



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 17th, 2020; 7:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom

### Call to Order

Chair Patrick Kennedy (01) called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Commissioners Nicole Goldin (02), Trupti Patel (03), William Kennedy Smith (04), Evelyn Hudson (05), Jeri Epstein (06), Detrick Campbell (07), and James Harnett (08) were present.

### Adoption of the Agenda

Chair Kennedy made a motion to approve the ANC’s meeting agenda. Commissioner Epstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

### Adoption of Past Meeting Minutes

Chair Kennedy made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular May 2020 meeting minutes by unanimous consent. Without any objection the minutes were adopted.

### Community Forum

#### Report from the Metropolitan Police Department’s PSA 207

Lieutenant John Terry, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department’s (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

#### Report from the Executive Office of the Mayor

Nicole Goines, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), gave updates from the Mayor’s Office.

### Commissioner Updates

Commissioners Goldin, Harnett, Epstein, Smith, and Campbell gave commissioner announcements.

### Announcements and Public Comments

Barbara Kahlow, the Secretary-Treasurer of the West End Citizens Association (WECA); Robert Meins, the Chief Executive Officer of the Dupont Underground; and a local resident gave announcements and public comments.

### Matters Before the Board of Zoning Adjustment

Board of Zoning Adjustment Application for a Variance from the Lot Occupancy Requirements to Construct a Two-Story Rear Addition to a Semi-Detached Principal Dwelling Unit at 2506 I Street NW

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Chair Kennedy seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, derelict buildings in the neighborhood have been the site of a variety of illicit and illegal behavior leading to a recent death on this block,

WHEREAS, the Hudson family, the owners of the property at 2506 I Street NW, have constructively engaged with neighbors over an extended period in planning a much-needed renovation and revitalization of this derelict property, and

WHEREAS, the recent slowdown in DC services due to the COVID-19 virus has resulted in further delays to this project, which is of great interest to the neighborhood.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A recommends that the Board of Zoning Adjustment and other city agencies proceed with an expeditious review and approval as appropriate action on this project.

**Matters Before the Historic Preservation Review Board**

Historic Preservation Review Board Concept Application for the New Construction of a Single-Family House at 0 Snow's Court NW

Commissioner Patel made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Hudson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports the Historic Preservation Review Board concept application for 0 Snow's Court NW. The ANC recognizes that there could be vibration effects as a result of this proposed project and that the applicant has agreed to name adjacent homeowners in the insurance policy for the project.

**Matters Before the Office of Planning**

Presentation by the George Washington University Regarding the University's COVID Reopening Plan

Kevin Days, GW's Director of Community Relations, gave a presentation regarding the university's COVID reopening plan. Commissioners and meeting attendees asked questions and further discussed the plan.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the George Washington University's COVID Reopening Plan

Commissioner Harnett made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Epstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, institutions of higher education in the District of Columbia have ended their semesters early by most sending students home and transitioning to online classes through the end of the spring semester,

WHEREAS, given the magnitude of this moment, DC Health and the Office of Planning (OP) are reviewing, providing feedback on, and recommending the approval or rejection of higher education institutions' return-to-operations plan for the upcoming Fall 2020 semester,

WHEREAS, the George Washington University (GW) has submitted a re-opening plan to OP and DC Health for consideration and approval, to determine a safe and orderly return to in-person and/or mixed educational operations in the upcoming semester, and

WHEREAS, the student and residential community has a vested interest in being at the table in those conversations in a formalized manner.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A encourages the Office of Planning to include ANC 2A as a party to the review of the George Washington University's proposed re-opening plan, to include feedback and suggestions from the ANC and the community, specifically with regards to the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan and public space best practices to keep everyone safe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A authorizes Commissioners James Harnett, Detrick Campbell, no ANC in those discussions and to provide the aforementioned feedback and suggestions on a proposed re-opening plan to OP, DC Health, and GW.

