



Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

Aug 2020 Meeting Minutes

DATE: 11 Aug 2020

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

PRESENT: Commissioner Michael Shankle, Commissioner Kevin Wilsey, Captain Jonathan Dorrough, Lamonté Pryor, Neil Albert, Liz Hart, Kevin Harriford, Haley Peckett, Suzanne Sofge, Jo-Ann Neuhaus, Andrew Huff, Marissa McKeever, Barry Gutin, Ted Brownfield, Duan O'Donald, Pete Caseris, Germaine, Rachel O'Connell, Shaneka Lee, Michelle Bove, Gould, Efrat Tamary, Matt Power, Chander Jayaraman, Carolyn Abbey, Barbara Wanchisen, Claire Moreno, Emily Mooney, Jude Marfil

ABSENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS

3. QUORUM

4. OPENING REMARKS/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Commissioner Burton expected to arrive before any items will be voted on. Shankle noted addition of agenda items to the distributed agenda.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: April, June and July minutes

Wilsey made motion to approve, seconded by Shankle. (Vote 2-0-0)

6. TREASURER'S REPORT: Shankle provided the July treasurer's report. The current balance as of end of July was \$58,642.09. There had been one District Quarterly Allotment of \$1,821.05.

BRIEF COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

7. Ward 2 Mayor's Liaison, Nicole Goines, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services, Ward 2 Liaison, Nicole.Goines@dc.gov.

No one present from the Mayor's Office.

8. Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto Update, Brook Pinto Councilmember, Ward 2, bpinto@dccouncil.us or Genevieve Fugere Hulick, Chief of Staff, ghulick@dccouncil.us.

Lamonté Pryor, Executive Assistant, LPryor@dccouncil.us. Pryor, present on

behalf of Councilmember Pinto, noted he will be assisting with AC2C meetings going forward.

Recent happenings: Pinto participated in crime walk with Shankle and other community leaders. Noted recent drug activity and noise complaints in the Penn Quarter area of Chinatown. She will specifically be looking into the increase in drug activity. Pinto and Councilmember Allen are looking into working with MPD regarding a drug intervention program like the MPD's current crime intervention program, along with the Office of the Attorney General. Actively working to get clarification on the removal of a generator removal in the Penn Quarter area as to whether it is still in use.

Pryor noted he will be collecting information about the bike lane from the meeting and reporting back to Pinto.

Shankle stated that the generator is a Metro generator at the corner of 7th and H St. NW. Shankle also stated that Wilsey also participated in the crime walk.

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

Dorrrough noted significant decreases in crime compared to prior years. There has been a 4-5 year period where they have seen almost 20-40% decreases annually. A lot now is due to shut down. 3 violent crimes in last 30 days. 2 closed with arrest. 8 property crimes vs 51 last year. Property crime down 56% Overall crime 55% reduction.

Homicide on 300 block of Massachusetts Ave apartment building: The woman went missing, is still missing, domestic situation, there has been an arrest in the case, which is currently being prosecuted as a homicide. Crime walk and situation in Chinatown: some activity has shifted due to what has been open during the shutdown. Street level activity has shifted to disorderly behavior, there is definitely some narcotic activity. In response, they have had several meetings, working on relationships with security already in the area. MPD committed to focusing on narcotics issue. Asking other city agencies to address the factors leading to activity – homelessness, substance abuse, etc. All need to be involved in the day to day situations so they can work together. Today met with William Hill, the sports betting location on F Street. Lines around the block, cash only betting. MPD wasn't aware of the scope of the operation until it was in place. MPD has significant concerns about safety in the public spaces. They will meet again tomorrow. Resources being added by the company.

Neil Albert stated surprise that the sports betting location was open and that it was cash. Asked if MPD gets economic or retail development data from other agencies, suggested if not that they do to be able to be better informed. He noted 1st District Commander Kane referenced Economic Development Data that

they had, so he suspects they get it at that level.

Dorough stated they do not and will follow up with Kane to find out about report, noted that she had also been surprised by it.

