

## LOGO

# Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

## April 2021 Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** May 11, 2021

**ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Michael Shankle, Gigi Nelson, Ellie Miske

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Michael Shankle, Commissioner Gigi Nelson, Commissioner Ellie Miske, Howard Marks,

**ABSENT:**

### **CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS / QUOROM**

Commissioner Shankle called the meeting to order at 6:01pm over Zoom (available at <https://www.anc2c.us/video-recordings>). Shankle introduced all three Commissioners and noted 3 of 3 Commissioners were present for a quorum.

### **OPENING REMARKS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Shankle reviewed the agenda (available at [www.anc2c.us](http://www.anc2c.us)). Shankle made an addition to the agenda: Ms. Linda Greenan from Pepco to provide updates on Capital Grid Project in DC. Nelson added that she has a community announcement. Nelson made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Miske. (Vote 3-0-0)

### **APPROVAL OF APRIL 2021 MINUTES**

Nelson made a motion to approve the April 2021 Minutes, seconded by Miske. (Vote 3-0-0)

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Nelson provided the April Treasurer's Report. April beginning balance: \$56,793.32. There were two distributions: \$175 for the minutes and \$39.68 to GoDaddy for retaining a domain name for the website. Closing balance: \$56,578.34.

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. **Ward 2 Mayor's Liaison – Joe Florio, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services, Ward 2 Liaison, [Joseph.Florio@dc.gov](mailto:Joseph.Florio@dc.gov), 202-805-7122.**
  - a. COVID-19 reopening update
    - i. Mayor Bowser provided a situational awareness update that most of the city will be re-opening on May 21, 2021 except for bars, clubs, restaurants, and major sporting arenas which will reopen on June 21, 2021. Florio put a link to PDF announcement in the Zoom chat for a full list of the re-openings. The mask mandate will still be in effect unless CDC gives more guidance.
  - b. COVID-19 vaccination updates
    - i. There are now 12 walk-up vaccination sites; no one needs an appointment. The Ward 2 vaccination location is at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.
    - ii. There was a day of action on Saturday, May 1, 2021 to knock on doors and to talk to people in the community that have not been vaccinated. The city is planning another day of action on Saturday, May 22, 2021. More information can be found at [www.mayor.dc.gov](http://www.mayor.dc.gov).
    - iii. Miske encourage participation and noted that it's only a 2-hour commitment. She offered to answer any questions and encouraged others to participate.

2. **Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto Update -- Brooke Pinto Councilmember, Ward 2, [bpinto@dccouncil.us](mailto:bpinto@dccouncil.us), 202-724-8058 or Genevieve F. Hulick, Chief of Staff, [ghulick@dccouncil.us](mailto:ghulick@dccouncil.us).**

- a. Genevieve Hulick from Councilmember's Pinto office provided the update. She will be the Ward 2 Councilmember representative from here on out.
- b. General updates
  - i. Hulick thanked everyone who attended the Ward 2 community bike ride on Saturday, April 24, 2021. She noted that Commissioner Miske rode the whole way with a councilmember. Pinto's office will continue to gather feedback and work with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the mayor's office to ensure that streets are safer for pedestrians, bikers, and drivers. Pinto was also in touch with Everett Lott, the Interim Director of DDOT regarding road and sidewalk safety at various sites throughout the Ward. Constituents can e-mail Hulick and Florio with concerns.
  - ii. Pinto met with the Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Mayor's Office of Community Relations to discuss concerns around the Pat Handy Shelter. Pinto will be working with DHS and the Mayor's Office to increase programming and safety to address concerns.
- c. Legislative updates:
  - i. The Council held the first vote on the Comprehensive Plan on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 and will hold a second vote on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 to incorporate feedback and improve implementation for the full rewrite including changes to the education component and strengthening language around affordable housing.
  - ii. On May 4, 2021 the Council confirmed Robert J. Contee III as the Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department.
  - iii. On May 4, 2021 there was a vote on the District of Columbia Public Schools 2021-2022 Funding Stabilization Emergency Amendment Act to require that DCPS submit an operating budget providing each individual school with at least an equivalent amount of funding as approved by the Council last year.
  - iv. On May 10, 2021 the Council received guidance from the federal government about how federal relief of funding can be spent on the budget. The Council and the District of Columbia auditor will ensure that those funds are spent properly.
  - v. On May 27, 2021 the mayor will present her proposed FY22 budget to the Council and a public briefing by the mayor on June 2, 2021. There will be multiple votes on the budget with the final vote expected on or around August 10, 2021. Reach out to office with any budget concerns.
  - vi. Parking enforcement and street sweeping will resume June 1, 2021.
  - vii. If you need help booking a DMV appointment, contact Pinto's office. There have been more appointments available. Make sure to search by location and type of service.
  - viii. There will be a four-month amnesty period to pay for any outstanding tickets from June 1 to September 30, 2021.
- d. Constituents can sign up for newsletter at [brookepintodc.com](http://brookepintodc.com).
- e. Questions/Comments
  - i. **Shankle** asked if the mayor's budget will show any cuts or if there are any projections for cuts. Hulick answered that she's not aware of any cuts yet because there will be up to \$2 billion in federal funding flowing into the budget that should be able to bolster the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Over time the CFO's projections and analysis of the tax revenue coming in has been positive despite early

