

Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

September 2023 Meeting Minutes

DATE: September 12, 2023

ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioner Michael Shankle, Commissioner Rebecca Strauss, Commissioner Kristin Roe, and Commissioner Thomas Lee.

ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Shankle called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm over Zoom (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_rWOCxZ48k).
- 2. ROLL CALL:** Four out of the four commissioners were present.
- 3. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS:**
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**
- 5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**
- 6. TREASURER REPORT:**

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. MPD 2nd District Crime and Community Awareness, Lieutenant Sylvester Garvin, sylvester.garvin@dc.gov.

2. MPD 1st District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Justin Roth, Justin.Roth@dc.gov, 202-729-2179 or Lieutenant Jeremy Kniseley, jeremy.kniseley@dc.gov, 202.839.1357.

Lieutenant Kniseley discussed a closed robbery that occurred at the Safeway. Officers who were in the area immediately apprehended the robber, who had a bench warrant from the courts for a failure to appear. Lieutenant Garvin discussed that getting the stay-aways is productive in maintaining pressure on individuals who have ill intent.

It was asked when the next operation was and if the apprehended individual was now behind bars. Lieutenant Kniseley reported that there was not another operation planned that was like the one before, but there was a rolling plan to have the narcotics unit do enforcement twice per month. The gentleman arrested was being held pending a preliminary hearing. There was not a decision on the long-term status of his hold. He stated that providing as much information as possible when calling 911 is helpful.

A resident thanked Garvin and the team. They stated that they noticed that crime had been down. They asked about jumping of turnstiles in the Chinatown Metro Center. Commissioner Shankle stated that MPD was not in charge of overseeing the metro. Lieutenant Kniseley stated that Captain McKinney had assisted with getting control of the metro entrance but that there would need to be legislative changes to alter the enforcement capabilities.

A resident asked why more could not be done at the Metro Station. He stated that there was a lot of previous discussion on what could be done, but nothing had happened. He suggested having a conference with the police and owners of the Gallery Place Building so responsibility could be taken. He asked about a law regarding people blocking the sidewalk and what could be done. Lieutenant Garvin reported that the disorderly law could be a custodial arrest with up to a 90-day sentence, but there was a lot of gray area with the law, and there were issues with staffing and asset management as well.

A resident asked for clarification on what should be reported. Lieutenant Kniseley stated that anything that was found suspicious could be reported.

Lieutenant Kniseley reported that on the 2D side, there was a 73% reduction in robberies last month. There were only three robberies in the past month.

3. Office of Mayor's Office Ward 2 Mayor's Liaisons – Christopher Powell, Ward 2 Liaison, 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.

Reeder reported that she would be filling in for Powell until the 18th. She reported that for the next five days, the Lotus Festival of Food and Culture would be taking place. The event was free and occurred from September 12th through September 17th. She reported that September was 202Creates Month. Mayor Bowser launched 202Creates to celebrate the creative community in DC. The month-long campaign showcases the creative community in all eight wards. She reported that the juvenile curfew enforcement pilot program began on September 1st and allowed for monitoring of youth until they can be reconnected in the morning with a parent or guardian. Previously, an officer would have to remain with the youth until a parent or guardian could be located. Now, there was a safe place for the youth to go. The focus areas cover neighborhoods that have had increases in the number of young people involved in criminal conduct over the summer. Reeder reported that on September 13th at 11 am, Mayor Bowser would be cutting a ribbon for the district's first vitality fund awardee, Virtue, at 1801 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Shankle asked about the significant number of community concerns regarding the cell block. Reeder reported that the Mayor had been in close communication and asked for specific questions to be sent to her. She stated that she would send the letter about the temporary swing space. Shankle asked if this would end up being a cell block for four to five years instead of the short-term timeline. Reeder asked for him to email her this question and that she would answer this question via email.

A resident asked about the Emergency Crime Legislation and surveillance cameras for high-crime areas. He stated he had not seen any rules on how to apply. Reeder reported that she would check with Councilmember Pinto's office and send him an email.

4. Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto -- Brooke Pinto Councilmember, Ward 2, bpinto@dccouncil.us, 202-724-8058, Pablo Velasco Rodriguez, Constituent Services Coordinator, pvelascorodriguez@dccouncil.gov, 202-724-8058, and Brian Romanowski, Constituent Services Director, bromanowski@dccouncil.us, 202-285-9195.

Aukima Benjamin reported that she would be taking over for Pablo Rodriguez. She provided an update. Benjamin reported that a legislation recess was taken to tour schools and speak with residents. The future bills for fall legislation were discussed. Permanent versions of the public safety legislation were being worked on. On September 27th, the council will hold the confirmation hearing for Pamela Smith. On October 5th, the council is holding a public hearing. The new fiscal year begins on October 1st, so the key portions of the budget will be tracked. Leaf collection will begin on November 13th, and there will be one week's notice given. A request for DPW must be submitted for any paper bags of yard waste to be picked up for the rest of the year.

LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY

1. World Culture Festival, September 18 – October 6, 2023. Closure of 4th Street NW. between Madison & Jefferson Drives. Julie Hanson, Director, Hanson Productions and Special Events, hpeventsdc@gmail.com, 703.307.2734

Hanson reported that the event will showcase world cultures and will have thousands of performers. She reported that there would be many cultural activities and food trucks participating. The event will take place on September 29th, September 30th, and October 1st. The event is free with registration online. The setup beginning on September 18th, will require the closure of 4th Street from Madison to Jefferson Drives. This will be extended to Independence and Pennsylvania Avenue on the days of the event. The event will conclude between 12 and 1 p.m. on Sunday. The load-out begins on Sunday afternoon and should be finished by Thursday for the streets to be completely open on Friday, October 6th. The set-up on the National Mall will begin on September 18th.

Lee asked if there would be an entry gate. Hanson reported that there would be specific entrances for the ticketed guests and gates located around 6th and 12th on the National Mall. She reported that the gates were security-based and were a walk-through. The grass will be covered where the equipment is placed.

Roe asked if MPD and DDOT were spoken to. Hanson reported that there were many conversations with MPD, DDOT, and police. There will be detour signs per the traffic control plan.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the World Culture Festival, seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

2. DowntownDC Holiday Market 2023, November 17 to December 23, 2023. Closure of F Street NW between 7th and 9th Streets NW. Michael Berman, President, Diverse Markets Management, mberman@his.com, 202-215-6993.

Berman reported that the event will be the 19th annual holiday market. They requested a closed F street between 7th and 9th from November 17th through December 23rd. The holiday market will be closed on Thanksgiving and December 4th. It was requested to close the street on November 10th for build-out. There will be an overlap with the farmer's market on November 17th. There will be over 60 tents, a tented stage with entertainment and performers, and over 75 small businesses present.

Lee asked if anything new was happening and how was turnout in the past few years. Berman reported that the foot traffic numbers were incredible. There was exceptional décor added last year, and new vendors were added.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the DowntownDC Holiday Market 2023, seconded by Roe. (Vote 4-0-0)

3. Chinese Lunar New Year Parade 2024, Sunday, February 11, 2024. Rita Lee, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of DC, Parade Committee, ritacree5168@gmail.com and Hon Yuen Wong, MD, Wah Luck Home Care Agency, hywongmd@wahluck.org

Lee reported that the next year was the year of the dragon. The 2024 parade held on February 11th would be the 48th annual event. The parade would begin on 6th Street with performers and the dragon dance.

MOTION: Roe motioned to send a letter of support for the Chinese Lunar New Year Parade 2024, seconded by Shankle. (Vote 4-0-0)

4. 22nd Annual Thanksgiving America's Trot for Hunger 5K, November 23, 2023. Julie Hanson, Director, Hanson Productions and Special Events, hpeventsdc@gmail.com, 703.307.2734

Hanson reported that it was the same route, starting around 12th Street and coming back to Pennsylvania for the finish. There will be announcements at 9 a.m., followed by the 5K. The streets typically open between 10:30 and 11 a.m. There were as many as 12,000 runners in the past.

