

Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

April 2024 Meeting Minutes

DATE: April 15, 2024

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

ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Shankle called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm over Zoom ([2024 April 15 ANC 2C Community Meeting \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2024-April-15-ANC-2C-Community-Meeting)).
2. **ROLL CALL:** Two out of the Three commissioners were present.
3. **NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCY:** Commissioner Shankle reported that there was an opening on the ANC.
4. **INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS:** The commissioners introduced themselves.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

The approval of the meeting minutes from the March meeting was tabled due to an issue with the video.

6. TREASURER REPORT:

4Q 23, 1Q24, AND 2Q24: This item was tabled.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Lieutenant Garvin reported that the violent crime was down, and there was none over the past 30 days. They were still aggressively working on thefts, and there was a decrease of -40% in thefts over the past 30 days. The top three stores with the highest levels of issues were Nordstrom Rack, Macy's, and CVS. He reported that they were diligently being aggressive with more operations and their response times. They were able to catch suspects immediately after leaving the store. The mountain bike unit was launched, and it would be in other sectors of the district as well. The mountain bike unit would work on package thefts and would provide greater visibility. As of April 13th, there were 87 firearm recoveries. A lot of the recoveries occurred in the club zone areas. If firearms were left in vehicles in plain sight, arrests were made as the individuals left venues. Special attention was being given to synagogues to check with their security advisors and ensure enough communication.

Commissioner Lee asked which CVS had issues. Lieutenant Garvin reported that it was the CVS on 11th Street and New York Avenue.

A community member raised concerns about protestors blocking traffic. Lieutenant Garvin stated that they tried to coordinate with their special operations division to do traffic control as well as contact the protest leaders to see how long they would be protesting. He stated that they tried their best to make sure traffic flow was not impeded while also ensuring that people could protest. The community member raised concerns about the protests not allowing emergency vehicles through. Lieutenant Garvin stated that if individuals were in the street, it was usually a planned protest, and there was always a point of egress for emergency vehicles to pass. He stated that most of the time, groups moved when asked.

A community member asked about the decrease in crime and what the causes were. Lieutenant Garvin stated that making arrests and coordinating with the attorney's office to arrest repeat offenders played a large role.

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

Captain Hrebenak stated that they were seeing a marked decrease in crime, particularly in PSA 101. There was almost a 50% decrease in violent crime in the Chinatown area. The reasons for the decrease included the presence of police officers, the Chinatown hub that brought in an influx of services from MPD and other agencies, and an active Chinatown unit with officers who wanted to ensure that the area was safe to live in and enjoy. There were 8 stolen automobiles, largely in parking garages. They would be doing walk-throughs of the parking garages. There were only seven thefts, which was a decrease. The decrease was attributed to the identification of repeat offenders. The retail theft operations would continue to work on the downward trend of thefts. The officers would also continue to be out on bikes and foot patrols as the weather warmed.

Commissioner Shankle asked how the drug-free zones were going concerning effectiveness. Captain Hrebenak stated that there was an absence of activity, which showed that it was an effective tool. He discussed that they did not want to see displacement in which people moved a few blocks over. The drug-free zones would continue to be used strategically, and the surrounding areas would be examined as well.

A community member discussed the issue of members of the apartments being denied access to their parking garage. Captain Hrebenak stated that he spoke with Commander Bagshaw, and he would disseminate the information down to his troops to make sure they knew that there were residents. There was confusion in which individuals thought it was a strictly commercial garage. He stated that if any of the residents continued to have a problem, they could contact him. He discussed that there could be very temporary closures. The community member asked if the 50% reduction in crime was year-to-year or month-to-month. Captain Hrebenak stated that it was YTD. The community member discussed that there was an issue with individuals turning where no turns were allowed. Captain Hrebenak stated that they could increase police presence, and the no-turn signs were in place for safety. He stated he would speak to his Chinatown force about the issue. He discussed the possibility of installing a traffic camera as well.

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.

Christopher Powell reported that in the past week, Mayor Bowser presented the FY2025 budget and presented it to the Council. The budget addressed the confluence of post-COVID factors and made significant investments in the people and the economy. The budget focused on public safety, public schools, and public growth. The Real-Time Crime Center was launched. The Mayor's budget fully funded the requested amount from MPD for hiring to achieve a net gain in police officers for the next five years. The Camera Connect initiative was launched, which allowed for more effective sharing of security camera footage with the Real Time Crime Center. April 15th through April 19th was Spring Break for DC Public Schools. The Kennedy Rec Center had its grand reopening. Christopher Powell stated that on April 27th, there would be a Spring Cleanup beginning at Kennedy Rec to clean up the community.

