



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 19th, 2023; 7:30 p.m.

In-Person – West End Library, Meeting Room, 2301 L Street NW

Online via Zoom

Call to Order

Commissioner Jim Malec (02) called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. Commissioners Yannik Omictin (01) Trupti Patel (03), Ed Comer (04), Kim Courtney (05), Joel Causey (06) (attending virtually), Dasia Bandy (07), Jordan Nassar (08), and Evelyn Hudson (09) (attending virtually) were present.

Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Omictin made a motion to adopt the ANC’s meeting agenda. Commissioner Comer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. The motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Omictin: Yea
Commissioner Malec: Yea
Commissioner Patel: Yea
Commissioner Comer: Yea
Commissioner Courtney: Yea
Commissioner Bandy: Yea
Commissioner Nassar: Yea

Adoption of Past Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Courtney made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular March 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Omictin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. The motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Omictin: Yea
Commissioner Malec: Yea
Commissioner Patel: Yea
Commissioner Comer: Yea
Commissioner Courtney: Yea
Commissioner Bandy: Yea
Commissioner Nassar: Yea

Community Forum

Update from Kevin Donahue, City Administrator, and Jenny Reed, Director of the Office of Budget and Performance Management, Regarding the Mayor’s Proposed FY 2024 Budget

Kevin Donahue, the City Administrator, and Jenny Reed, the Director of the Office of Budget and Performance Management, gave an update regarding the Mayor's proposed FY 2024 budget.

Report from the Metropolitan Police Department's PSA 207

Commander John Branch, the new Commander of the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, introduced himself to meeting attendees. Lieutenant Michael Howden, a representative for MPD's Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

Report from GW

Kevin Days, GW's Director of Community Relations, gave a report from GW.

Report from the Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto

Pablo Velasco Rodriguez, the Constituent Services Coordinator for Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office, gave updates from the Councilmember's Office.

Commissioner Updates

Commissioners Omictin, Malec, Patel, Comer, Courtney, Bandy, and Nassar gave commissioner updates.

Announcements and Public Comments

Two local residents gave announcements and public comments.

Election of Officers

Election of the ANC's Chairperson

Commissioner Patel made a motion to table the election of the ANC's Chairperson until a future ANC meeting. Commissioner Bandy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. The motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-2-0). The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Omictin: Yea
Commissioner Malec: Yea
Commissioner Patel: Yea
Commissioner Comer: Nay
Commissioner Courtney: Yea
Commissioner Causey: Nay
Commissioner Bandy: Yea
Commissioner Nassar: Yea

General Agenda

Update from the Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) Regarding the Foggy Bottom and West End Main Streets Feasibility Study and Grant Award

Jon Stover, the Managing Partner of JS&A, and Cristina Amoruso, the Manager of the Commercial Revitalization Division and the DC Main Streets Coordinator for the Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD), gave an update regarding the Foggy Bottom and West End Main Streets feasibility study and grant award.

Matters Before the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration

The Saga / Quadrant Bar & Lounge – Application for a Substantial Change to the Establishment’s Retailer’s Class “C” Restaurant License at 1190 22nd Street NW

Commissioner Causey made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Bandy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. The motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Omicini: Yea
Commissioner Malec: Yea
Commissioner Patel: Yea
Commissioner Comer: Yea
Commissioner Courtney: Yea
Commissioner Causey: Yea
Commissioner Bandy: Yea
Commissioner Nassar: Yea

The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports The Saga / Quadrant Bar & Lounge’s application for a substantial change to the establishment’s Retailer’s Class “C” Restaurant license at 1190 22nd Street NW.

Matters Before the Board of Zoning Adjustment

Board of Zoning Adjustment Application by Mills Building Associates, LLC and the White House Historical Association for a Modification of Consequence from Board of Zoning Adjustment Order Number 19943A in Order to Renovate and Construct Additions to an Existing Office Building at 1700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Commissioner Bandy made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Comer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. The motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

Commissioner Omicini: Yea
Commissioner Malec: Yea
Commissioner Patel: Yea
Commissioner Comer: Yea

Commissioner Courtney: Yea
Commissioner Bandy: Yea
Commissioner Nassar: Yea

The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports the Board of Zoning Adjustment application for 1700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

Matters Before the Zoning Commission

Zoning Commission Application by GW for Modification of Conditions of Approval for the Lerner Health and Wellness Center

Commissioner Patel made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Comer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. The motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Omicini: Yea
Commissioner Malec: Yea
Commissioner Patel: Yea
Commissioner Comer: Yea
Commissioner Courtney: Yea
Commissioner Bandy: Yea
Commissioner Nassar: Yea

The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports GW's Zoning Commission application for modification of conditions of approval for the Lerner Health and Wellness Center at 2301 G Street NW.