MOTION: Roe motioned to send a letter of support for the 22nd Annual Thanksgiving America's Trot for Hunger 5K, seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

5. Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile – Kids Run, Saturday, April 6, 2024. George Banker, Race Director, 301.537.6739, monkbank@combast.net.

Banker reported that the event was part of the National Cherry Blossom Festival and served as a fundraiser for the Children's Miracle Network. He reported that \$9.5 million had been raised since the beginning of the event. It was expected to have 500 participants from ages 4 through 10. The event will take place between 7 am and 2 pm. There will be 170 volunteers with medical, fire, and EMS support. There was support from the National Building Museum.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Kids Run, seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSING (ABCA)

1. 7RCC, LLC, Trade Name: Seven Reasons License, New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant (ABRA-125764), 931 H Street, NW. Andrew Kline, Esq, 202.686.7600, akline@theveritaslawfirm.com

Mixon reported that Seven Reasons has existed as a restaurant for some time. The application will be for a new location in the City Center with an indoor seating capacity of 219, patio seating with 40 seats, and café seating with 30 seats. There was an intent to have an entertainment endorsement, and there was the intent to serve beer, wine, and spirits.

MOTION: Roe motioned to send a letter of support for Seven Reasons, seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

2. Iraklion, LLC, Trade Name: Iraklion License, New Retailer's Class "C" Nightclub (ABRA-116082) 1412 I Street, NW, Richard Bianco, Esq, 202.461.2400, rich@lawerjb.com

Bianco, counsel for the applicant, shared information on Iraklion. Bianco reported that it was a nightclub license. There would be four floors with outdoor space on the roof deck. The total occupancy would be 1,200, with 100 of the occupancy outdoors. There was an approved security plan in place. The operational concerns were also being addressed.

Roe asked if the entrance was in the alley. Bianco reported that it was in the alley and was near a parking garage.

Shankle asked if the intention was to do the nude dancing endorsement. Bianco reported that it was the intention. Shankle inquired about the security plan. Bianco confirmed that the ABRA Board approved it. They submitted the security plan in conjunction with the application. He reported that they wanted to start talking about security at the outset of the process.

Roe inquired about the hours and operation during regular business hours. Bianco reported that they expected most of the business would be done after traditional business hours, but the goal was to see how busy times were. Fiorito reported that there would be functions,

fundraisers, and banquets as well, not just typical nightclub operations. There was the ability to rent out the space because of the size of the space.

Strauss inquired about the marketing research. Fiorito reported that the location was great because it was in an alley, and the security could be controlled. There are limited spaces in DC that offer what this space offers. Strauss inquired about what was in the building before. Fiorito reported that it had previously been an architecture building. Strauss inquired about working with the Downtown Bid. Fiorito reported that an individual was working with the DC correspondents. Commissioner Strauss asked if all landowners were spoken to. Bianco reported that if the landowners were interested in speaking about it, they should reach out. Strauss raised concerns about people living nearby finding the operations of the establishment objectionable.

Shankle asked if anything had changed since the nightclub would be within 600 feet of residential buildings. Bianco reported that an advisory opinion had been sought for the compliance of the location. According to the Board, it was in compliance. The law had not changed, but the interpretation was clarified. Commissioner Shankle inquired about a restriction in the deed associated with the use of the property. Bianco reported that he could not comment on it because he just dealt with the licensing. Shankle asked if the ABCA Board responded to the 600-foot issue. Bianco reported that it was ABCA, and the decision was in the register.

Strauss inquired if the business model depended on the nude dancing endorsement. Fiorito reported that it was part of the business plan.

Lee asked inquired about the type of signage. Fiorito reported that there would be signage on the building, but they were unsure of the exact signage.

A resident inquired about Thompson Elementary School being nearby and asked if the DC Public School System was consulted.

A resident stated that they opposed the business due to safety concerns when the building was previously a nightclub without a nude dancing endorsement. She stated that there were already concerns with traffic in the alleyway and that the establishment would not be able to handle 1,200 individuals.