projections. Revenue from personal income tax has stayed pretty high because of the significant contributions to unemployment benefits from the federal government. Income taxes have offset the impact of struggling businesses on the budget.

- ii. **Shankle** asked if there are tangible plans moving forward with the Pat Handy shelter and cleanup of the alleyway. Hulick answered that the shelter, which primarily serves women, has been temporarily relocated to 11<sup>th</sup> and K NW in the interim and construction is supposed to begin in the fall. DHS decided to allow men to occupy the shelter until the construction began to provide additional space during hypothermia season. The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) wanted to regain access to the recreation center that had been used as temporary single night shelter, so they decided that because Pat Handy wasn't going to start the construction until the fall that this would be an appropriate temporary site. Even though it's temporary, there are concerns about what is going on in and around the shelter. There will be additional coordination with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) to address the concerns in the alleyway. Pinto's office will be working closely with Florio, DPW, and DCRA to make sure the alley can be cleaned. This includes ensuring that the adjacent restaurants are adhering to proper protocols regarding grease traps and trash placement so that DPW can access and clean the alleyway. Pinto's office will be providing oversight and coordination. **Shankle** noted that he will be reaching out to DHS over concerns of the shelter because its current operation is unacceptable.
- iii. **Miske** mentioned that she has gotten multiple emails about activity outside of the shelter, Nelson seconded.

3. **MPD 1st District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Jonathan Dorrrough, [Jonathan.Dorrrough@dc.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Dorrrough@dc.gov), 202.729.2179, and/or Sgt Erica Dortch-Jones, [Erica.Dortch-Jones@dc.gov](mailto:Erica.Dortch-Jones@dc.gov).**

- a. Crime report
  - i. Captain Dorrrough noted that crimes are up, probably corresponding to things opening up in after stay at home orders.
  - ii. Three violent crimes: sex abuse case (not a lot of public information) in the 700 block of the D street NW; assault with the dangerous weapon that was a domestic violence incident that occurred inside a car in H street NW; robbery snatch of a phone in the 800 K street NW (victim chased the suspect down and tackled him and bystanders were able to contain the suspect).
  - iii. Property crimes are up quite a bit. Twenty cases compared to 11 cases in the same period last year. Nine thefts from autos compared to 2 last years. Nine thefts from auto is not historically high considering the region. Two historical hotspots are 6<sup>th</sup> and I Street and 6<sup>th</sup> and E Street in Mount Vernon Triangle.
  - iv. Petty theft is up slightly; up quite a bit more compared to last year.
- b. Captain Dorrrough has been in touch with people about the Pat Handy shelter. From MPD's perspective, they are worried about violent crime, which hasn't gotten too bad.
- c. MPD is paying attention to narcotics activity in Chinatown and the surrounding area. They have made some good arrests. They have a conversation pending with the U.S. Attorney's Office.
- d. Some promotions and moves within the District. Captain Dorrrough and the Commander are staying in position. There is a new Inspector, Tasha Bryant, who is the rank between Captain and Commander. There is also a new Lieutenant, Livio Rodriguez who Captain Dorrrough will

be bringing up to speed. Captain Darrough is switching to day work from night work. Lieutenant Rodriguez will be the night person now.

