

Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

August 2023 Meeting Minutes

DATE: August 8, 2023

ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioner Michael Shankle, Commissioner Kristin Roe, Commissioner Thomas Lee (joined late), and Commissioner Rebecca Strauss

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Shankle called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm over Zoom (available at <https://www.anc2c.us/video-recordings>).
- 2. INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS:** The Commissioners each introduced themselves.
- 3. QUORUM:** A quorum of three of four commissioners was present.
- 4. OPENING REMARKS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Shankle reviewed the agenda (available at www.anc2c.us). Roe motioned to approve the August 2023 agenda with the addition of the Cell Block Holding Cell by Commissioner Nigro, seconded by Strauss. (Vote 3-0-0).

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Lieutenant Garvin reported that robberies were up. The ADW for assaults was down, burglaries had decreased, and theft from autos and stores decreased. There were 12 thefts in the previous 30 days. The majority of robberies seen were happening between 11 pm and 5 am in the club area. He stated a lot was due to a diminished sense of awareness. There were 259 guns recovered in the second district since January 1st. In July, there were 48 gun recoveries. He reported that the majority of gun recoveries occurred in the club area. There were two individuals engaged in a verbal altercation, and one of the individuals pointed a handgun at the other. Commissioner Shankle asked for a report on three females who fled the stabbing scene. Lieutenant Garvin reported that an Uber driver picked up the individuals from the Park Nightclub, and the victim stated there was an argument about the air conditioning, and the Uber driver stated he felt a puncture in his back. Lieutenant Garvin stated that the case was still under investigation, but the suspects were identified.

- 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**

Captain Sherrelle Williams introduced herself. Lieutenant Kniseley reported that over the past 30 days, violent crimes were down by 44%, a 50% reduction in ADWs, and a 33%

reduction in robberies. There was a good reduction in burglaries and motor vehicle thefts, but there were still challenges with retail and auto thefts. One ADW occurred at 6th and H NW at around 2:40 am, and only shell casings were found. The victim was found in a hospital in Virginia with relatively mild injuries. He reported that the case was moving forward, but a suspect had not yet been identified. There was a three-day initiative in Chinatown to conduct enhanced enforcement operations. There were 17 arrests on Wednesday, and two handguns were recovered. There were 13 drug-distribution-related arrests. There was very little crime that occurred over the three days.

Commissioner Shankle commented that he hoped to see a reduction in re-offenses. Lieutenant Knisley reported that the stay-aways were a valuable tool. Commissioner Shankle asked how community members could help identify individuals with stay-away orders. Lieutenant Knisley stated that he was not sure if it was proper to disseminate individuals with pending criminal cases. It was asked who had jurisdiction at the Chinatown Metro Stop near the escalators because there were conversations regarding drugs. Lieutenant Knisley reported that this was private property, but if an officer sees a plain-view offense, they can make an arrest. The officers cannot patrol, but they can enforce against it with reason. Lieutenant Knisley stated that MPD could be called to provide as specific information as possible if a crime is seen. It was asked for police not to contribute to amplified noise on the street corner. Commissioner Lee asked if there would be another initiative in Chinatown and if there would be anti-loitering laws passed. Lieutenant Knisley reported that there would be more enforcement on a slightly smaller scale, ideally every 30 days but potentially every 90 days. Commissioner Shankle reported they could develop and entertain a resolution for Councilmember Pinto. It would have to be developed and presented at the next meeting. It was asked if four-wheelers were legal on the streets. Lieutenant Knisley reported that a pursuit would not be able to be engaged in. It was asked if a police force would be coming back to Chinatown. Lieutenant Knisley reported that it would be great if it could be done, but not enough officers were available. It was stated that examples of amplified noise were sent to the Council. Commissioner Shankle stated that this information should be sent to Councilmember Pinto.

Shankle motioned to send a letter to Metro requesting that Chinatown and Gallery Place stops be prioritized for the retro gates elevated, seconded by Roe. (Vote 4-0-0).

3. Officer 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.

Powell reported that there was information available for storm clean-up on DDOT. He reported that the Mayor created DMPED Sports Teams to maintain and expand world-class sporting events. Legislation was introduced to expand the district's lease for 99 years and allow the campus to be redeveloped for various uses. He stated that Pamela Smith was selected as the new police chief. The Mayor's Arts Awards would be held in late September, and nominations would close on August 17th. There was a Back 2 School event on August 25th to provide backpacks and school supplies. Grace Reeder or Chris Powell could be contacted about

doing a walkthrough. Commissioner Roe asked if the backpack giveaway was for Ward or Ward 7. Powell stated that he would find out and give the information to Commissioner Roe.