Shankle spoke about the concerns on the alleyway housing 1,200 individuals.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to protest the license for Iraklion, seconded by Strauss. Lee opposed. (Vote 3-0-1)

3. GRNA SP of DC LLC, Trade Name: Street Pizza, Substantial Change to Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant 501 (ABRA-121741), 501 7th Street, NW. Manalle Mahmoud, Associate Attorney, Mallios O'Brien & Sandground PLLC, (202)625-7700, mmahmoud@malliosobrien.com

Mahmoud shared information on the background of Street Pizza. She reported that there were three main changes. The first change was an increase in occupancy to 150 seats, with a total load of 272. The second change was the operational hours, 11 a.m. to midnight on weekdays and 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The third change was to add an entertainment endorsement. The seating was indoors only.

MOTION: Roe motioned to send a letter of support for the changes for Street Pizza, seconded by Strauss. Lee abstained. (Vote 4-0-0)

4. Yaocho, LLC, Trade Name: Yaocho, New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant (ABRA-125532), 1850 K Street, NW. Monyroth Perry: (843)714-9167, bun.monyroth@gmail.com

No one to represent the establishment was present. Shankle reported that he had heard no concerns about the establishment.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to remain mute for Yaocho, seconded by Roe. (Vote 4-0-0)

5. DT Parentco LLC, Trade Name: Dos Toros Taqueria, New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant (ABRA-125173), 700 7th Street, NW. Andrew Kline, Esq., 202.686.7600, akline@theveritaslawfirm.com

Mixon shared information on the Dos Toros Taqueria. Dennis Lee, the owner rep, reported that Dos Toros is a fast-casual taqueria. They were looking for a liquor license to offer beer and a canned margarita product.

Commissioner Shankle asked if the restaurant was the Eagle Bank Location, and it was clarified that it was. Commissioner Shankle inquired what the normal operations would be. Lee reported that Chinatown was the initial entry into the market, and he was unsure how late they would end up being open. He stated he was doubtful they would be open until midnight, but they wanted to see what business brought.

Commissioner Lee inquired how the restaurant would differ from Chipotle or District Taco and if there was a back area where trash would be stored. Lee reported that the Chopped Salad was also owned and offered, and it had a back alleyway with a garbage compactor. Lee reported that the differentiation was a mission-style burrito with better-quality, authentic food. He stated that the interior was more elevated than typical fast-casual restaurants. Commissioner Lee asked if there would be outdoor seating. Lee confirmed that there would be.

A resident inquired when it was anticipated to open. Lee reported that the final building inspection would occur around September 20th, and it was hoped to open sometime in October.

Commissioner Shankle asked if a stipulated license would be sought as well. Mixon reported that he did not think it was necessary.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for Dos Toros Taqueria, seconded by Lee. (Vote 4-0-0)

TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC SPACE

PLANNING, ZONING, ENVIRONMENT, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

1. Church of the Epiphany (1317 G Street, NW). Kim Daileader, LEED Green Associate Director of Technical Preservation Services, Senior Project Manager, EHT TRACERIES | historic preservation, 202.393.1199.

Gilchrist presented the background of the Church of the Epiphany. He reported that Epiphany dated from the 1840s. A parish house was built in the back and was enlarged in 1911. The proposal was to demolish the existing parish house and replace it with a 10-story addition that would meet the current needs of the church and provide a substantial number of units for affordable housing. The goal was to provide affordable housing, have a space that met the current needs, and increase the vibrancy of the neighborhood. Teass, the architect for the project, provided further information. There was a focus on addressing the needs of people experiencing poverty to provide affordable housing. It was in the D-7 Zone. It was not a historic district, but the church was landmarked, which drove the need to work with the Historic Board. Teass presented pictures of the structure and plans. There will be no parking provided, but there will be loading access provided. The day-to-day operations of the church will generally remain unchanged. The residential spaces would be accessed from the West Side, and the offices from the East Side.

