

Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

July 2023 Meeting Minutes

DATE: July 11, 2023

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

ANC-2C COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Rebecca Strauss.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Shankle called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm over Zoom (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ba8yFSOukJl>).
- 2. ROLL CALL:** Three out of the four commissioners were present.
- 3. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS:** The commissioners were introduced. Meetings will be moving to an in-person format in the Fall.
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Shankle reviewed the agenda (available at www.anc2c.us). Roe motioned to approve the July 2023 agenda, seconded by Shankle. (Vote 3-0)
- 5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** The minutes issue will be corrected by the August 8 meeting. The minutes will be available for download on www.anc2c.us within the next week.
- 6. TREASURER REPORT:** The bank balance is \$69,358.44. In the past month, \$500, \$750, and \$250 were sent to Minutes Services, LLC for minutes transcribing services. Lee will send documents to the Board to approve invoices for the Q2 report.

MOTION: Lee motioned to approve the Q2 filing of the treasurer report, seconded by Roe. (Vote 3-0-0)

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Lieutenant Garvin shared details of a robbery that occurred by an individual on a motorcycle. Other crimes included two sex abuse cases, which are being investigated by the sex crimes unit. There was also a burglary and three pattern robberies that targeted club patrons. A robbery report was made, and there were four weapon recoveries in the last 30 days, roughly a typical rate. Often, these are found left in cars and seized from individuals that do not have the proper paperwork.

Roe inquired about purse snatching. Garvin urged everyone to stay vigilant and closely monitor their possessions. Garvin stated that roughly half of the perpetrators of these crimes that are picked up are charged by the District Attorney.

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

Lieutenant Kniseley is covering for Captain Roth this evening. There is a 9% increase in property crimes driven by motor vehicle thefts, despite a 30% decline in overall thefts. Unsecured apartment doors associated with two burglaries.

There was a 20% reduction in robberies. Most robberies are late-night events. No clear pattern has occurred, and there are no suspects currently. There were two ADWs and one homicide, and details of these cases were shared. They are currently being worked on and have likely suspects.

A resident inquired about the enforcement of public consumption of marijuana. Kniseley explained that his limited resources often mean they must focus on other crimes. Still, they are generally trying to increase enforcement of open container laws and similar "quality of life" crimes. The issue will be addressed as much as possible and is likely correlated to other, more dangerous crimes, according to Kniseley.

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.

Powell presented updates from the Ward 2 Liaison Mayor's Office. He shared that #SummerReadyDC offers free weatherization kits for DC residents. Also, residents were encouraged to apply for the Mayor's Opportunity Scholarship. Additionally, found guns can be anonymously reported. New appointments were also shared.

Upcoming events include a Town Hall Series on July 12 and 13. Roll Off Day on July 22 also offers free disposal of bulk items and electronics. Other events included a K-Pop dance series and walks with MOCRS.

Lee inquired about the planters and trash bins in Chinatown, which require work and/or general cleaning. Powell will flag that internally to DDOT. A resident inquired about working with the Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs to address the drug dealer problem in Chinatown. Another resident inquired about trash piled up in the streets, which has not been addressed by 311. Another resident inquired about vagrancy issues. Powell addressed all issues and will work with the residents to direct their inquiries to the right teams and fix them.

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

Constituent Services Director, bromanowski@dccouncil.us, 202-285-9195.

Rodriguez presented the programs funded based on the recently passed budget. Councilmember Pinto is also working on improving Public Safety and used public feedback to draft several public safety bills, one of which has recently passed with broad support and is awaiting the mayor's signature. Other bills are focused on metro safety and 911 services. Another public hearing will be held on August 3 at the MLK library. Councilmember Pinto will also hold several office-hour events. Fees for the Pride parade were removed. Finally, residents that are 65 and older were encouraged to apply for the sidewalk snow shoveling exemption program.

Roe requested that details of the August 3 event are shared with the Commissioners so they can distribute the information to their constituents.

A resident inquired about the new prison in Ward 2. Rodriguez does not have robust information on that location but will check in to get more information to brief the ANC 2C at the next meeting. Another resident inquired about PCR testing locations for Covid. Rodriguez responded that it was impossible to keep the prior locations open without federal funding. Shankle stated that he would find all nearby PCR locations and post the results.

