with BIDs to arrange for dumpsters for the plywood. Can drop off at 3200 Benning RD NE Mon-Sat 7a-4p and will be repurposed.

Leaf collection began yesterday. Until January 30 – no paper bags are needed, can go to [DPW.DC.GOV](http://DPW.DC.GOV) to find collection schedule for your street.

Reminder that Black Restaurant Week is 11.8-11.15, requested people support them, more info at [www.DMVBRW.com](http://www.DMVBRW.com).

Requested two bus shelters be repaired, broken glass and graffiti, one at 7<sup>th</sup> ST and G ST, the other at 13<sup>th</sup> ST and E ST NW next to Warner Theater.

DDOT: Noted that parking stickers are an ongoing project, she will communicate once she is alerted to when they going to be replaced. There were bollards at 5<sup>th</sup> and H ST NW that have been completely damaged, removed and placed on sidewalk, and flagged for DDOT.

Have requested HHS team to do encampment outreach at 3<sup>rd</sup> ST and Indiana NW. Stated anyone can request encampment outreach. They are following CDC guidelines due to COVID-19. If individual housing options are not available, jurisdictions are able to allow those living unsheltered to remain where they are. However, if that area poses public safety or health hazard, DPW along with other agencies including Behavioral Health will come out and do a trash pickup. If needs exceed that by their metrics, a full encampment cleanup will happen. Residents are given 2 weeks to tidy up and get belongings in order. Belongings are not thrown away; it is to ensure safety.

Aggressive panhandling has been on the rise. If you feel at risk or uncomfortable, please feel free to call MPD. Use judgement. Call or email her with questions.

Marks noted that on the north side of Calvary Baptist Church, just east of 8<sup>th</sup> ST there were construction barrels from lane closure, never removed and covered in pigeon dung. Goines noted.

Marks noted that in front of the condo building at 777 7<sup>th</sup> ST there is a Rodent HQ by the Metro generator. Goines noted she's seen the area and that she is on the emails. She's waiting on an update.

Marks requested information on the inauguration – asked how people traveling from hot spots will be kept away from residents? Goines noted people need to wear a mask, social distance, get tested, know the precautions, and take them. She noted that DOH the new app (DC Can) helps with contact tracing.

Wanchisen asked under what – if any – condition is someone fined for not wearing a mask. She is skeptical that it is being enforced. Goines noted she will need to do more research on that, requested Wanchisen give contact info and Goines will follow up with her.

**MPD 1<sup>st</sup> District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Jonathan Dorrough, [Jonathan.Dorrough@dc.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Dorrough@dc.gov), 202.729.2179**

Dorrough reported two violent crimes in last month, same as last year. One car stolen, 9 theft from auto, normal levels. Thefts (retail) still about half of what is normally seen. Activity north of Mass Ave has increased, 40 auto thefts in the last month, for example, double violent crime. A lot of activity has moved north.

Mask enforcement is not something they are enforcing criminally. There is a fine put in place but there is no mechanism for MPD to write those fines. It is something they can remind people of and encourage people to do. For businesses and restaurants there are other rules in place. DCRA and ABRA will follow up on enforcement there.

Regarding the homeless, Dorrough stated he has been very involved for last three years. Meets weekly with encampment protocol teams. Resources are stretched and they have been. Met with residents a few weeks ago about the amount of disorder that's on the streets. MPD will get involved with narcotics, violent crime. Quality of life crimes – stance is to take a more procedural justice approach. Fix the problems instead of slapping handcuffs on them, throwing in a cell for a few hours and letting them back out. Other agencies have challenges as well. Homeless outreach can only help the homeless. For behavior health assistance, the threshold must be met, and treatment is voluntary. Ongoing process with success stories. But residents can get frustrated with that moment – we need to come together and work towards a good solution, Dorrough does not see police being the solution. Calls are prioritized and must be. They do have Community Response teams, and they do respond, but they are not out in the streets all day/night.

Shankle noted that Captain Dorrrough facilitated a meeting at 6<sup>th</sup> ST and I ST last week in that zone which was informative in addressing some of the issues some residents were having challenges with. Greatly appreciated. Noted he saw no issues with demonstrations in his area. Asks if there was vandalism etc. post-election. Dorrrough noted that there wasn't anything major, no widespread destruction of property. They are keeping eye open on next weekend as groups have announced they are coming to town to support the current president. That could be an issue as it will bring out counter protestors. Noted that this does take a toll on neighborhood policing (that all hands-on deck with MPD).

Marks noted he saw and appreciated an MPD officer controlling traffic at 7<sup>th</sup> ST and K ST NW helping pedestrians cross along Mass Ave.

Wilsey noted the meeting last week was good, that it brought to light problems in Chinatown that aren't happening in the South End. Groups of problem makers are not addressed by the agencies that deal with homeless and mental health issues, and the police are stressed. Recognized that it's a big challenge and appreciates what the MPD does.

