

# Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

## June 2024 Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** June 11, 2024

**ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Commissioner Michael Shankle, Commissioner Thomas Lee, Commissioner Rebecca Strauss

**ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

### 1. CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Shankle called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm ([2024 June 11 ANC 2C Community Meeting \(youtube.com\)](#)).

### 2. ROLL CALL:

Three out of the three commissioners were present.

### 3. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS:

The commissioners introduced themselves. The fourth seat was vacant until January 1.

### 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**MOTION:** Strauss motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by Shankle. Approved unanimously. (Vote 2-0-0)

### 5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

The approval of the previous meeting minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

### 6. TREASURER REPORT:

Commissioner Lee reported that the statement balance was \$67,599.58. A check for \$750 cleared on June 3, 2024, for translation services at the Downtown Gallery Place Task Force Meeting. The available balance was currently \$66,849.58.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**1. MPD 2nd District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Sharde Harris, [shared.harris@dc.gov](mailto:shared.harris@dc.gov), 202.821.8414, Sargent Philip Robinson, or Lieutenant Sylvester Garvin, [Sylvester.garvin@dc.gov](mailto:Sylvester.garvin@dc.gov), 202.774.6866**

Lieutenant Garvin reported that there was an increase in the AWDs near the club zone areas. The visibility was increased. There was one particular shooting in which the individual was able to be apprehended near the scene, and the weapon was located. Thefts were down and thefts from automobiles were slightly increasing due to criminals targeting work vans. Officers were making contact with work vehicles to make sure their vehicles were locked and that they were

careful of their surroundings. Workers with vehicles were encouraged to call if there was anything suspicious seen. There were also individuals on mopeds engaged in criminal activities. There was a CCTV expansion with a new crime camera at 14<sup>th</sup> and P Street. Lieutenant Garvin noted that the more cameras that were available, the more real-time information was available. For community outreach, there was a community walk coming up with the date to be determined. A sector 3 kickball game with other ANCs will be held on Saturday, June 22, at 1625 P St NW at 9:00 am.

Commissioner Shankle asked about the moped enforcement and if a lot of it was on delivery drivers. Lieutenant Garvin reported that it was also on individuals riding mopeds illegally or riding stolen mopeds. Commissioner Shankle commented that when the word got out that enforcement was starting, he had seen the mopeds decrease.

**2. MPD 1st District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Paul Hrebenak, [Paul.Hrebenak@dc.gov](mailto:Paul.Hrebenak@dc.gov), 202-729-2179 or Lieutenant Jeremy Kniseley, [jeremy.kniseley@dc.gov](mailto:jeremy.kniseley@dc.gov), 202.839.1357.**

There was no one available for an update.

**3. Office of Mayor's Office Ward 2 Mayor's Liaisons – Christopher Powell, Ward 2 Liaison, [Christopher.powell2@dc.gov](mailto:Christopher.powell2@dc.gov), 202.805.7122 and Grace Reeder, Ward 2 Liaison Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), [grace.reeder@dc.gov](mailto:grace.reeder@dc.gov).**

Christopher Powell reported that the Mayor and the team took part in the Capitol Pride Parade. Earlier in the month, on Monday, June 3, Mayor Muriel Bowser and community members kicked off LGBTQIA+ Pride celebrations with a flag raising. The current year's budget included \$5.25 million to support World Pride 2025. On Wednesday, June 5, Mayor Bowser attended Career Day at Barnard Elementary School in Ward 4 to share her personal career journey. DPW started a new pilot program aimed at getting high-dollar scofflaw vehicles off of District streets. More than 75 vehicles were towed, and more than 840 vehicles were booted. Crime continued to trend downward. Violent crime was down 25%, and overall crime was down 15%. On Friday, June 14, Late Night Hype would be held. Every Sunday in June, Go-Go concerts would be held from 1 to 5 pm.

Commissioner Shankle thanked the Mayor's office for participation in pride and dedication to World Pride.

Commissioner Lee asked why the city was buying the National Theater and if it would be operating it. Christopher Powell stated that he would follow up with Commissioner Lee.