5. DCSBOE Representative Allister Chang, Allister.Chang1@dc.gov.

Chang spoke about his top priority, reading proficiency, which has worsened since the pandemic for DC students. A literacy task force will come together to develop an action plan by this September.

The Board voted to revise the social studies standards, which will go into effect in 2024. Details of the changes to the educational programs were shared.

Lee inquired about disruptive students, which have affected the learning environment. Chang shared planned preventative measures that will potentially address the issue. Roe inquired about the specific schools that are having reading difficulties. Chang replied that the difference in literacy is strongly correlated with the family's wealth and stated that investments in poverty interventions can make a large impact.

LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE COMMUNITY

1. Artechouse Foundation request for Letter of Support for DMPED Grant for FY23 DC Family Fun Destinations. Tati, tati@artechouse.com.

Tati presented the plan to establish a permanent art space in downtown DC. This space will be non-profit and exhibit the works of 21st-century innovative artists. The grant would allow the program to have a permanent space via a museum. The space would also support local artists.

The single-use grant can be used for events or more permanent establishments. The Foundation sees the value in a permanent space, and the grant will be matched with additional

funds. Tati shared pictures of Artechouse with the community. The deadline for the grant is July 14th.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the Artechouse, seconded by Lee. (Vote 3-0-0)

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSING (ABCA)

1. Sima Sushi, Inc., 1660 I ST NW, New Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant (ABRA125022). Gregory Y. Lee, 703.506.8886, gleelaw24@gmail.com.

No one was available to represent the establishment this evening. Shankle shared their application and provided an overview with details of the restaurant. No objections were heard, and no community members had feedback on the application.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to remain silent on the application for Sima Sushi, seconded by Roe. (Vote 3-0-0)

2. Bouquet Labs DC LLC, 610 H ST NW, Medical Cannabis Dispensary License. Almustafa El Hillo and Deron Cooper, Managing Members, Bouquet Labs DC LLC, Almo@berkeley.edu.

Hillo shared information on the background of Bouquet Labs. They were awarded a license to produce and distribute medical cannabis in Maryland 2019. Bouquet Labs was granted a license in 2021, which was then relocated to Chinatown after approval from ABCA. A lease has been signed, and security and architectural details are being worked on. Hillo stated that the strongest security protocols would be followed, and cannabis consumption would not be allowed outside the establishment. They also aim to have a strong relationship with the police department. Bouquet Labs is seeking a letter of support.

Shankle inquired about the potential lines outside the establishment. Hillo responded that while only a few patrons are allowed in the establishment simultaneously, the average transaction time is short. Additionally, all patrons will have to have a medical license from ABCA. Roe inquired about the security plans for the location. Hillo responded that every part of the space will be secured to the highest level and will have monitoring at all times. They will comply with all regulations. No cannabis will be open or consumed in the area. Hillo specified the differences between a medical cannabis dispensary and the "gifting shops" already present in the area, which are not subject to the same regulations.

Shankle inquired about an appointment-only business model. Hillo stressed the importance of foot traffic, which was a factor in the location selection. Lee inquired about other commercial retail spaces, but Hillo replied that they are often not feasible because of limitations from banks on mortgages.

A resident expressed concern about the amount of cash held by patrons increasing robberies in the area. Another resident inquired about becoming certified as a patient and the best practices learned from other states. Another resident inquired about the presence of illegal

drug dealing operations in the area. Hillo responded to these concerns and provided more information on their operations and the importance of regulation in the space. The gifting shops will start to see enforcement in the next few months.