e. Questions/Comments

- i. **Marks** noted that task force in the Chinatown area has been effective and that drug-related activity has decreased around his condo building's entrance way. He asked if any movement has been made towards social workers responding to some of the problems/people in Chinatown. Dorrough answered that there is a community response team with the Department of Behavior Health, but there currently is not an all social services response model in the District. They are having conversations about the best engagement method for situation where police intervention is not necessarily needed (like people screaming at each other). Eugene, Oregon, for example, has a robust program to provide social services response. **Marks** noted that Shankle has mentioned bringing someone from the U.S. Attorney's Office to one of the meetings and expressed interest in hearing from them regarding the difficulties of prosecuting some of the cases. **Shankle** said that he would invite them to the June meeting.

**4. MPD 2nd District Crime and Community Awareness, Lieutenant Michael Hamelin, [michael.hamelin@dc.gov](mailto:michael.hamelin@dc.gov), 202.715.7340, and/or Sergeant John Sprague, [john.sprague@dc.gov](mailto:john.sprague@dc.gov).**

- a. Lieutenant Hamelin noted that crime is similar for Police Service Area (PSA) 209 in Chinatown. There has been an overall reduction from last year. However, property crime is up pretty high, mainly from theft from auto and theft from stolen autos. He will be passing out flyers and having events to increase awareness about these two crimes. Most vehicles get stolen as a result of people leaving their keys in their car while dropping something off or picking something up. Loose items also get stolen from cars and Lieutenant Hamelin emphasized not leaving stuff in cars.
- b. Violent crimes in PSA 209 have been minimal and they are usually related to the theft from autos.

**5. Consumer Protection presentation, Idriys J. Abdullah, Consumer Protection Advocate, District of Columbia Department of Insurance, Securities, and Banking (DISB), 1050 First Street, NE, Suite 801, Washington DC, 20002, 202-442-7832, [idriys.abdullah@dc.gov](mailto:idriys.abdullah@dc.gov).**

- a. Abdullah started presentation titled "COVID-19 Scams Avoiding Coronavirus Fraud" (minute 38:30 of meeting recording)
  - i. DISB is the city's financial regulatory agency and they administer insurance, security, and banking rules, laws, and regulations.
  - ii. DISB ensures residents have choices in financial services and are treated fairly by companies and individuals that provide services. They regulate entities related to financial services directly and have indirect influence over their regulatory environment.
- b. Abdullah described the types of scams seen during the pandemic
  - i. Medical Supply Scams: Vaccines, cures, or products that supposedly "prevent or cure COVID-19." Scammers are trying to secure your credit card and personal information
  - ii. Fraudulent Investment Scams: Stock promotion claim products or services of publicly-traded companies can prevent, detect or cure COVID-19; try to convince you that stock of these companies will skyrocket in value creating a "can't lose investment opportunity." There is no guarantee on return on investment so people should be aware of what is being offered. If people are contacting you opposed to you contacting them that should be a red flag.

- iii. Economic Impact Payment Scam: The government has been sending out relief checks and scammers are hoping to take advantage; do not give anyone your personal information to “sign up” for relief funds; do not respond to calls, texts, or emails from the government. You do not have to sign up to receive economic impact payment.
  - iv. Charitable Contribution Requests: Watch out for scams requesting contribution to assist other affected by COVID-19; you should visit the website of your choice if you want to make donations. A common fraud has been about donating to the local police.
  - v. Person in Need Scams: Scammers will use coronavirus to pose as a relative or friend who claims to be ill and in need of money; hang up the phone and call relative and friend; if you cannot reach them then call another friend or relative
  - vi. Social Security Benefits Scam: Any communication that says SSA will suspend or decrease your benefits due to COVID-19 is a scam
  - vii. Contact Tracer Scam: Be wary of text and phone calls supposedly from contact tracers suggesting you’ve been exposed to someone with COVID-19; will try to get you to click on a link in a text that if clicked, will download malware to your device
  - viii. Bank and Lender Impersonators: Scammers impersonating financial institutions with fraudulent help with bills, credit card and student loans; you should contact your bank/lender directly. Small businesses are being given phony promises to help secure bogus disaster loans
- c. Questions/Comments
- i. Abdullah mentioned that elders are being targeted. He can give presentation to specific groups who may want tips to avoid these types of scams.
  - ii. **Joanne Dowes** noted that she has received calls but just hangs up.

## TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC SPACE

### 1. H Street NW Bus Priority, Megan Kanagy, District Department of Transportation (DDOT), Bus Priority Program Manager, 250 M Street SE, Washington, DC, 20003, 202-671-1598, [megan.kanagy@dc.gov](mailto:megan.kanagy@dc.gov).

- a. Kanagy started presentation on the H Street NW Bus Priority (minute 56:35 of meeting recording). Her DDOT colleague Spring Worth ([spring.worth@dc.gov](mailto:spring.worth@dc.gov)) is also going to be taking on leadership role on project in upcoming weeks.
- b. Background and overview of Bus Priority project
  - i. DDOT is committed to equity—investing in transit facilities will improve equity in accessibility of where residents need to go. Projects like the one in H Street will help reduce commute times and help people reach more destinations.
  - ii. The District’s goal is to achieve 75% of all commute trips by non-auto modes by 2032 and the bus is a big part of that.
  - iii. Bus Priority Vision: (a) improve speeds and reliability for riders across eight wards of the District; (b) provide faster and more reliable transit to access jobs and services
  - iv. The Bus Priority Network is made up of corridors spanning 70 miles across all eight wards of the District
- c. H Street NW Bus Priority Project
  - i. Goals of the project are to improve bus speed and reliability; improve pedestrian access to transit; improve safety for all users; and address curbside access needs.
  - ii. Project Approach: assess existing conditions and needs with stakeholders; identify improvements; collaborate

- iii. Timeline
    - 1. Summer 2021: return to ANC 2C meeting to talk about ideas
    - 2. Fall 2021: get consensus on recommended concept and get feedback on details
    - 3. Winter 2021-22: continue design and issue formal notice of intent
    - 4. Spring 2022: complete design and construction pending budget
  - iv. Project Area: connecting existing bus lanes on H & I Street all the way east to North Capitol
- d. Next Steps
- i. Kanagy noted that DDOT would like ideas and comments by the end of the month of May. She provided the following contact information:
    - Phone: 202.671.2376
    - Email: [megan.kanagy@dc.gov](mailto:megan.kanagy@dc.gov) OR [spring.worth@dc.gov](mailto:spring.worth@dc.gov)
    - Websites:
      - [ddot.dc.gov/page/bus-priority](http://ddot.dc.gov/page/bus-priority)
      - [ddot.dc.gov/page/h-street-nw-bus-priority](http://ddot.dc.gov/page/h-street-nw-bus-priority)
- e. Questions/Comments
- i. **Shankle** asked if the project is in the initial stage and whether DDOT will come back with their proposed design. Kanagy answered that her team will come back with a few ideas and talk about tradeoffs.
  - ii. **Shankle** asked if there are more curve extensions going on in the city besides Franklin Park? Kanagy responded that there are a couple different kinds of curve extensions going on in the city: on 14<sup>th</sup> street through Logan Circle there are some where bus lane comes behind the bus shelter; on M Street around 23<sup>rd</sup> in West End there is a space for bus passengers to get on and off that crosses through bike space; one on Brentwood Parkway has an island that is made from hard plastic instead of concrete.
  - iii. **Marks** asked in the chat whether DDOT is considering on incorporating bike lanes in this process at all? Kanagy answered that it will be hard to come up with a configuration on H Street that would allow bike lanes with the bus lanes. They will see what they can do to make safer for bikers and that bikers are allowed to use bus lanes. She added that H Street is not a priority bike corridor in moveDC, but they will be looking to provide any benefits to bikers they can. **Shankle** added that it's good to prioritize multiple forms of transportation.
  - iv. **Joanne** asked if what they are talking about laybys and explained that they are indentations into the sidewalk to let passengers board busses. She also brought up the idea of contraflow lanes that allow buses to move without any traffic and that traffic lights can be adjusted to favor buses. Kanagy responded that laybys are a little tricky because the sidewalks are not incredibly wide. Also, since H Street is a 2-way street, they probably won't be looking at contraflow lanes, but this idea has been floated for in between H & I Street.
  - v. **Howard** commented that he notices that few people on X buses stay aboard west of 7<sup>th</sup> Street. He asked if there is talk of turning the busses around on 6<sup>th</sup> & H Street and establishing on the south side of 8<sup>th</sup> Street between 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> street a first class type of urban bus depot. He recommended doing passenger counts west of 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Kanagy responded that she will send the remarks along and noted that the needs are not the same along the entire corridor. **Marks** added that many of the bus lines follow the same route of the old streetcar line pre-Metrorail that treated certain