**4. Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto -- Brooke Pinto Councilmember, Ward 2, [bpinto@dccouncil.us](mailto:bpinto@dccouncil.us), 202-724-8058, Maddy White, [mwhite@dccouncil.gov](mailto:mwhite@dccouncil.gov), Brian Romanowski, Constituent Services Director, [bromanowski@dccouncil.us](mailto:bromanowski@dccouncil.us), 202-285-9195.**

Maddy White reported that the Council took their first vote on the FY25 budget on May 29, the second vote would occur on June 12, and the final vote would occur sometime before the end of June. Councilmember Pinto worked closely with Chairman Mendelson to restore, find, and protect funding for public safety needs, downtown investments, small business support, education, housing, and supporting seniors and the LGBTQ+ community. The budget included two notable tax increases, both of which Councilmember Pinto did not support. The first tax was for employers to pay more as part of the payroll tax, with an increase from .26% to .62% or .75%. The second tax was for residential tax which targeted any home valued over \$2.5 million. Each residential home was currently subject to a rate of taxation of 85 cents for every \$100 of its assessed value. Under Chairman Mendelson's proposal, the first \$2.5 million would be assessed at the current rate, but anything over \$2.5 million would be taxed at \$1 for every \$100 of its assessed value. Despite Councilmember Pinto's opposition to the taxes, the amount that the Chairman included in the budget prevented a larger increase that many of her council colleagues were contemplating.

The budget included funding for critical components of the Secure DC Omnibus Plan, which funds more officers. Funding cuts were fully restored for access to justice and victim services grants, which provided low-income residents with legal services and protections during housing and unemployment crises. There were investments in safe passage and violence interruption programs to prevent violence before it occurred. It also funded the Violence Prevention and Response Team through the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs and funded enforcement provisions of the Steer Act, which promotes accountability for dangerous drivers. Specifically related to downtown, the Councilmember's Bill the BEST Act, was completely funded to revamp and streamline the business licensing process completely. Funding for office-to-residential and office-to-mixed-use conversions was included. There was continued funding for retail recovery grants that was established in the budget in the previous year that focused on activating vacant space. There were investments to ensure safe and reliable transit across the region. For young people and families, the Pay Equity Fund was restored, which ensures that early childhood educators receive adequate compensation. Literary training and coaching were funded for kindergarten teachers. The Attend and Stand Up Stand Out truancy program were restored to ensure that children could get safely to class. In terms of addressing the homelessness problems, the Councilmember helped fund 368 new supportive permanent housing vouchers and funds for the Bridge Housing in the West End. There was \$30 million secured for a future Ward 2 Wellness Center, \$1 million for the completion of the LGBTQ+ center, which was moving to 7<sup>th</sup> and S Street, and \$5 million to support World Pride in 2025. The public restroom pilot program began the prior week and would be extended into the following year. A cut was restored for ANC technical assistance and support. Regarding the circulator, there was work being done to have WMATA absorb the cut routes.

DPW had efforts to step up the booting and towing process with a license-plate recognition system that allowed parking enforcement to read license plates as they were driving around. In Georgetown, 46 cars were being booted, which resulted in \$92,000 in payment in outstanding fines. Improvements were expected as additional employees were hired.

Regarding the task force, the Gallery Town Task Force worked with urban planners and designers to generate eight big ideas about the future of Gallery Place. An upcoming event was a free two-day rodent control academy on July 10 and 11. On June 17, DPW was conducting a graffiti wipeout in Wards 2 and 3. Photos of the locations could be submitted so that DPW could get rid of the graffiti in the area. The next office hours were Pride Office Hours in Logan Circle on June 26 at 5 pm at The Little Gay Pub.

Commissioner Shankle thanked Maddy White for the update and asked why there were so many parking fines. Maddy White explained that it was a coordinated effort to identify spaces with a lot of illegal parking.

Commissioner Strauss asked about the old Balance Gym building and if there were plans for the building. There were rumors of a single male shelter, and it was directly next to a senior living facility. Maddy White stated that she did not have specific details but would follow up.

A community member asked about the senior center for LGBT elders, asked about the funding and the location, and suggested a location. Maddy White reported that it was for \$30 million, but she was not sure of the location. She would bring back the recommended location to the team.

A community member asked about the new youth shelter opening and potential locations. The community member also asked about cleaner sidewalks on 7<sup>th</sup> Street between D and H and if there were any initiatives. Maddy White reported that she would follow up over email regarding the location of the youth shelter. Maddy White stated that she would reach out to the Downtown BID DC team who cleaned up the areas. Lukas Umana from the team stated that there were teams out daily, and 7<sup>th</sup> and D tended to be a high-traffic area. He stated that the team would focus greater on that area. It was stated that there was a general sense of continued dirtiness of the streets with trash and other dirty items.