Dorough noted he has information he would like brought to Councilmember Pinto's attention. He stated that Mount Vernon Triangle reached out to him about buskers right across Massachusetts Avenue. They have dealt with a lot in Chinatown, but not much MPD can do with current law, previous attempts to change the law have failed. Pryor noted he will bring this info back to Pinto.

10. MPD 2nd District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Renato Caldwell, Renato.Caldwell@dc.gov, and/or Lieutenant Michael Hamelin, Michael.Hamelin@dc.gov.

No one present from MPD 2nd District.

11. The Department of Public Works, Wendy Cadell, Inspector, Wendy.Cadell@dc.gov.

No one present from the Department of Public Works.

12. District Department of Transportation, NOI# 20-007-TDD, Car Free Lanes in Ward 2, <https://ddot.dc.gov/page/car-free-lanes-buses-and-bikes>, Haley Peckett, Project Delivery Division, Haley.Peckett@dc.gov.

Peckett provided link with more information about car free lanes specific to 7th St.: <https://ddot.dc.gov/node/1484591>. More information will be uploaded as it's approved by the Mayor's Office. Project Goals: Improve bus reliability and travel speeds, reduce crowding, maintain safe distancing on buses and provide space and safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. One-year project with quarterly reporting. Project covers Mass Ave NW to Pennsylvania Ave NW on 7th St. which will have buses, bicycles and trucks only. All cross-street traffic remains open. Project map and timeline presented and reviewed. Construction start August 17, end September 28. Curbside management discussed – PUDO zones, truck only loading zones, commercial loading zones, metrobus zones, sidewalk extensions, ADA access, metered parking and micromobility corrals for bike and scooter parking. Will use signage to denote at least in this phase. PUDO zones are open to anyone.

Shankle requested opportunity to look at data from the previous restriping project. Peckett noted that the restriping and curb extension goals were to improve bus speed and reliability. Buses were getting stuck behind turning cars. Some lane reconfiguration done, curb extensions for pedestrian safety. Identified as a high crash corridor prior to the project. Data challenge with pandemic. Three measurements of effectiveness. 1. Safety had 20% reduction in crashes (notes need more data). 2. Traffic Operations the overall average speed increased slightly, highly congested areas slowed minorly, parking violations

increased. 3. Transit Operations average travel time reduced by 22 seconds, 3.6% round trip. This pilot did show some benefit. Want to do further analysis. Shankle asked why the project was implemented without vetting the community. Peckett notes that this was done with other projects in relation to Covid. It was a good time to try the pilot (reduced traffic, etc.) They have heard from residents that people want more bus lanes in the District. They are using pilots to test concepts, trying to be iterative and make changes as they go. Covid impact – Transportation Committee noted busses are essential. Having busses that can run with more capacity makes them safer. WMATA is experiencing huge revenue losses, so implementation important to reduce this. Project provides safer space for bicyclists and more space for pedestrians.

Shankle noted it will be a hardship for some residents to carry groceries from drop off location. H St. already has parking restrictions at certain times of day. Unsure of business input in the area since the last project. Business owners were unaware last time that they were going to lose parking access. Peckett noted the downtown BID has been engaged with businesses, held a forum in July, prepared FAQ's, held 6-10 meetings with local businesses. Notes it is almost entirely north side focused, she is looking at specific concerns to see if they can update and address those concerns. Did speak to rep from Gallery Place. She concurs will not be ideal to unload groceries in prime time / rush hour. Hoping they can provide enough PUDAs, may need to look at providing more. Bikes will be sharing the bus lanes with buses and trucks. PUDA zones will be marked – active loading/unloading of passengers/goods. Not specifically enforced.

Dorough requested enforcement information, stated it will be an issue, DPW has reduced capacity to enforce. Notes without enforcement it will be a challenge to succeed. Peckett noted members of MPD have been involved in planning meetings, recognized that enforcement is critical but difficult and that there aren't have resources for overtime. Plan on larger presence for first two weeks.