locations like Lafayette Park as a destination. These might have been destinations 60 years ago, but it's not the case today.

- f. Kanagy ended her presentation by commenting that there will be posters on bus stops and flyers at business to spread the news about the project and to solicit comments. Shankle added there is an agenda item for the June meeting to discuss bus shelter at 7<sup>th</sup> & H Street on the south side of the street to come up with solutions for the clogging and other challenges at the stop.

#### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)**

##### **6. Pepco Capital Grid Project, Linda Greenan, External Relations Manager, Pepco from Pepco**

- a. Shankle noted that he skipped over an update from Linda Greenan about Pepco's Capital Grid Project.
- b. Greenan gave a brief background on the Capital Grid Project. It's a multi-component project rebuilding 3 substations in Tacoma, Harvard Street in Columbia Heights, and Champlain Street in Adams Morgan. The project also includes building a new substation in Mount Vernon Triangle and connecting all substations down to a new Southwest Waterfront substation via a 10-mile underground transition line. The part of project in 2C is underway in near the National Mall area. Work has been going on at Madison Drive for several months and should be completed in July.
- c. **Shankle** added that the last time they spoke the Mount Vernon substation was questionable and asked if the project is moving forward. Greenan answered that the Mount Vernon substation is moving forward and has been approved by the DC Public Service Commission (DCPSC) and the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA). Smith Construction is the contractor and they have started. The purpose of the new Mount Vernon substation is to take pressure off of other substations. Shankle said he has heard no objections so far.

##### **7. Announcement regarding a roadway improvement project along 9<sup>th</sup> Street between Pennsylvania Avenue & F Street.**

- a. Nelson said that she had an announcement that should have also been included in the community announcement section of the meeting.
- b. A roadway improvement project to repair curves and gutter along 9<sup>th</sup> Street between Pennsylvania Avenue & F Street will start on or around May 24, 2021. The work will be performed at night. Nelson advised moving your car if you see an emergency no parking sign. An emergency no parking sign will be posted a minimum of 72 hours before the work begins. Nelson provided the contact information for the DDOT person of contact in the Zoom chat.
- c. Questions/Comments
  - i. **Joanne** brought up a consideration about the noise. She said that people performing the construction don't realize people live here because it's zoned as a commercial area. Residents have trouble sleeping with all of the noise. She asked if there is a way to notify the project that this is a residential area for people above 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Street and that there should be no unusual noise at night

#### **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSING (ABRA)**

1. **Bar Sparrow, 250 Massachusetts Avenue NW Suite 155. New retailers Class C restaurant ABC license. Matthew**