Matters Before the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development

Notice of Intent to Award a Grant to KTG Group P.C. to Support Their Relocation and Expansion

Commissioner Patel made a motion to table the ANC's consideration of the matter. She then withdrew the motion.

Commissioner Omicini made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Patel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. The motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Omicini: Yea
Commissioner Malec: Yea
Commissioner Patel: Yea
Commissioner Comer: Yea

Commissioner Courtney: Yea
Commissioner Bandy: Yea
Commissioner Nassar: Yea

The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A requests that the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) extends the comment deadline for KTG Y Group P.C.'s grant application until at least May 18th, 2023.

Recess

The ANC took a recess at 10:54 pm and came to order at 11:01 pm.

Matters Before the DC Council

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Proposed Cuts to DC Circulator Service

Commissioner Bandy made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Omictin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. The motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Omictin: Yea
Commissioner Malec: Yea
Commissioner Patel: Yea
Commissioner Comer: Yea
Commissioner Courtney: Yea
Commissioner Bandy: Yea
Commissioner Nassar: Yea

The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Mayor Bowser's FY 2024 "Comeback Plan" budget includes elimination of DC Circulator bus service for the Rosslyn-Dupont Circle (RS-DP), Woodley Park-Adams Morgan to McPherson Square Metro (WP-AM), and Eastern Market-L'Enfant Plaza (EM-LP) routes,

WHEREAS, availability of affordable and efficient public transportation is a fundamental right of all residents, including working-class communities, and should be prioritized over profit-driven motives or budgetary considerations that disproportionately burden those with the least resources,

WHEREAS, public transportation is critical to the vitality, success, and very existence of the District's business and tourism engines,

WHEREAS, many of the District's most popular activity centers, tourism destinations, and nightlife destinations are served by the DC Circulator routes and extensions nominated for elimination,

WHEREAS, ANC 2A, along with other ANCs, believes that the Mayor's requested DC Circulator service eliminations will produce the exact opposite effect of a "comeback" for the residents and businesses in the District,

WHEREAS, ANC 2A is an ardent supporter of the DC Circulator, especially the RS-DP route and its planned extension to U Street NW, since the beginning of the service,

WHEREAS, the RS-DP route provides a convenient connection between the Dupont Circle Metrorail station and Rosslyn via M Street NW through the hearts of the West End and Georgetown,

WHEREAS, the RS-DP route reduces the number of personal vehicles, and thus traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, by providing an efficient public transportation option for thousands of residents and visitors,

WHEREAS, plans to extend the RS-DP route to U Street NW, LeDroit Park, and Howard University have been in development for over a decade and it has been anticipated that FY 2024 would at long last actualize the plan,

WHEREAS, extension of RS-DP to U Street NW, LeDroit Park, and Howard University via 18th Street NW will make it easier for residents and visitors to travel to employment, retail, dining, and entertainment destinations across multiple neighborhoods and activity centers, encouraging and supporting economic opportunity and post-pandemic business recovery,

WHEREAS, extension of RS-DP to U Street NW, LeDroit Park, and Howard University will improve transit equity for a significant population of minority and lower-income residents with a low-cost, convenient service, directly connecting multiple activity centers and transfers to other DC Circulator, Metrobus, and Metrorail routes,

WHEREAS, extension of RS-DP has the potential to replace hundreds of private vehicle trips within the route corridor, thus increasing bus utilization and further supporting DDOT's planned U Street NW Bus Priority Project,

WHEREAS, the EM-LP route provides connections to Metrorail and Metrobus, along with transit access to the Wharf and Audi Field, encouraging fewer personal vehicle trips to those destinations,

WHEREAS, conversion of the DC Circulator bus fleet to all-electric buses can be reprogrammed to better align with capital funding availability, and

WHEREAS, the DC Council's Committee on Transportation and the Environment will now conduct budget hearings and prepare a committee report that will include final recommendations for funding of DC Circulator lines.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges DC Council's Committee on Transportation and the Environment to recognize and prioritize the importance of DC Circulator bus service to the District's economic recovery and well-being, Vision Zero, and established environmental and transportation equity objectives, and to recommend that the DC Council provides full funding for DC Circulator operations in the FY 2024 budget and following years to prevent service reductions or eliminations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council's Committee on Transportation and the Environment to recognize the importance and necessity of extending the DC Circulator's Rosslyn-Dupont Circle route to U Street NW, LeDroit Park, and Howard University in FY 2024, and to recommend to the DC Council to provide the necessary funding for this and other service improvements in the FY 2024 budget and following years.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the "Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022"