**5. DowntownDC BID, Lukas Umana, Director of Public Space Operations,  
[lukas@downtowndc.org](mailto:lukas@downtowndc.org), 202.270.0366.**

Lukas Umana provided an update on statistics from DowntownDC BID. In May, 4,404 bags of trash were collected, over 30,000 pounds of trash were collected, 203 stickers, posters, and graffiti were removed, there were 825 personnel hours dedicated by the safety team, 648 routes completed by the safety team, 5,507 checkpoints completed by the safety team, 1,679 hours dedicated by the Chinatown corridor clean team, and 239 business wellness checks where staff went in to ensure that stakeholders were doing well. The data would continue to be improved to give awareness around the work that was being done. The goal was to create a safe and clean downtown. The work to beautify and activate the neighborhood on 6<sup>th</sup> and E Street included 10 new murals by Luther Wright with more murals to come with \$300,000 in FY25 funds. It was discussed that art could be used as a beautification tool. Bringing in enforcement on mopeds was showing a large difference in the area.

Commissioner Lee noticed that many planters had holes in them and asked if there was any way the staff could break the openings to temp down the holes. Lukas Umana reported that they were working closely with DOH to address the rodent concerns. Part of redoing the planters would be to put concrete in the planters to keep rodents from going up and down.

**6. Shelter Operations in ANC 2C, David J. Ross, Chief of Staff, DC Department of Human Services, [David.ross@dc.gov](mailto:David.ross@dc.gov), 202.299.5549.**

David Ross provided a report on shelter operations in ANC 2C. He stated that they were doing a better job of projecting out investments through 2028. There were projections to bring Green Court online in 2026. As there was more planning, the details would be shared at the meetings. He discussed the balance of sharing in advance while recognizing that many things would change. It was reported that Green Court was for single men, although that could potentially change.

Anthony Newman, the Deputy Administrator for singles, introduced himself. Two shelters that were coming on board were the re-opening of the Pat Handy building on 810 5<sup>th</sup> St. NW and the opening of 1009 11<sup>th</sup> St. NW. For the 5<sup>th</sup> St. Pat Handy location, the completed renovations included the interior spaces completely repainted, carpet with modern vinyl plank flooring, security and IT infrastructure upgrades, new administrative offices, elevator repairs, furniture replacements, and the building was completely deep cleaned. All of the renovations were done so that the women could be brought back from 11<sup>th</sup> St. When the women returned, Pat Handy would operate 24/7 as a low-barrier shelter. It would provide shelter for the same residents as before, which included 125 low-barrier shelter beds along with 30 specialty beds for seniors, work beds, and sick beds. The difference was that for the specialty beds, case management was required to hold the beds. Case management was used to move individuals from shelters to permanent housing. Individuals in low-barrier beds were encouraged to take advantage of case managers. The renovations will be completed in the summer of 2024. The N Street Village will re-occupy the facility in late summer 2024, although it was subject to change based on construction schedules. The clients were expected to move in during the early fall of 2024, potentially in September.

A community member asked if businesses and residents were involved in the decisions. Anthony Newman stated that they were beginning to engage individuals and there would be engagement with any groups necessary moving forward. There was often a comprehensive reach-out plan. David Ross would engage both the ANC commission, the Councilmember, and others in discussions to identify any stakeholders and answer questions that may emerge during the process.

A community member asked for clarification on low-barrier shelters. It was explained that the low-barrier system provided beds for anyone who needed a bed on the same night. It was not completely first-come, first-serve because individuals who were there the previous night kept their same bed.

It was reported that the ability to queue on the inside was not addressed in the current renovations.

Questions were asked regarding low-barrier shelters and non-low-barrier shelters. The Green Court location that was discussed earlier would have a higher threshold to get in, including the requirement of being in case management. Green Court, from a planning perspective, was not the building being focused on in the short term. There were two types of buildings, including congregate where people lived together in a common area, and a non-congregate type where one or two individuals would live in the same area. There could still be specialty beds in congregate settings. There would be more details in the future when Green Court was closer to being the focus.

The 11th Street location was the swing space location. Once the women who were in the swing space moved back to Pat Handy, the building would undergo minor renovations. Madison Women's program was a transitional program and would have remodeling done. Due to the work, those women would be moved into the swing space. The goal was to utilize the space difference for hypothermia beds for the upcoming season. The Madison for Women was run by the House of Ruth and operated 24/7. It provided 50 beds for women over 18 experiencing homelessness affected by trauma, and case management was required. In the fall of 2025, the Madison for Women would be moved back to their space. The 11<sup>th</sup> Street location would continue to maintain a mix of low-barrier beds but would also include 40 specialty beds.

Commissioner Lee asked if 24/7 meant that residents could stay inside the shelter. It was reported that women would not have to leave in the morning time, but it was encouraged for the women to take advantage of the resources outside the shelter.

When individuals came in, they were not surveyed on their background, so there was no information on immigration status.