Roe asked about a similar project from a different church. Teass reported that they had not spoken with the other project. He stated that before questions of financing could be addressed, the strategy was first to review the historical issues and then work out the further details. Roe asked if the city approached the church to do this project. Gilchrist reported that the city did not approach them but that they had underutilized space they were trying to determine how to use. The Office of Historic Planning had been met with, and there was a general sense that there was alignment with the city's goals.

Shankle inquired about how much of the new structure was anticipated to be affordable housing. Gilchrist reported that he expected that the lowest two or three floors would be for church use, with 65-75% of it being for affordable housing. Shankle asked if the current question was if the historic preservation would allow for this structure to be put in place. Gilchrist reported that this was the case.

Lee inquired if there would be no parking, about the primary access, and the remaining use. Teass reported that the intent was not to provide any market-rate housing. He reported that the residential entrance would be on the west side to maintain what was currently on the street. He reported that no parking was being proposed, which was in conformance. Gilchrist

reported that the project would not be built within the next year, and the developer would examine the necessary amenities.

Strauss inquired how the affordable housing would work and if they decided to sell the housing below market rate. Gilchrist reported that they would retain ownership, and the math would be figured out in the future.

A resident inquired if the vision included a specific demographic for affordable housing. Gilchrist reported that these decisions would be made in the future.

Lee asked how many units of affordable housing there would be. Gilchrist reported that the concept included 74 units.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the Church of the Epiphany for the raising of the parish house and installation of the ten-story building, seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

OTHER

1. Stop Project Pipes. Kate W Bockover, Community Educator, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, 931.247.6286, kateb@chesapeakeclimate.org

Bockover provided a background on Project Pipes. There was a coalition in place to stop Project Pipes. Gas pipelines in DC are very old and are becoming unsafe. Project Pipes was a 40-year accelerated pipeline replacement program launched in 2014, spanning until 2054. The replacements will happen when the ground is disturbed for another reason, but not when the pipes are leaking. It was desired for WGL to repair the broken pipes first. It was reported that the money was already in their budget for these replacements. The first phase would cost \$100 million, the second phase would cost \$150 million, and the third phase included a request of \$671 million. WGL claimed that the project reduced greenhouse gases released from its distribution system, but it was reported that it would result in more greenhouse gas emissions in the future because of the use of methane gas. WGL claimed that the program would enhance the safety and reliability of DC's pipeline system, but it was reported that the leaks increased since the beginning of the project. It was asked for ANC to pass a resolution against PROJECTpipes. She reported that individuals can help by volunteering.

Strauss inquired about the ultimate goal. Bockover reported that for the particular project, it was a poor decision to manage the natural gas. Bockover clarified that the main idea was to replace old pipes with the goal of moving away from methane gas.

Lee inquired about the plan for the replacement of pipes. Bockover reported that the concern was with the additional money to complete the project. WGL was not charging extra for natural gas, so they could only make money by doing more infrastructure. This led to an incentive to build even where it was not necessary. Bockover reported that one of the worries was that WGL would spend rate-payer money and that this would affect the lowest-income homeowners.

Shankle asked if any other ANCs had passed resolutions. Bockover reported that they had not spoken to other ANCs yet, but the Ward 3 Democrats had signed the resolution.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to table this item until more information could be gathered, seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)

Strauss reported that she put together a call for applications for a website developer to refresh the website for \$2,000. She will solicit proposals, and a vote will occur at the next meeting.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to move forward with the solicitation of proposals to refresh the ANC website, seconded by Roe. (Vote 4-0-0)

ADJOURNMENT: Shankle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m., seconded by Roe. Commissioners were in favor of adjourning the meeting (Vote 4-0-0)

Minutes Submitted by: Minutes Services

Minutes Approved by: 10.10.2023

Next Meeting: October 10, 2023, 6:00 pm

ANC Commissioners and Website

Michael Shankle 2C01@anc.dc.gov

Rebecca Strauss 2C04@anc.dc.gov

Thomas S. Lee 2C03@anc.dc.gov

Kristin Roe 2C04@anc.dc.gov

www.anc2c.us

Subscribe to the ANC 2C listserv at www.anc2c.us.

Meetings are scheduled for the Second Tuesday of each month.