- a. **Matthew** said Bar Sparrow is asking for a total occupancy load of 380 people for seating and standing inside the restaurant and in the outside summer garden. The restaurant is seeking hours of operation between 9am-1am on for both the inside and the outside. He explained that Bar Sparrow is going to be a seafood restaurant focused on heavily on a raw bar theme. The same person who owns Riviera in George town, Johnny Sparrow, owns Bar Sparrow. Sparrow couldn't make it tonight because he is working the line at the other restaurant and waiting for his wife to give birth soon.
- b. Questions/Comments
  - i. **Shankle** asked if the summer garden is going to be on Mass Ave. **Matthew** said it will be located more on 3<sup>rd</sup> street, on the corner of where the restaurant will be located.
  - ii. **Miske** asked if the hours of operation are in compliance. **Matthew** said they are petitioning for later given that it should not be in close proximity to residential areas. **Shankle** said he is okay with the 1am closing time noting that he's not aware of any residences within a block of the location. **Miske** brought up that the Ashton apartment building is right across the street so that might prevent differing hours. On a map it appears that Bar Sparrow directly across the street of the Ashton on 3<sup>rd</sup> street. **Shankle** asked when they plan to open. **Mathew** said late summer or fall if there are delays and that this can also be discussed in the June meeting. **Miske** said if in fact a residential building is within a block of the restaurant they could do the normal hours of operation, not the extended hours. There was agreement to get a better understanding of the location of Bar Sparrow and any residences nearby. **Shankle** said they'd recall this until the next meeting on June 8, 2021 so that Miske can investigate and talk with the Ashton residences.

**Shankle noted that due to technical issues with the Zoom link some attendees joined late. There will be time at the meeting to talk about the Pat Handy shelter again noting that some attendees missed that part of the meeting.**

#### OTHER

1. **District of Columbia Office of Human Rights (OHR). Ajan Brown, Community Engagement Specialist, 202.899.6252, [ajan.brown@dc.gov](mailto:ajan.brown@dc.gov).**
  - a. Brown started presentation titled "DC Office of Human Rights Overview" (minute 1:43:18 of meeting recording)
  - b. Overview
    - i. The Office of Human Rights enforces anti-discrimination laws in the District. In the District, there are a lot of progressive protections for residents and visitors and the mission of the office is to eradicate discrimination, increase equal opportunity, and protect civil rights through enforcement.
    - ii. Brown said he is at the meeting today to inform commissioners and the public that their office is the place to seek relief from discrimination. The areas that they cover are employment, housing, public accommodation, and educational institutions. The main law that they enforce is the DC Human Rights Act of 1977 (DCHRA).
    - iii. Their jurisdiction includes DC Government, private sector, including non-profits, corporation, contractors, etc. It excludes the Federal government, including Metro/Wmata and District of Columbia Courts
  - c. Brown provided overview of local laws and federal law that OHR enforces and the 21 protected traits that DC law covers.



- d. Brown provided an overview of OHR Process: intake → Mediation → Investigate → Legal Review → Conciliation → Commission on Human Rights
- e. Brown provided an overview of the Special Equity Programs
  - i. Youth Bullying Prevention
  - ii. Street Harassment Prevention
  - iii. Tipped Wage Workers: training workplaces on sexual harassment practices and best practices for treating employees
  - iv. Fair Chance Initiative: enforce the ban the box laws in the District making it illegal for housing providers and employers to ask about criminal background before offering a conditional offer
  - v. Language Access Program: ensure that residents are able to access programs no matter what language they speak
    - 1. **Miske** asked if this covered DC schools. Brown said he would follow up on this.
- f. Brown said that the office runs awareness campaigns throughout the city and gave an example of posters on transgender rights treating women in the workplace equally. The office also has publications to inform the public and provide best practices for businesses.
- g. Questions/Comments
  - i. **Joanne** asked how they find out about discrimination happening at private companies. Brown answered that they can do a director inquiry and can investigation without an inquiry. Given that they are formal complaints and dockets, our investigators have the tools to subpoena records. **Joanne** followed up by asking if there is a lot of discrimination in DC to which Brown answered DC has a lot of protections that makes business more careful.
  - ii. **Black** asked the number of cases filed on race or personal appearance for FY20. Brown answered that he doesn't know them off the top of his head. Race and disability are the top complaints for employment.
  - iii. **Brown** asked for information about the Fair Criminal Record Screening Act and its impact on the discrimination rates in the city. Brown answered that the office docketed 450 cases in 2019 and averages roughly 1,500-1,700 complaints every fiscal year.
  - iv. **Brown** asked about eviction bills in the works. Brown answered that the office is not involved on the legislative side of things. The office supports the Michael A. Stoops Anti-Discrimination Amendment Act that would add homelessness as a protected class.
  - v. **Lee** asked if a landlord could deny housing to an applicant based on criminal background. Brown that it's illegal for landlords to ask/check criminal background during the initial stages of the housing process (like in the application or informal interview). Landlords can check background once they have offered a conditional offer to that housing candidate. In the law, there are 48 different crimes in a landlord can revoke a offer (arson, violent or sexual based crimes, etc) and had to be within the last 7 years. If they are not, and not reoffended they shouldn't be considered.