Commissioner Shankle asked about budget shortfalls and if businesses and storefronts that were vacant get a tax rebate. Christopher Powell stated that the Mayor proposed sections for businesses rezoning in the budget. Commissioner Shankle discussed that if the goal was to get the businesses to operate again, the goal should be to incentivize changes.

Christopher Powell reported that the ADA-compliant ramp in the Safe Commercial Corridor Hub should be installed during the week of April 15th. A community member stated that she did not think a ramp would be long enough and that there needed to be a way for individuals to notify the staff individuals were there.

A community member asked about the emergency overnight shelter building at Green Court and asked for confirmation that there was no money in the budget for renovations. Christopher Powell stated that he would find out and provide the information to the community members.

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

Maddy White stated that the Wizards and Caps teams were going to remain until at least 2050. Councilmember Pinto worked to garner unanimous support for the deal with Monumental Sports. The deal was \$515 million and was passed unanimously by the Council. There would be new renovations of the arena, additional opportunities, and commitments to security and support in the area. Councilmember Pinto continued to meet with business owners in the area to ensure that they would be supported throughout the changes. The Mayor released her budget and Councilmember Pinto questioned the Mayor and her team during the past few weeks. Maddy White stated that they would be fighting for Ward 2 priorities in the budget. Councilmember Pinto had three main priorities for the budget, including funding the Secure DC plan, investing in the re-imagining of the downtown area, and fully funding a safe transit system from the metro and bus networks. Highlights of the budget included the Best Act, which was meant to streamline the Business License Act and make it easier to start a business, and \$2 million for literacy. Maddy White encouraged everyone to sign up to testify at any hearings. The Council would resume budget hearings the week of April 22nd.

Maddy White reported that two bills were introduced regarding noise levels. One bill specifically addressed concerns about musicians in the area and levels of volume and the second bill would specifically target entertainment areas, including the Capitol One Arena. The bills were introduced, but hearings would be needed. Maddy White suggested contacting at-large Councilmembers if community members wanted the bills to have a hearing.

Maddy White reported that the cannabis emergency bill did not move forward, but they would work on how they could be supportive of parents and the ANC going forward. Maddy White reported that the next office hours were being planned for early May and would specifically focus on resident feedback.

Commissioner Shankle thanked Councilmember Pinto for introducing the emergency legislation and expressed disappointment that it failed. He asked if Councilmember Nadeau would want to move the noise legislation forward. Maddy White stated that, given that Councilmember Nadeau introduced one of the bills, she was hopeful they would move forward, but she encouraged community members to advocate for them.

Commissioner Lee discussed concerns about food trucks that were parked along 7th Street, such as obscure pricing and blocking the flow of traffic. He stated that the city needed to work to find a better solution. Maddy White stated that she would bring the issue up with Councilmember Pinto.

5. Clean and Safe Efforts, Lukas Umana, Director of Public Space Operations

Lukas Umana introduced himself. He reported that they just launched the safety team in Penn Quarter to gather data, drop smart tags, and build relationships with businesses in the area. It was a pilot program, and more personnel would be added. Partnerships were being built with MPD, the Safety Hub, and other agencies. Many micro-mobility complaints were continuously being observed and reported. They were working with DDOT to clear the sidewalks and address the scooters that were parked in corrals along crosswalks. Lukas Umana stated that they were doing a light assessment of the entire neighborhood, and 311 requests were being generated to fix any lights that were out. DDOT was working on fixing lights and getting them all up to date. Lukas Umana reported that graffiti and stickers would continue to be addressed daily, and the teams were working hard on the issue. He stated that a Safety Alliance meeting would be launched on May 14th for the Penn Quarter-Chinatown corridor. He stated that if someone wanted to join, they should send him an email. Meetings would be held on a bi-monthly basis to start.

Commissioner Shankle asked if the app was something residents could use. Lukas Umana stated that it was with Bid personnel first, but they would love to roll it out to others eventually. The dashboard that would be revealed to all stakeholders would be an important component. Commissioner Shankle asked if the 311 reporting got back to the bid. Lukas Umana stated that they were working with their partners to receive that information.

A community member asked if anything was done about the individuals who did graffiti. Lukas Umana stated that he was not sure what was done when individuals were caught doing graffiti. He discussed that he believed that making art a larger part of the community would change how often property was vandalized.