Commissioner Bandy made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Patel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. The motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-2). The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Omictin: Yea
Commissioner Malec: Yea
Commissioner Patel: Yea
Commissioner Comer: Abstain
Commissioner Courtney: Abstain
Commissioner Bandy: Yea
Commissioner Nassar: Yea

The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2023, the Mayor submitted her proposed FY 2024 budget, which eliminates the Criminal Code Reform Commission (CCRC) by stating "[p]ursuant to legislation, the CCRC is a temporary agency,"

WHEREAS, the Mayor's justification is in direct conflict with the legislative history of D.C. Code § 3-151 et seq making CCRC permanent in the bill that the Mayor later signed,

WHEREAS, in 2016, the DC Council created the CCRC as an independent agency and directed it to provide recommendations that improve the clarity, consistency, completeness, organization, and proportionality of criminal statutes,

WHEREAS, the statute creating CCRC also established an advisory group with connections throughout the criminal justice community to:

- provide comments on all of the agency's draft revisions,
- to examine model codes and best practices in other jurisdictions, as well as relevant court statistics,

WHEREAS, for a decade the advisory group members conducted over 50 monthly meetings that contained informed and thorough feedback from critical stakeholders with both consensus and competing views, with the feedback being submitted to the DC Council after intensive research and review,

WHEREAS, the CCRC helped the DC Council make textual changes to the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022 (RCCA) after the submission of recommendations that actually accomplished their legislative goals and aligned with their values without unintended consequences to other statutes,

WHEREAS, the passage of an amended RCCA requires the type of detailed and expert understanding of every aspect of the revised criminal code that only comes from the type of continuity of work on the code performed by CCRC, as the RCCA was a massive bill – 273 pages – that affected not only the entire criminal code but statutes throughout the entire D.C. Code,

WHEREAS, the CCRC will play a critical role in advising the DC Council on amendments to a new version of the RCCA when it is introduced to ensure consistency with existing provisions, as well as on implementation of the new law through trainings to practitioners, community outreach, and expert oversight advice, and

WHEREAS, the CCRC has a critical role to play as an independent agency in revising other statutes and making recommendations for other criminal code reforms beyond the RCCA.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A does not support the elimination of the Criminal Code Reform Commission.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Citywide Budget Priorities

Commissioner Omictin made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Bandy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. The motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 4-1-2). The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Omictin: Yea
Commissioner Malec: Yea
Commissioner Patel: Yea
Commissioner Comer: Nay
Commissioner Courtney: Abstain
Commissioner Bandy: Yea

Commissioner Nassar: Abstain

The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the proposed FY 2024 budget has cut and defunded many citywide priorities, and

WHEREAS, while not exhaustive, ANC 2A believes that the following citywide priorities should not be eliminated or cut:

- Fully fund baby bonds legislation (\$54 million)
- Fully fund the Domestic Worker Employment Rights Amendment Act (\$912,000)
- Fully fund the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act (\$2.06 million)
- Fully fund the Metro for DC Amendment Act (\$32 million)
- Revert the reallocation of DC CARES funding for workers excluded from pandemic relief (\$20 million)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests that funding be found for the above pieces of legislation.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the DC Council's Budget Oversight Hearing for the Department of Employment Services

Commissioner Omictin made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Patel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. The motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Omictin: Yea
Commissioner Malec: Yea
Commissioner Patel: Yea
Commissioner Comer: Yea
Commissioner Courtney: Yea
Commissioner Bandy: Yea
Commissioner Nassar: Yea

The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, on February 15, 2023, ANC 2A voted 7-0-0 to adopt a resolution regarding the DC Council's performance oversight of the Department of Employment Services (DOES),

WHEREAS, the modernization of DOES' IT system has not been executed properly, leading to:

- a severe data breach leading to fraud, which must be remedied immediately,
- glitches preventing claimants from getting direly needed funding to survive,

WHEREAS, DOES will need to prioritize funding to address:

- wage transparency for tipped workers,
- implementation of anti-wage theft laws,
- public education regarding the tipped minimum wage increase timeline,
- backlog of 44,000 outstanding unemployment claims,
- proper staffing of the Bureau of Economic Stability and Benefits,

WHEREAS, DOES is the agency that is the main resource for workers in remedying wage theft.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A recommends that the DC Council does not reduce the number of staff for DOES.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the DC Council's Budget Oversight Hearing for the District of Columbia Housing Authority