Shankle asked if a residential sticker is an option for grocery load/unload. Peckett notes that because of the sidewalk extensions there isn't much curbside space for this. Shankle asks about the traffic diversion on Indiana Avenue and how the one way will support cars getting around that area. Peckett notes that this started with a month of traffic analysis. They don't anticipate much traffic will divert to Indiana. Have two tiers of traffic mitigation. Current traffic levels are low. They do have immediate mitigations they are putting in to help channel traffic. Residents have noted approval of calming agents for traffic. Second tier of mitigation includes signal timing, lane reconfiguration or additional turn lanes that will go into effect if traffic volume starts to increase. Anticipate there being little effect to the traffic in the overall network.

Suzanne Sofge, resident, provided concerned feedback on what traffic safety issues already take place during Capital One events. Believes if there's no

signage to divert traffic earlier they will try to go down Indiana, a danger to residents. She thinks signage should specifically divert cars to 6th or 12th. Peckett believes the planned signage and red paint will help with this. She will add to evaluation and things to observe.

Wilsey suggested a meeting to just cover this topic, with people sending questions in advance. Peckett agreed, will send info to the Commissioners. Kevin Harriford, resident, requested Captain Dorrrough be at the follow up meeting. Interested in the data points that will be leveraged. Shankle requested additional questions be added to the chat box so he can forward them to DDOT for response.

13. Census 2020 Update, <https://2020Census.gov>. Commissioner Shankle

Shankle noted there are less than 8 weeks until the end of the Census (September 30). Census collecting shortened by 30 days this year. Enumerators are in the area to assist residents with filling out the census. With multi-unit buildings, apartments, condos, etc., enumerators don't have access to residents. District 2C has about 47% response so far. Shankle requested people present ask their property managers, concierges, etc., to assist residents in getting Census completed. Encouraged all present to go online and fill out theirs, as this determines funding going forward in the District. Wilsey also requested property managers work with the census takers to get this taken care of.

14. Community Mediation DC, Liz Hart, Volunteer Outreach, Community Mediation, LizHartA@gmail.com.

Hart stated they are a resource in DC and can help with conflicts that come up. Mediation is voluntary and confidential, the Mediators are volunteers from in the community who are trained to help with disputes between neighbors, family members or house mates that are cooped up during Covid. They can assist with co-parenting plans, collaboration for community groups, etc. Services during Covid are offered over Zoom at no cost. Requested commissioner support for situation referrals and people who might make great mediators for the community. Also seek physical locations once Covid is over to host mediations. Looking for a Commissioner to serve as an Ambassador. Will be training in the fall, after that will just be information sharing (no large time commitment). www.CommunityMediationDC.org.

LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY

15. Closure of 8th St NW between H St NW and I St NW for restaurant area. Barry D. Gutin, Principal and Co-Founder, Guest Counts Hospitality, LLC, Cuba Libre Restaurant and Rum Bar, Barry@GuestCounts.com.

Gutin noted they need to attract more guests, and want to close 8th to

have multiple restaurants with outdoor dining to create an attraction for people to come and dine. Not a street festival, no standing bar or food service. All at tables of 6 or fewer, all by reservation. Has reached out to the ANC, Penn Quarter Neighborhood Association and Downtown DC. Downtown DC in communication with DDOT. Different than Streateries in that it is an off-premises business model. Believe liquor license will extend so the businesses can serve alcoholic beverages. Tables will be spaced as will the restaurants. They believe they can do 10 restaurants with 50 seats each.

Albert noted they are in conversation with DDOT, will be treated like a Streatery. Once have green light from DDOT, will meet with all stakeholders in that vicinity to make sure impact is minimized. Trying to reinvent the way restaurants can go forward. Penn Quarter Neighborhood Association has been supportive. Gutin notes they will use both the streets and the sidewalks. Shankle notes building on corner of H and 8th is going to be starting a rehab in a couple months – to be aware. Wilsey noted a destination spot is needed, and Shankle noted he is good to go forward as long as businesses in the area are in support.

Albert noted a pre-emptive letter of support will help with DDOT, but they will come back and review plans as they move forward. Shankle made motion to send pre-emptive Letter of Support of the concept, seconded by Wilsey. (Vote 2-0-0)

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSING (ABRA)

16. Iraklion, LLC, 1412 I St. NW (ABRA-116082). Transfer of Retailer's Class "C" Nightclub License. Richard Bianco, Esq, Rich@lawrijb.com.