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

Rodriguez provided an update on the building at 501 NY Ave. He stated that no release would occur from the site and sound mitigation measures would be taken. The location at 510 4th St NW could not be considered as a location because it was federally owned. There were two points of contact available. Councilmember Pinto will continue to advocate for the raised concerns on the project. Rodriguez reminded everyone that scooters must be locked to infrastructure when not in use and asked individuals to report this to DDOT. Improvement of enforcement on this issue was ongoing.

Commissioner Shankle asked about the holding cell and if Councilmember Pinto's office received a historical packet of how the community was notified. Rodriguez stated that the agency could be asked for this information. Commissioner Shankle asked if there was an enforcement body besides citizens for the scooters and e-bikes. Rodriguez reported that he would look into this issue. Commissioner Shankle stated there was approximately 10% compliance and stated people would lock the scooters themselves. Commissioner Lee stated he was concerned about being too strict with the companies, causing them to pull from the business. Commissioner Lee suggested that fallen-over bikes could beep. Commissioner Lee asked about anti-loitering regulations. Rodriguez reported that he was unsure if there were further discussions, but he would follow up on this item. Commissioner Nigro asked for the email to be sent to her and raised concerns that it was not sent to her. It was asked for an audit to be done of the scooter program. Rodriguez asked him to contact DDOT and stated they may have further information. Rodriguez stated he would pass this information on. Commissioner Shankle stated that DDOT did not have a good reputation for proper documentation and follow-through with their projects and wanted them to begin addressing these issues.

5. Cell Block Holding Cell, Commissioner Nigro.

Commissioner Nigro stated that she sought a letter of opposition for the cell block holding cell at 501 NY Ave. She stated that this would be open 24/7, but no one in the community wanted this due to people being released into the community. She stated that this had been in the works for two years, and it was believed that this would be permanent and not temporary, as stated. Commissioner Strauss asked if there was no other place that could work for the cell block holding cell. Commissioner Nigro stated that 510 4th St had a cell block underneath the building, and she did not know why this was not considered. Rodriguez stated that the reason that it could not be selected was due to it being federally owned. Commissioner Nigro stated that no answers were given when asked if there were other possible locations. Commissioner Lee asked if the people would be transported somewhere after release. Commissioner Nigro stated that she was unsure due to the differing information.

Shankle motioned to send a letter to the Department of Corrections, OGS, Councilmember Pinto's office, and the Mayor's office regarding the potential concerns for the cell block and that this needs to be reconsidered, seconded by Lee. (Vote 3-1-0).

LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY

- 1. Susan G. Komen More than Pink Walk, Sunday, September 10, 2023. Lisa Brooks, Director, Eventage, 973.996.1910, lbrooks@eventage.net.**

Lisa Brooks reported that the walk would be on Pennsylvania Avenue. The load-in will be done on Saturday, September 9th, and the event will be on Sunday, September 10th. She presented a map of the setup and route involving Freedom Plaza. Overnight, Pennsylvania Ave will be closed between 12th and 14th Streets. There were 3,000 participants anticipated, and the roads would be reopened no later than 3 pm on September 10th. The roads surrounding Freedom Plaza will reopen after the last participant passes.

Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the More than Pink Walk, seconded by Roe. (Vote 4-0-0)

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSING (ABRA)

- 1. Project 1972, Inc, Trade Name: Chief, New Retailer's Class "C" Tavern (ABRA-125169), 1401 K Street, NW. Diana Corzo, 202.686.7600, dcorzo@theveritaslawfirm.com**

Cameron Mixon stated that he was Council to the applicant. Cameron reported that Chief was a social club marketed towards female professionals. They were looking to serve beer, wine, and liquor alongside cold-prepared foods with seating for approximately 21 people. It was a part of a larger chain network to facilitate social connections. It was confirmed that the hours of operation were from 8 am to midnight. It was confirmed that the alcohol would be sold with the intent to be consumed on the premises. Commissioner Shankle asked if there was a membership. Cameron stated that this was a private membership.

Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for Chief, seconded by Lee. (Vote 4-0-0)

- 2. Maman 9th St LLC, Trade Name: Maman, New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant (ABRA-124950), 750 9th St NW. Manalle Mahmoud, Associate Attorney, Mallios O'Brien & Sandground PLLC, (202)625-7700, mmahmoud@malliosobrien.com**

Manalle Mahmoud reported that Maman would be a café and bakery with a total occupancy of 149 and 64 indoor seats from 7:30 am to midnight.

Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for Maman, seconded by Roe. (Vote 4-0-0)

- 3. Abunai Poke, LLC, Trade Name: Abunai Poke Restaurant, Substantial Change to Retailer's Class "D" Restaurant (ABRA-109347), 1920 L Street NW. Charlene Akina Harada, 808.492.8436, akinahrd@gmail.com**

Akina Harada reported that Abunai wanted to expand the hours to engage with a different market and introduce more revenue. She requested the hours of 8 am to 2 am seven days per week.

Roe motioned to send a letter of support for Abunai Poke, seconded by Strauss. (Vote 4-0-0)
Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for a stipulated license, seconded by Roe.
(Vote 4-0-0)

- 4. 202 Lounge One LLC, Trade Name: 202 Lounge One, New Retailer's Class "C" Tavern (ABRA-125294), 609 H Street NW. Jeffrey Jackson, 202.251.1566, jjharlem112@gmail.com.**

Jeffrey Jackson reported that Lounge 202 would be a full-service restaurant with entertainment and a full menu until at least one hour prior to closing. This would be the space across from Rock and Roll. There was an entertainment endorsement. The tavern license was not needed to meet the food-sale requirements. It was stated that the max hours were put down but would depend on the clientele. Commissioner Roe asked if there were plans to mitigate the noise. Jeffrey reported that the speakers would only be in front of the restaurant, it would be conversational-type music, and a test would be done to determine the loudness of the music within the residential homes. It was stated that a contact would be provided to Jeffrey for the Wah Luck House. Commissioner Lee asked if any dancing was anticipated. Jeffrey reported that it was not anticipated but would not be restricted. Commissioner Shankle recommended contacting members of the Wah Luck House. It was decided to send a letter of approval if a settlement agreement could be executed prior to August 28th; otherwise, ANC 2C would submit a letter of protest. Commissioner Shankle will prepare the language and send it to Jeffrey.

Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for Lounge 202 contingent upon the settlement agreement, seconded by Roe. (Vote 4-0-0)

TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC SPACE

- 1. Street Planters on bulb around Farragut Square. DDOT Andrew Huff, Associate Director of Member & Government Relations, Golden Triangle Business Improvement District, 202.463.3400, ahuff@goldentriangledc.com.**

Andrew Huff presented a map of Farragut Square. The planters would be installed on the 17th and I St NW corner of Farragut Square, and a letter of support was being sought. Detailed specifications were presented. DDOT would do the planting and maintenance, and steps would be taken to keep rodents out. Andrew will send information on what the planters were made of to Commissioner Shankle on August 9th. Commissioner Shnakle asked why the area was

selected. Andrew reported that there was extra funding and plenty of space in the area. Commissioner Roe asked if the planters were replacing anything. Andrew stated that they were not. It was asked if the group would be responsible for the planters under the archway of Walgreens. Andrew stated that they were not that it was the responsibility of the downtown group.

Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the street planters, seconded by Lee. (Vote 4-0-0)

PLANNING, ZONING, ENVIRONMENT, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

OTHER

1. Approval of March 2023, April 2023, May 2023, June 2023 Minutes.

Commissioner Roe reported that the March, April, May, and June minutes were ready to be submitted.

Roe motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Shankle. (Vote 3-0-0).

2. Treasurer's Report

There was no treasurer's report.

3. Hybrid Model

Commissioner Shankle reported that the hybrid model of meetings would begin next month at the MLK Library. He stated that meals could not be provided, but snacks could be.

4. Executive Director

Commissioner Roe reported that there had been discussions regarding hiring an executive director and having someone redo the website. She stated she would like to put this back on the agenda for further discussion. Commissioner Strauss stated that this was on her radar once she returned in September. Commissioner Shankle reported that he reached out to individuals who had been executive directors for other ANCs, but they were currently overextended. He stated he wanted someone who had prior experience. It was reported that the budget would be negotiated depending on what would be done by the executive director.

ADJOURNMENT: Roe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Minutes Submitted by: Minutes Services

Minutes Approved by: 9/12/2023

Next Meeting: September 12, 2023, 6:00 PM

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Meetings are scheduled for the Second Tuesday of each month.