**Shankle opened up the conversation again about the Pat Handy shelter and prefaced the conversation.**

- 1. **Shankle** provided context that there was meeting today about the shelter with various stakeholders including Councilmember Pinto, the Mayor's Office, DHS, etc. He noted that the

ANC did not know that the Pat Handy shelter was going to be utilized as a temporary shelter. They were informed around April that it was being used temporally as a hypothermia shelter during the pandemic. There has been a delay in the permits necessary to renovate the existing shelter. Shankle said that the commissioners have been in contact with key stakeholders around the issue. On March 10, 2021 Florio and Shankle did a walk of the alleyway and met with DPW, the Health Department, environmental services, and rodent control. They laid out a plan to educate the business along the alleyway and DPW was going to issue warnings to the properties regarding the trash. From the meeting today, it sounds like some additional engagement from the Councilmember's Office and the Mayor's Office is needed to coordinate with DPW and DPS. Shankle said he would invite DPW and DPS to the next meeting to inquire about the corrective actions that could be taken.

2. **Florio** said that there was a meeting between various stakeholders where they talked about the various issues stemming from the shelter (crime, use of drugs, defecation, trash). Florio said he would follow up with the stakeholders and that it will be a multi-agency response. Florio will let DPS and DPW know that their attendance is requested at the next meeting.
3. **Miske** asked for constituents, if they have extensive thoughts, to send an email to the people working on this matter or to email one of the commissioners who will send their note to Florio.
4. Constituents proceeded to provide comments on the shelter. There was general concern over what is happening at the shelter and its impact on the surrounding area. Concerns and comments brought up include:
  - a. This is a multifaceted problem: mental health, sanitation, pedestrian safety, getting people the help they need, etc.
  - b. There needs to be a multi-agency solution that includes the MPD. In the meantime, constituents need to know who to call if they get harassed and they need to know what to expect in terms of the city's response.
  - c. There needs to be short-term mitigation measures, especially around sanitation and safety immediately.
  - d. There has significant uptick in problems in the lower Penn Quarter area.
  - e. This problem could impact tourism, which will impact the city's tax base that has already been impacted because of the pandemic.
  - f. An idea mentioned was an alley cleanup day with some of the shelter members and members of the community. Shankle seconded the point about an alley cleanup day and that the ANC could fund the dumpster/bags needed.
  - g. One constituent asked what guidance the ANC could give those who represent condo boards on how to address the questions and concerns of their residents.
  - h. One constituent noted that although there are problems, this capacity for homeless men is needed right now. It's important that the city's shelters are as de-densified as possible during the pandemic.
5. Closing comments from the Mayor's Office and Councilmember Pinto's Office
  - a. Florio said this is obviously a greater issue from when Shankle originally reached out and will make sure he says on top of the problem and engage with stakeholder.
  - b. Hulick said Pinto's office would work with Florio and the Mayors office to deal with the short term and the long term solutions. This includes regular cleaning of the alley, and addressing any issues with the businesses, regulations, and working with Florio to make sure the right agencies are involved. For longer-term solutions, Pinto's office is committed to advocating for some serious investments in permanent supportive housing.

6. There was then an exchange between constituents and commissioners about the best way to talk about the problem and the people that are at/surrounding the Pat Handy Shelter.
7. Nelson noted that if the problems elevate to any type of physical assault, you should call the police. It's important that reports get filed and that problems are documented.
8. Shankle committed to getting DHS and DPW to the next meeting to discuss some of the issues \ and to provide constituents the opportunity to talk with them.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Miske made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Nelson. All three members were in favor of adjourning meeting

**Minutes Submitted by:** Laura Stateler

**Minutes Approved by:**

**Next Meeting:** June 8, 2021, 6:00PM

ANC Commissioners and Website

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Meetings are scheduled for the Second Tuesday of each month.