Bouquet Labs' application is not available for public review due to the proprietary nature of the information, but certain details can be shared with the ANC as needed. They hope to become operational by the end of the year, dependent upon permits and the license has already been awarded. The final registration will be approved following construction. The placard will be printed by ABCA and posted next week.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for Bouquet Labs, pending the placard information as stated, seconded by Roe. Lee abstained. (Vote 2-1-0)

TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC SPACE

**1. 11th ST NW Bus Priority Project, <https://buspriority.ddot.dc.gov/pages/11thstnw>.
Yohannes Eagle Bennehoff, AICP, Supervisory Transportation Planner, 202.497.1608,
yohannes.bennehoff@dc.gov.**

Bennehoff shared an update to create reliable, fast transit on 11th St and improve the existing bike facility with protected lanes. The project's existing conditions, work done so far, and timeline for future work were shared. Construction will start in Fall 2023. Public engagement for the project has been strong. The design details were reviewed, such as parking and bus lanes and stops. A slip lane will be closed to reduce car interactions with pedestrians and potentially add some bike facilities.

Traffic modeling showed little change from the planned lane reductions. Roughly 70 parking spaces will be eliminated. All existing alley and driveway entrances will remain open.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the Bus Priority Project, pending the placard information as stated, seconded by Lee. Roe abstained. (Vote 2-1-0)

PLANNING, ZONING, ENVIRONMENT, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**1. 1525 H Street NW, St John's Episcopal Church, Fine Arts and the Historical Preservation Review. Andi Adams, Architectural Historian, A. Adams & Co., 202.577.7978,
andi.adams@adamsahhp.com.**

Gridley and Fischer presented the plan. Fischer provided background on the history and architecture of the church, particularly the bell tower. They are seeking to do work to restore the bell tower and make it more accessible to maintain it in the future.

Gridley is the architect for the project. He shared the plans for the proposed tower renovations and the surrounding roof. The intention is to be faithful to the historic design. Details of the plan were shared. They are seeking approval to use poly-ash to replace wood for the exterior cladding, which looks like wood but does not expand or contract.

Roe inquired about the traffic impact of the work. Some scaffolding must be placed on public property, requiring separate permits.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for 1525 H Street NW, St John's Episcopal Church, Fine Arts and the Historical Preservation Review, seconded by Roe. (Vote 3-0-0)

2. DispatchHealth District of Columbia Certificate of Need Registration No. 23-2-3. Phil Mitchell, MD, Chief Medical Officer, and Dana Duran, DispatchHealth, dana.duran@dispatchhealth.com.

Stephan provided information on their plan to perform in-home treatment and care to reduce Emergency Room use and hospital visits. Stephan discussed the details of DispatchHealth's operations in other areas and how they plan to operate in the DC area. Care will be dispatched to the patient's area, and on-site care will be provided. They have existing partnerships with Medicaid support and other insurance companies. The price will be the same for patients as a typical emergency care visit.

Their hearing is scheduled for September. DispatchHealth is still evaluating a final location for a base of operations, but the plan is to utilize multiple teams to provide coverage across the entire DC area. Stephan is going to several ANCs to procure letters of support and educate the public.

Several questions from residents were addressed, including the determination to call 911 or DispatchHealth and partnerships with senior living facilities.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for DispatchHealth's certificate of need registration, seconded by Roe. (Vote 3-0-0)

OTHER

1145 17th St NW, US National Geographic Society

Kadlecek presented the plans for a rooftop bar and restaurant. Dunham provided background on National Geographic's mission and history in the area. They want to transform their DC campus into a visitor destination and add public space areas. The project has already been through ANC approval, and below-ground work has begun. Details of the exhibits were shared. Part of the building will be converted into a hotel. Kadlecek shared the architectural plans for renovating the rooftop to convert it into a restaurant and bar. No zoning relief is needed, but approval is needed because the facilities are on a rooftop. There is no adverse impact expected. They request a letter of support for their BZA meeting on September 1st. The case number is 20968.

MOTION: Shankle motioned to send a letter of support for the US National Geographic Society's addition of a penthouse and mechanical enclosure for their BZA meeting, seconded by Roe. (Vote 3-0-0)

ADJOURNMENT: Roe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 pm, seconded by Lee. Commissioners were in favor of adjourning the meeting (Vote 3-0-1)

Minutes Submitted by: Ryder Winans, Minutes Services

Minutes Approved by: 08.08.23

Next Meeting: August 8, 2023, 6:00 pm

ANC Commissioners and Website

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Meetings are scheduled for the Second Tuesday of each month.