Commissioner Lee asked if there was a specific area part of downtown that was more problematic for graffiti. Lukas Umana stated that dark places tended to be more targeted. He stated that a lot of the graffiti that was done was quick.

Commissioner Shankle stated that they could ask MPD about how individuals who were caught doing graffiti were handled.

LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY

1. **Throne Bathroom. Placement in Downtown DC, (Indiana AVE NW and 7 ST NW). Jessica Heinzelman, Throne Labs, Co-founder & COO, 415.533.4630, jess@thronelabs.co.**

Jessica Heinzelman introduced herself and provided information on Throne. The DC Public Restroom Pilot Program was passed as part of the FY 2024 budget, and Throne was selected as the implementer. Under the contract, the semi-portable restrooms, remote monitoring, and

cleaning were provided. Data analytics would also be provided. The goal of Throne was to provide access to clean public restrooms. There were over 100,000 uses in the DMV and Los Angeles. Throne was a turnkey service, and Throne covered all maintenance and repairs. There were also automated anti-loitering alerts and customer service. The bathrooms were tech-enabled, which included a unique user ID. Users who misused Throne would receive warnings, and repeat offenders would lose access. There was responsive maintenance and cleanliness ratings from users were also utilized. They were fully ADA-compliant, and they included a baby-changing station and free menstrual products. Throne could be moved anywhere within hours. Anonymized data would be provided to help cities understand where bathrooms were needed and how people were using them. There was some community engagement that was done in the DC area, and they also reached out to ANCs to present and gather feedback. The Throne specs were presented, and they were also designed to be anti-graffiti. They required access to solar or a 120-volt plug-in. The hours of operation would be 7 am to 10 pm. The proposed placement was the corner of 7th and Indiana Ave NW. Pictures of the footprint were presented. The proposal was submitted to DDOT. Under the normal process, the ANC would have a 45-day public hearing period. DDOT stated that if resolutions were passed, the comment period would be waived, and they could attend the April 25th hearing.

Commissioner Shankle asked about the hours of operation. Jessica Heinzelman stated that the hours of operation could easily be changed. Commissioner Shankle raised the concern of individuals using the restrooms and overdosing. He asked what happened after 15 minutes. Jessica Heinzelman explained that there was a 10-minute time limit, and at 8 minutes, a warning was issued. At 10 minutes 20 seconds, the door would open. A text message was also sent to the users and access would be revoked if overstaying continued to be an issue. She stated that they were working on additional technology to detect heart rate.

Commissioner Lee asked why the side of the street was chosen. Jessica Heinzelman stated that it was difficult to find locations that met DDOT requirements. Commissioner Lee asked for clarification on the placement of the tree box. Jessica Heinzelman stated that the landscape architect liked to have the tree trunk at least 10 feet from anything else. Commissioner Lee stated that he was not a huge fan of the current location and would like it to be more fine-tuned. Jessica Heinzelman stated that they would like to collect the data as quickly as possible, and the location could be adjusted in the future.

A community member stated that they largely supported the project but had concerns about the placement. He discussed the aesthetic of the location.

A community member raised concerns about pedestrian safety, given the size of the walkway.

A community member asked if the public toilet would attract homeless individuals. Commissioner Shankle asked if this was noticed in other cities. Jessica Heinzelman stated that the public toilets had not attracted more homeless individuals. Jessica Heinzelman explained that the pilot program was funded through September and ended in February, and the location could be adjusted during September.

Commissioner Shankle stated that he was in favor of the pilot through September as long as the data was presented to the ANC to garner community feedback and see if the location was working well. Jessica Heinzelman stated that she would love to come back to a meeting before September. She stated that data could be provided in the interim as well as the final report.

A community member voiced his displeasure with the aesthetic of the public toilet. He also raised safety concerns.

A community member asked if there was a fee. Jessica Heinzelman reported that it was free to use.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the pilot location through the end of 2024. Seconded by Lee. (Vote 2-0-0)

Commissioner Shankle stated that he would want a status report after the pilot program was running. Commissioner Shankle asked when the unit would be placed. Jessica Heinzelman stated that she was hoping it would be installed in early May, but it was dependent on DDOT.

Commissioner Shankle acknowledged everyone's concerns.

Commissioner Lee discussed that across the street from the proposed location could be a better location. Jessica Heinzelman stated that she and her team would look at the location.