A community member asked if there were limits on the time that the shelter could be used. It was reported that for low-barrier shelters, there were no time limits. There were some programs with time limits, such as transitional programs that often had a two-year time limit. It was explained that individuals who were making progress often were not kicked out after the time limit was met.

A community member asked if the individuals were subject to drug and alcohol screening, mental health treatment, or substance use treatment. It was reported that no drugs or alcohol were allowed in any district shelters, and clients were screened and scanned. In a low-barrier shelter, individuals were not screened. Clients in low-barrier shelters were encouraged to work with case managers if they needed assistance.

A community member asked how women were protected who were experiencing exploitation. The provider networks were experts at what they did. For example, Madison for Women was an expert at serving clients who experienced trauma.

Commissioner Shankle asked how the process had changed since the Pat Handy transition. It was reported that the schedule often had to be adjusted. David Ross explained the projections, and they could share details on changes, but many changes to the schedule were out of their control. Commissioner Shankle asked who drove the process of what was wanted in a shelter. It was stated that there were many factors involved. There were many feedback sessions with stakeholders. Commissioner Shankle raised concerns about the hypothermia center, given what the former hypothermia center at the Pat Handy shelter did to the community. He asked how there could be assurance that the portion of the neighborhood would not degrade. Anthony Newman reported that the hypothermia centers largely never lived up to the worst fears of the community members, but when there were issues, they were addressed. Contacts would be available for people to reach out to. He added that the building would not be as large as the previous space. It was not anticipated that the same number of people using the hypothermia beds would be seen. Commissioner Shankle stated that the N Street Village individuals had been great to work with and were very open to suggestions.

For any further questions, Anthony Newman and David Ross could be contacted.

Commissioner Lee asked how much influence the operators would have on what went out on the streets. Anthony Newman stated that the providers of security were limited to the building. However, the operators could engage providers anywhere. Concerning security, if there were criminal matters outside the safety of the building, the police department would be worked with. There were also town halls if there were criminal matters involving members of the shelters.

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

- 1. Words Beats & Life Public Art Project. Request for Letter of Support for DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Public Art Building Community Grant, Mazi A. E. Mutafa, Executive Director, Words Beats & Life Inc., [mazi@wblinc.org](mailto:mazi@wblinc.org)**

Mazi Mutafa reported that they were preparing to submit a proposal to do a project partially in ANC 2C and another ANC. The other ANC provided support. He reported that he sent the artwork. Work was being done on 11 call boxes in the downtown footprint that included the creation of miniature murals as well as training a set of young people to do a walking tour of the call boxes. A slideshow was presented to show examples of similar call box projects. The project was originally a collaboration with DowntownDC BID until there was a change in leadership. The locations of the call boxes were presented. Examples from the artists were presented. The timeline was presented. The grant application was due in July 2024, paint removal and priming, repairs, outreach, and permitting would occur in November 2024 through April 2025. Painting would occur in April through June of 2025, with the unveiling and walking tour happening in July 2025.

Commissioner Shankle asked if the call boxes were removed for the cleanup. It was stated that all cleanup and painting was done on sight.

**MOTION:** Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the Words Beats and Life Public Art Project. Seconded by Strauss. (Vote 3-0-0)

**2. DC BikeRide 24, Saturday, September 7, 2024, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Diane Romo Thomas, Event Organizer, [dianeromo-thomas@hotmail.com](mailto:dianeromo-thomas@hotmail.com).**

Diane Thomas reported that it was the seventh year of the event. The event would be 20 miles and was a ride, not a race. The start was back along Constitution Avenue. The musical stage was on Third and Pennsylvania, facing south. 210 bicycles were given out to children, along with helmets and locks.

**MOTION:** Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for DC BikeRide 24. Seconded by Strauss. (Vote 3-0-0)

**3. DC Holiday Market by Diverse Markets Management. Michael Berman, President, Diverse Markets Management, [mberman@his.com](mailto:mberman@his.com), 202.215.6993.**

Michael Berman reported that the DC Holiday Market would be produced by Diverse Markets Management alone. It would begin on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, and would run daily from 12 to 8 pm with the exceptions of being closed on Thanksgiving Day and December 2. There were 65 to 75 tents and entertainment, and December 2 was to get more vendors participating. The goal was to have 100 vendors in total.

Commissioner Strauss asked if there was anything different. Michael Berman reported that there were no changes.

A community member raised concerns regarding DowntownDC BID. Michael Berman stated that their company had been around for 20 years and that the licensing required certifications from companies in the district. They had decided it would be best to move forward themselves. He discussed that there were many small businesses, and their livelihood came from that market.