Commissioner Courtney made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Patel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. The motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Omicini: Yea
Commissioner Malec: Yea
Commissioner Patel: Yea
Commissioner Comer: Yea
Commissioner Courtney: Yea
Commissioner Bandy: Yea
Commissioner Nassar: Yea

The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, on October, 19 2022, ANC 2A voted 4-2-1 to adopt a resolution in response to the District of Columbia Housing Authority's (DCHA) audit report by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD),

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2022, the DC Council unanimously passed the Housing Authority Accountability Emergency Amendment Act of 2022 in response to the HUD audit report,

WHEREAS, on February 15, 2023, ANC 2A voted 6-1-0 to adopt a resolution regarding the DC Council's performance oversight of DCHA,

WHEREAS, there is deep distrust of DCHA and increased oversight is needed within the agency to prevent landlord overpayment, which is voucher fraud causing intentional displacement of voucher recipients,

WHEREAS, providing additional funding for the Local Rent Supplement Program (LRSP) is a critical part of the District's affordable housing toolbox as it is one of the few programs that is guaranteed to provide housing to extremely low-income families in need, and

WHEREAS, increasing DC Council oversight of the Department of Human Services (DHS) and DCHA partnership of LRSP would ensure that critical housing resources are being utilized swiftly and efficiently.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests that the FY 2024 budget allocates funding to address areas of DCHA oversight and finances based on the following priorities resulting from recommendations made in hearings by housing experts and advocates:

- enhanced DC Council oversight of the Local Rent Supplement Program,
- any increase in funding for DCHA must attach stipulations of oversight, and
- transparency in finances and operations with regards to building repairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A believes that housing is a universal right and that funding the above priorities will meet the citywide goal of reducing the number of unhoused residents.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the DC Council's Budget Oversight Hearing for DC Water

Commissioner Courtney made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Patel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. The motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Omictin: Yea
Commissioner Malec: Yea
Commissioner Patel: Yea
Commissioner Comer: Yea
Commissioner Courtney: Yea
Commissioner Bandy: Yea
Commissioner Nassar: Yea

The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority, better known as DC Water, has received federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA),

WHEREAS, Snow's Court is a historic dwelling that was founded on Lot 1 of Square 28 within Foggy Bottom's primarily industrial district in the year 1858, the lot itself being situated between 24th Street NW, 25th Street NW, I Street NW, and K Street NW, intersecting with New Hampshire Avenue NW, as indicated by the empty lot in the

bottom right-hand corner of the square indicated in Boschke's map of Washington City in 1857,

WHEREAS, Snow's Court has been designated as historic and is one of the few alleys to survive a deliberate and methodical eradication of alley dwellings in DC,

WHEREAS, Snow's Court remains consistent in fulfilling its intended purpose to serve as homes for the citizens of Foggy Bottom,

WHEREAS, many issues have plagued the residents of Snow's Court since 2007, including:

- sewage flooding into residents' homes,
- water and sewage lines repaired incorrectly,
- water lines leaking, causing dwelling foundations to sink into the ground,
- concrete feeling spongy, which is an indication of water pooling due to a line leak and/or breakage,

WHEREAS, the above issues represent a crisis of great magnitude as residents of nearly twenty homes face a multitude of issues that endanger their homes due to water and sewage infrastructure issues, and

WHEREAS, DC Water is the agency that has the responsibility to ensure that DC residents have safe drinking water and that sewage is properly managed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests the DC Council's reallocation of funding to repair the water infrastructure underneath Snow's Court in order to protect residents.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the DC Council's Budget Oversight Hearing for the Department of Buildings

Commissioner Patel made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Courtney seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. The motion was voted on and did not pass (VOTES: 3-0-4). The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Omicini: Yea
Commissioner Malec: Yea
Commissioner Patel: Yea
Commissioner Comer: Abstain
Commissioner Courtney: Abstain
Commissioner Bandy: Abstain
Commissioner Nassar: Abstain

Administrative Matters

Approval of the ANC's FY 2023 Quarter 2 Financial Report

Commissioner Bandy made a motion to approve the ANC's FY 2023 Quarter 2 financial report. Commissioner Patel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. The motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Omicini: Yea
Commissioner Malec: Yea
Commissioner Patel: Yea
Commissioner Comer: Yea
Commissioner Courtney: Yea
Commissioner Bandy: Yea
Commissioner Nassar: Yea

Adjournment

Vice Chair Malec adjourned the meeting at 11:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Comer", written in a cursive style.

Ed Comer
Secretary, ANC 2A04