2. Build Social Housing in DC. Metro DC DSA. Ben Sullivan, Ben.Sullivan@gmail.com.

John Qua introduced himself and stated that he had been volunteering with the Build Social Housing campaign. They were looking to garner support and do broad-level community engagement. He presented on social housing in DC. DC had been in a housing crisis for years and, for over two decades, was experiencing gentrification and a lack of housing for low-income and middle-income families. Social housing was a concept taken from successful models that were a form of publicly owned housing. Social housing was mixed-income, and units were rented at affordable rates for a range of income levels. The majority of units were subsidized, and the minority were at market rate. Social housing was non-profit or limited profit, and the profits would go back into the maintenance of the building. Social housing was popular in European cities, Singapore, and Montgomery County, MD. Social housing was a way to bring affordability to downtown. Examples of social housing were presented. It was discussed that social housing was an expanding movement in the United States. DC had several current attempts to address affordable housing within the city, but the programs have not provided housing for the lowest-income individuals. Passing DC's Social Housing Bill would allow the city to build housing within downtown.

The breakdown would involve 30% affordable for families making 0 to 30% of the area median income, 30% at 31-80% of the area median income, and 40% at market rate. It would be a new

agency called the Office of Social Housing and it would be within the Mayor's and City Council's governance. The Board of Directors would be majority-appointed by the mayor. Underneath the Board, there would be tenant leadership boards to review and authorize property management contracts and community rules. The tenant leadership boards would also get a say in having three to four seats on the current Board. The Councilmember names were presented. The Coalition included several climate groups. John Qua reported that they were asking ANC's to support the bill.

Commissioner Shankle asked about the number of Councilmember signers. John Qua stated that there were seven. Commissioner Shankle commented that it would put the city in the landlord position. John Qua explained that the city could contract with companies that would exist as landlords.

Commissioner Lee asked what the annual budget request for the city would be and asked, in terms of the success of the buildings, what was causing failed affordable housing policies and how this approach would be different. John Qua discussed that too many of the policies had incentives bargained down and that many of the incentives existed on timelines. He discussed that tying funding directly to greater affordability would go around developers and the Section 8 housing vouchers and allow for more control. Another issue was that the housing voucher program sometimes led to slumlords. The ability to take in feedback from tenants should make the living conditions better. John Qua stated that the budget would be somewhere in the hundreds of millions, and there was a variety of ways in which it could be funded. He stated that in the long term, many social housing programs had either been profitable or only needed an infusion of cash every ten years or so. He discussed that, over time, the financing could work out.

Commissioner Shankle stated that he liked to concept but wanted more information first.

John Qua stated that he would follow up with some resolutions and articles. Commissioner Lee asked for more information about the other social housing programs. Commissioner Shankle stated that one of his biggest concerns was the city being the landlord, and he wanted more information on that issue.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to postpone a decision on the social housing until the May meeting. Seconded by Lee. (Vote 2-0-0)

3. District of Columbia College Access Program. Closure of Streets Around Capitol One Arena for Event, April 2024, Nneka Shelton, 240.338.5023, Permitting@SheltonGroupCS.com.

Nneka Shelton introduced herself and reported that the DC College Access Program was a program designed for students' success by helping them access and obtain meaningful college and education credentials with little to no debt. An event was being hosted on April 26th from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm that would celebrate the hard work and dedication of high school seniors

as they made commitments to higher education. The event would be approximately 4,000 to 5,000 high school seniors and approximately 200 chaperones or family members. It would be a pep rally-style type event. The event would be open to the press. The ask was to have the ANC support in emergency no parking. They proposed to DDOT for emergency no parking signs to house the school buses. The staging that was requested would begin at 8 am when the buses began arriving. By 3 pm, all of the buses would be gone.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the emergency no parking signs and closure of streets for the DC College Access Program. Seconded by Lee. (Vote 2-0-0)

4. Letter of Support to Convert former Harrington Hotel into Affordable Housing. Nick DelleDonne, Wardman Hotel Strategy Team, 703.929.6656, delledonne.n@gmail.com

Nick DelleDonne discussed making downtown a place where people wanted to live. The Mayor addressed the issue with a few plans that were heavily related to commerce. He discussed the importance of residents. The Harrington Hotel closed in December, and the building was available for affordable housing. The Harrington Hotel had 242 rooms and the conversion should be easier due to it having been built decades ago when people more often lived in hotels. They talked to city officials and some of the council members and garnered support from grassroots organizations.

Commissioner Shankle asked what the plans were for the hotel. Nick DelleDonne stated that it was being marketed. He believed it had three bids to continue as a hotel. He discussed that developers had a profit motive, and he hoped the city would purchase the building.