**MOTION:** Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the DC Holiday Market by Diverse Markets Management. Seconded by Strauss. (Vote 3-0-0)

**MOTION:** Commissioner Shankle motioned to send a letter to DowntownDC BID about why they would move away from a local organization. Seconded by Strauss. (Vote 3-0-0)

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS LICENSING (ABCA)**



- 1. For Five Bakehouse, LLC, Trade Name: For Five Coffee Roasters, 901 K Street NW, New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant (ABRA-128762). Andreas Akaras, [aakaras@bregmanlaw.com](mailto:aakaras@bregmanlaw.com), 301.656.2707**

Andreas Akaras reported that For Five Coffee Roasters also sold wholesale, and their retail was expanding in the Washington DC area. The latest format included coffee and light fare. The location at 901 K Street NW was also applying for a liquor license.

Commissioner Shankle asked if there would be a full bar. Andreas Akaras stated that it was a full coffee and eating establishment, and the alcohol would be an amenity.

The hours of operation were 11 am to 11 pm, including the sidewalk café. Delivery was not being applied for.

Commissioner Lee stated that he had seen the patio, that it looked great, and he intended to stop by.

**MOTION:** Shankle moved to send a letter of support for ABRA-128762. Seconded by Strauss. (Vote 3-0-0)

It was clarified that the certificate of occupancy was filed.

**MOTION:** Shankle moved to send a letter of support for a stipulated license for ABRA-128762. Seconded by Strauss. (Vote 3-0-0)

- 2. Gursha 2023, LLC, Trade Name: Gursha Ethiopian Cuisine, 1195 20<sup>th</sup> Street NW, License Class: Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant (ABRA-127797), Endale Ashagre, [gurshadc@gmail.com](mailto:gurshadc@gmail.com), 240.887.5541.**

Commissioner Shankle reported that the protest period would end before the next ANC meeting.

**MOTION:** Shankle moved to send a letter of support for ABRA-127797. Seconded by Lee. (Vote 3-0-0)

- 3. 1306 G Street Investors, LLC, Trade Name: Astro Beer Hall, 1310 G Street NW, Substantial Change to Retailer's Class "C" Tavern (ABRA-079786). Peter E.S. Bayne, [peter@tinshopdc.com](mailto:peter@tinshopdc.com), 202.737.1797**

Commissioner Shankle stated that the request was for five consoles for games of chance. The two items that would be installed were Edge District of Skill by Pace-o-Matic.

**MOTION:** Shankle moved to send a letter of support for ABRA-079786. Seconded by Strauss. (Vote 3-0-0)

## **TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SPACE**

1. **Update 15<sup>th</sup> ST NW Multi-Modal Safety Improvement. David Balick, Tralis Planner, Planning & Sustainability Division, District Department of Transportation, [David.Balick@dc.gov](mailto:David.Balick@dc.gov), 202.934.0381.**

This item was deferred to July 9.

2. **Parking removal along Massachusetts Ave NW and installation of No Turn on Red Signs at Intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW and Massachusetts Ave NW (NOI# 24-110-TESD). Christine E. Mayeur, AICP Manager, Corridor Safety Projects Team, District Department of Transportation, [Christine.mayeur@dc.gov](mailto:Christine.mayeur@dc.gov), 202.263.9656.**

George Gurara reported that the safety improvements were being proposed because a fatal crash happened at the intersection on January 14, 2023. DDOT and MPD discussed the nature of the crash and potential safety improvements. The safety improvements were learned from the dynamics of the crash and aimed to prevent similar crashes. There was a total of 18 crashes in the past three years. The proposed improvements were presented and included no turn-on red signs, added bike crossings, signs, and refreshment of the markings. The parking spaces would be converted to protected bike lanes.

Commissioner Shankle asked how many parking spaces were being removed. Geroge Gurara reported that approximately 10 would be removed. The homeowner's association was contacted by the DowntownDC BID and had not responded. Commissioner Shankle asked where the no-turn-on-red signs were going. There would be one on the westbound and one on the northbound.

**MOTION:** Shankle moved to send a letter of support for the DDOT project of parking removal and installation of No Turn on Red Signs at the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW and Massachusetts Ave NW. Seconded by Strauss. (Vote 3-0-0)

A community member asked for information about 13<sup>th</sup> and Massachusetts. Commissioner Shankle stated that they could provide follow-up information.

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

No items.

## **OTHER**

There was no other business.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Shankle motioned to Adjourn at 8:34 pm. Seconded by Strauss. (Vote 3-0-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

**Minutes Submitted by:** Minutes Services

**Minutes Approved by:** Commission on 9 July 2024

**Next Meeting:** July 9, 2024, 6:00 pm. It will be a hybrid format.

Meetings will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month throughout 2024.

ANC Commissioners and Website

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