3. **MPD 2<sup>nd</sup> District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Renato Caldwell, [Renato.Caldwell@dc.gov](mailto:Renato.Caldwell@dc.gov), Lieutenant Michael Hamelin, [michael.hamelin@dc.gov](mailto:michael.hamelin@dc.gov), and/or Sergeant John Sprague, [john.sprague@dc.gov](mailto:john.sprague@dc.gov): Not present**
  
4. **Department of Public Works, Wendy Cadell, Inspector, [Wendy.Cadell@dc.gov](mailto:Wendy.Cadell@dc.gov): Not present**

## **LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY**

1. Pepco's Capital Grid Project, Linda Greenan, Pepco External Affairs Manager / District of Columbia, 202.203.9509, [linda.greenan@pepco.com](mailto:linda.greenan@pepco.com).  
Greenan stated Capital Grid Project is a major infrastructure construction project that began in March. Three substations to be upgraded, new substation to be placed in

Mount Vernon. Connecting substations via a 10-mile underground transmission line from Tacoma to the Waterfront Substation (new). The construction is mostly through the central part of the city, but the benefits will be to the entire Pepco region. Three contractors began in March working in various parts of the city. Preparing to upgrade Harvard station shortly. The transmission line is being built by installing manholes and then connecting them via conduit. In 2C the work on Madison Drive at 3<sup>rd</sup> ST near the National Gallery (putting in two manholes) will start November 20 and be finished in about a month. They will return at the end of 2021, early 2022 to build the conduit there. Around Louisiana and Constitution Ave. they will have to work with the architect at the Capitol, will need to tunnel under the roadway there. Shankle stated that when the conduit is built, he believed the street would need to be opened up. Greenan agreed, stated it depends on location of utilities etc., but can be 5-20 feet deep.

### **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSING (ABRA)**

2. Chinatown Market, 521 H ST, NW – (ABRA - 019616). Renewal of Type: B Retail-Grocery. Ng Shu Kwan, 202.842.0130.

Shankle stated he was not able to get in touch with anyone. Had heard some concern from constituents regarding this license and its renewal.

Sofge asked Shankle to share concerns.

Shankle stated concern that it is an establishment that sells single bottles of beer. Constituents for several cycles of the Market's license have tried to stop the single bottle sales, indicating this creates some challenges in the neighborhood. Wilsey stated there was a moratorium against single bottle sales in WWII but doesn't know if that is still in place. The point is to discourage panhandling cycle from panhandle, buy a beer, panhandle, buy a beer. Wilsey noted he hadn't heard anything in about 5 years but would love to hear from residents in that area.

Shankle stated that regarding the protest hearing they were re-placarding the establishment, as there was question as to whether the placards were put up the day they were supposed to be. The protest hearing was re-applied, it must be filed by December 28<sup>th</sup>.

Wilsey requested to put on December agenda, allow time for outreach and see what they can find out. Shankle and Burton agree.

3. CCMH Metro Center, LLC, Marriott at Metro Center, 775 12<sup>th</sup> ST NW – (ABRA – 117396). New Retailer’s Class “B” (25%) License. Matt Minora, Associate Attorney, Mallios & O’Brien PLLC, 202.625.7700, [mminora@malliosobrien.com](mailto:mminora@malliosobrien.com).

Minora stated sales will be completely enclosed in the lobby area on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor as an amenity to the guests. There is no outside signage or street access, so unlikely anyone from the street would come in to make a purchase. 24 hours of operation for the market, operation of sales of alcoholic beverages would be 7a-12a daily. 25% B license allows a hotel that already has an ABC license for other areas to sell beer and wine in enclosed containers in their market areas. 25% B license limits the overall alcohol sales to being 25% of the sales of food and beverage. Minora asked for a stipulated license to operate through the duration of the public notice period. Shankle made a motion to send a letter to support the stipulated license, seconded by Wilsey. (Vote 3-0-0)

## **TRANSPORTATION / PUBLIC SPACE**

### **PLANNING, ZONING, ENVIRONMENT, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

1. ANC Response to Survey. Law 22-280 - Public Restroom Facilities Installation & Promotion Act of 2018.

Shankle stated there was legislation introduced in 2018 that allowed for the installation and promotion of public facilities using stand-alone buildings. They are looking to determine potential locations. Marks mentioned that 7<sup>th</sup> ST and H ST was a potential location mentioned in the last meeting. Shankle noted that he doesn’t believe there is space for a structure in that space, and noted he was thinking of 7<sup>th</sup> ST and F ST. Marks stated that 8<sup>th</sup> ST on the west side between G ST and H ST has a very wide sidewalk, thinks it would be ideal, quiet. Sofge mentioned this location would be good for people at the Streateries to have access. Wilsey noted having found some locations that were good but Federal property and he and Shankle believe the intent is to use city property. Shankle agreed with Marks.

Wilsey requested anyone with input reach out to him so he can include in the survey.  
Goines noted she will flag that to her leadership team as well.

**OTHER**

Shankle thanked Commissioners Wilsey and Burton for their service and welcomed new Commissioners to the team.

**ADJOURNMENT** Wilsey made motion to adjourn, seconded by Shankle. (Vote 3-0-0)

**Minutes Submitted by:** Gayle Gardner

**ANC Secretary:** Jamaal Burton

**Next Meeting:** December 8, 2020, 6:30PM

**Minutes Approved by:** ANC 2C Commission on December 8, 2020.