Commissioner Lee discussed that Harrington Hotel was a budget hotel. He asked about affordability and the costs for residents. Nick DelleDonne discussed that he wanted it to be affordable for residents who were not just high-income. Commissioner Lee asked what his role was. Nick DelleDonne explained that they were trying to create a storm of interest for the opportunity.

Commissioner Shankle clarified that the city had money in the budget to buy a building such as the Harrington Hotel.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support to the Mayor's office, Councilmember Pinto's office, DHS, general services, DMPED, and Office of Planning to encourage them to consider the property for affordable housing conversion. Seconded by Lee. (Vote 2-0-0)

5. Stop Project Pipes. Diana L Menendez, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Executive Assistant and Special Projects Coordinator, dmendez@chesapeakeclimate.org, 919.633.2683

Commissioner Shankle stated that DC Gas was funding the project to replace all of the pipes in DC rather than repairing the pieces as they began to need maintenance. He did not believe that presenting it as an environmental concern was the way they should act as an ANC. He believed they should look at the impact of passing the costs to consumers. He stated that he was not knowledgeable enough on the issue.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to not make a decision on Stop Project Pipes at this time. Seconded by Lee. (Vote 2-0-0)

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS LICENSING (ABCA)

- 1. Wadibia Restaurant Group Corp., Trade Name: Lagos DC, 509 7th Street, NW, New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant (ABRA-127865), Sean Morris: (301) 654-65740, stm@morrisessq.com.**

Commissioner Shankle stated that the request was for a new restaurant. The total load was 300, with seating for 300 inside. The entertainment endorsement was dancing with a cover charge. The hours were standard. The restaurant would have African cuisine and cocktails. It was clarified that the restaurant would border a residential building and share a wall.

Commissioner Shankle motioned to send a letter of support, Lee seconded, and Commissioner Shankle rescinded the motion after it was confirmed that the restaurant would share a wall with a residential building.

MOTION: Shankle moved to not send a letter of support for ABRA-127865 and to contact the residential building and gather more information. Seconded by Lee. (Vote 2-0-0)

- 2. SUPER INVESTMENTS Inc., Trade Name: F Street Fine Wine and Liquors, 919 F Street NW. Termination of previous Settlement Agreement (ABRA-086950). Jeffrey Jackson, Esq, jjharlem112@gmail.com, and Rajdeep Kaur, humjot@msn.com.**

Jeff Jackson stated that the settlement agreement was entered into in 2002. They relocated and there was a reduction in foot traffic. Most of the clientele came from tourists. The settlement restricted the hours and his ability to sell certain kinds of liquors. The owner asked for the settlement to be terminated.

Commissioner Shankle raised a concern about the nightclub down the street and people consuming alcohol on the street. He asked about the sale of singles. Jeff Jackson stated it would largely be singles of malt liquors or international alcohol and would be less likely for individuals to purchase them. Rajdeep Kaur stated that they would be much more expensive than what people would likely want to buy before going to a nightclub. He noted that most liquor stores in the area already sold single cans and single liquors. Jeff Jackson clarified that after the

termination of the settlement agreement, they would have to request an extension of hours as well.

MOTION: Shankle moved to send a letter of support for the termination of the settlement. Seconded by Lee. (Vote 2-0-0)

3. **Seldar DC Holding, LLC Trade Name: St. Regis Hotel, 923 16th Street, NW, Substantial Change to Retailer’s Class “C” Hotel (ABRA-09945), Stephen J. O’Brien, sobrien@malliosobrien.com, 202.625.7700.**

Manalle Mahmoud stated that they were hoping to add a sidewalk café on K Street with 31 seats. They would like to open in the summer if it was possible.

MOTION: Shankle moved to send a letter of support for the addition of the sidewalk café for ABRA-09945. Seconded by Lee. (Vote 2-0-0)

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SPACE

No items.

PLANNING, ZONING, ENVIRONMENT, and HISTORIC PRESERVATION

No items.

OTHER

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Shankle motioned to Adjourn at 8:48 pm. Seconded by Lee. (Vote 2-0-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Minutes Submitted by: Minutes Services

Minutes Approved by: May 14, 2024

Next Meeting: May 14, 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

Michael Shankle 2C01@anc.dc.gov

Rebecca Strauss 2C02@anc.dc.gov

Thomas Lee 2C03@anc.dc.gov

www.anc2c.us

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