After stating that this is to transfer a "C" license for 1,100 total occupancy at 1412 I St. NW with its own security, and that residents had a great number of concerns, Wilsey opened the floor for comments.

Ted Brownfield represents apartment building within 600 feet of location. Concerns: application validity - no one reached out to them prior to the submission, traffic, safety, a previous nightclub had fighting and violence, previous management had some of the same members. Alley hidden from view; attendees hang out there.

Duan O'Donald, represents JPMC which owns the Bown Building at 875 15th St. and a parking garage that can get backed up, have issues with litter, violence. Stated there is another night club in close proximity. Concerns: impact on property values, inability to lease space because of these issues, zoning, application validity, residential peace. They want the application shut down before it can move forward.

Pete Caseris represents the owners of 1400 I St NW. Concerns: security, the homeless, drug dealing in back alley, leasing issues, pedestrian safety,

property values, traffic levels, limited parking, tenants waiting for their cars to be unstacked out of the garage. Hotel next door does overflow parking as well. Have worked with the Downtown BID and Homeless Outreach already. His staff already cleaning up urine and feces; he's concerned it will be worse.

Germaine from 1401 H St. Concerns: Liability, diminished rental values. The alley space contains their loading dock and is not wide enough for pedestrian traffic. Directly opposed to this action.

Shannon Mulsey from 1444 I St. Concerns: Diminishing property values, cleanliness, liability, safety for cars, people, and the additional cost of 24-hour security based on the club's anticipated hours.

Neil Albert, The Downtown BID Concerns: Hours of Operation. They run a day services center for homeless people in the New York Ave Presbyterian Church, providing substance abuse and mental health services. Would like more information but as of now, is not supportive.

Jo-ann Neuhaus Concerns: History of a similar business. They have been through this before and was difficult to get that establishment closed. Wilsey stated that beyond it being a nude dancing club, the sheer size makes lots of problems. Made motion that license is protested based on disruption, property value degradation, trash, parking, host of other reasons he will put in a letter to ABRA, seconded by Shankle. (Vote 2-0-0)

Shankle recommended that the party of 5 that is considering protest move forward with it, and potentially collaborate with Commissioners to mitigate this. O'Donald noted that they are joining the group of 5 and offers use of stakeholders and shareholder impact to assist with stopping this application. Brownfield agreed that they should discuss after the meeting and he will follow up with Shankle. Shankle noted ABRA has sent out a GIS request to get the mapping done for the 600' perimeter of the club. Shankle will reach out to ABRA to get more information as to the timing of the process and any feedback that they have.

17. Foxtrot Retail, DC, LLC, 650 Massachusetts Ave NW (ABRA-). New Retailer's Class "B" – Full-Service Grocery. Sidon Yohannes, Attorney at Law, Veritas Law, SYohannes@theveritaslawfirm.com.

Yohannes stated request is for 2 licenses at 650 Massachusetts Ave for Class "B" Full-Service Grocery as well as Class "CR" Restaurant license. Requesting support for the application and a stipulated license to operate during the placard period.

Rachel O'Connell from Foxtrot noted that they will support local vendors (bakeries, coffee, desserts). Neighborhood café, partnering with Vigilante Coffee for coffee shop portion. Deliver on demand in 60 minutes or less. Estimated footprint of 3500 square feet.

Shankle made motion to support both licenses, seconded by Wilsey. (Vote: 2-0-0). Shankle made motion to support stipulated licenses during the 60-

day protest period, seconded by Wilsey. (Vote: 2-0-0)

TRANSPORTATION / PUBLIC SPACE

18. Fogo De Chao, 1101 Pennsylvania Ave NW (DDOT-10804727). New Sidewalk Café Un-Enclosed. Shaneka Lee, licensing@fogo.com.

Lee stated they are looking to expand to serve more guests with the limited capacity allowed inside the restaurant. Looking to open a small café that will seat 34. Sectioned off with stanchions. (4) umbrellas to cover the area. Temporary barrier will give guests privacy and keep pedestrian traffic separate. Seating and barrier considered temporary until restaurants are fully functional. Barrier and seating can be moved back inside every evening. Wilsey made motion to send letter of support, seconded by Shankle. (Vote: 2-0-0)

19. Farmers and Distillers, 600 Massachusetts Ave NW (DDOT-10805225). New Sidewalk Café Un-Enclosed. Efrat Tamary, ETamary@gmail.com.

Michelle Bove, Architect & Impact Design Advocate, Design Case Bove states that Farmers and Distillers at Massachusetts Ave and 6th St. NW, is applying for a permanent enclosed sidewalk on both the lower and the upper sidewalk area. Sidewalk will still have pedestrian access. Maximum capacity to be added is 100. White, cleanable modular tenting will cover area with taller walls on the lower level and shorter on the upper level so the roof stays even. Will be inspected weekly by tent company. No AC but will have heat. This is a winter plan for Covid seating. Installment likely won't be until November or December. Unsure of permanence, as it doesn't match their brand. Gould is in alignment with need during Covid and agrees they should plan for something else if this is to continue.

Shankle made motion to send letter of support during Covid. Wilsey notes that ends October 19. Shankle notes if it ends, the restaurant would be able to have full occupancy. Bove requested language supporting the tent until the dining room is able to have full occupancy.

Shankle made motion to send letter of support until the dining room is able to have full occupancy.

Tamary notes that the emergency ends October 9, and that they need 60 days to get things in place. They need to start quickly. Meeting with DCRA on September 24. Bove and Tamary agree this support works. Seconded by Wilsey. (Vote: 2-0-0)

20. Penn Quarter Sports Tavern, 639 Indiana Ave NW. Support for Restaurant Parklet. Mike Brand, Mike@pennquartersportstavern.com.

Brand stated need to increase capacity since inside seating is limited. Outdoor seating may help them survive. Requested support to turn 3 parking

spaces into usable restaurant space, 10 tables, max of 6 people each, table service only. This is the loading zone directly in front of their property. They have 4 letters of support from neighboring businesses on the street. Resident Suzanne Sofge stated support for this business and owner, they keep the area clean and safe.

Wilsey made motion to send preliminary letter of support, seconded by Shankle. (Vote: 2-0-0)

PLANNING, ZONING, ENVIRONMENT, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

21. Project Update 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Newseum / Johns Hopkins Project Update, Paul Nassetta, Project Director and Matt Power, Sr. Project Manager, Johns Hopkins Facilities & Real Estate

Power stated existing building has challenges to make it usable for something other than museum. Reviewed changes to be made via PowerPoint. Design has gone before the CFA and NCPC and approved preliminary approval. Outline of schedule provided. Anticipating soft demo through end of year, structural demo to start post inauguration. New construction will start end of 2021 through 2023 with intent of opening for classes in fall of 2023. Traffic control plans approved by DDOT provided.

Jo-Ann Neuhaus requests info on sidewalk closing. Power reviewed the safety practices and need. Neuhaus requests info on café. They have a foodservice consultant running different models to determine best method. Intent is to have open to the public and enter off Pennsylvania Ave.

NEW BUSINESS / OTHER

22. Minute Take Update / Consulting Position, Commissioner Shankle

Shankle noted a temporary minute taker is doing minutes from Zoom recording. An updated contract has been provided to the temporary person, while hope is to find someone local. Shankle put forward the contract for approval and notes a \$25 increase for the time that goes into the minute preparation.

Shankle moved to approve the contract for Gayle Gardner, seconded by Wilsey. (Vote 2-0-0)

Shankle will be sending out a notice out to try to find a local person to do the notes.

23. Virtual Recording Release

Shankle noted requests for the video recording of Zoom meetings, looking for input from Commissioners on whether this is ok.

Wilsey noted a constituent has requested this is the process going forward. There is a cost concern going forward to maintain virtual meetings. Wilsey moved to release anything that they can, seconded by Shankle. (Vote: 2

-0-0)

ADJOURNMENT: Wilsey moved to adjourn, seconded by Shankle. (Vote: 2-0-0)

Minutes Submitted by: Gayle Gardner

Minutes approved by: ANC 2C Commissioners

Next meeting: 8 September, 6:30pm

Minutes Approved: September 8, 2020