### **Matters Before the Public Space Committee**

Public Space Application for the Modification of an Existing Curb Cut Along 19th Street NW and the Closure of an Existing Curb Cut Along 20th Street at 1951 Constitution Avenue NW

*The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.*

### **Matters Before the District Department of Transportation**

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding a Proposal to Close Streets, Restrict Vehicle Traffic, and/or Install Sidewalk Extensions for Identified Roadways in Foggy Bottom to Enable Safe Physical Distancing

*The Commission discussed this matter and set consideration for a future ANC meeting.*

### **Matters Before the DC Council**

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding a Proposal to Redirect FY 2021 Budget Resources from the Metropolitan Police Department to Social Programs

Commissioner Harnett made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-2). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the local, national, and international conversation about the role of policing in American society over the last four weeks since the death of George Floyd, and countless others, manifests itself for ANC 2A in what we want to prioritize in our next city budget, a \$15,400,000,000 tool of community Investment,

WHEREAS, the Mayor's proposed budget for FY 2021 includes a \$19,000,000 proposed increased in the budget for the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), to receive such a substantial increase in resources while there is an expected \$1,500,000,000 shortfall in FY 2021,

WHEREAS, the DC Council has taken limited, but necessary emergency action to change police arbitration standards, ban chokeholds, ban the hiring of officers accused or found guilty of misconduct in other jurisdictions, and ban the use of riot gear and chemical weapons against First Amendment protestors,

WHEREAS, the Mayor's proposed budget for FY 2021 also includes a \$4,000,000 cut for the Violence Interrupters Program, which works to stem violence before it begins by working directly with members of the community,

WHEREAS, overwhelming public testimony and support from members of the DC Council exists in taking further fiscal action to limit the scope of MPD and re-task non-violent calls to social workers who are best positioned to respond with services to meet that individuals' needs, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2A is dedicated to uplifting the voices and fights of our neighbors who have been victims of police brutality and moving forward recommendations that create a more just city for all.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports the DC Council's Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety thoughtfully considering the role and historical injustice of policing in our communities, and re-allocating resources proposed for MPD in next year's budget to services for those experiencing homelessness or mental health crises, deeply affordable housing production and retainment, the estimated \$60,000,000 needed for immediate repairs of public housing, and increasing educational budgets in east of the river public schools as a more appropriate use of District funds.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding LGBTQ Budget Priorities for DC's FY 2021 Budget

Chair Kennedy made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, a coalition of LGBTQ advocacy organizations submitted a combined budget request to the DC Council and the Mayor last year for the FY 2020 budget that was not fulfilled,

WHEREAS, the unmet needs that they identified last year for some of the most vulnerable District residents are just as salient as before, if not more so due to the economic and health impacts of COVID-19,

WHEREAS, LGBTQ organizations renewed their budgetary requests for FY 2021 in January 2020, and submitted a modification earlier this month to modify their request in view of the District's current fiscal constraints, and

WHEREAS, the modified request contains numerous priorities that ANC 2A believes are important for the District to fund, including:

- \$630,000 for the Office of Human Rights to add staff resources to address a rise in hate crimes and a backlog of uninvestigated discrimination complaints
- \$700,000 to improve data collection efforts related to the LGBTQ community under DC Health and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education
- \$20,000 in rent abatement for the DC Center (LGBTQ community center) at the Reeves Center
- \$480,125 annually over three years to provide new staff and resources to develop and pilot a workforce development program for the benefit of 20 transgender, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming youth ages 16 to 24
- \$345,000 to support an LGBTQ+ Intergenerational Synergy Homesharing Pilot Program in order to provide 12 young LGBTQ adults with employment and housing opportunities within the homes of 12 older LGBTQ adults who live alone and have spare living space
- \$480,000 to provide 20 housing vouchers for distribution to LGBTQ seniors
- \$350,000 to establish a Trans Tech Social Hub at the Department of Employment Services to help persons who identify as transgender and queer combat employment discrimination and train for legal employment
- \$5 million for a procurement contract for Trans services, including \$2 million for an employment program serving transgender residents, \$2 million to establish a 24/7 Trans empowerment drop-in center, and \$1 million to establish a Trans-focused job- and skills-training academy
- \$2.25 million annually in order to build out a harm reduction and health access network specifically targeted at the District's homeless transgender and queer populations

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports the budget priorities articulated above and encourages the DC Council to secure funding for these priorities in its deliberations on the FY 2021 budget.

## Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Relief for Impacted Workers as Part of DC's FY 2021 Budget

Commissioner Patel made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Harnett seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, DC is home to over 30,000 residents who cannot access federal assistance through unemployment insurance and/or the federal stimulus. DC's FY 2021 budget must include cash assistance for those excluded by the federal government so that they too can survive the prolonged health and economic crisis through next year,

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of DC residents are excluded from federal unemployment insurance (UI) relief efforts. Excluded workers are overwhelmingly black and immigrant residents who have also been among the hardest hit by COVID-19. The vast majority of these DC residents are low-income workers who do not have the savings needed to get by without work for many months,

WHEREAS, cash assistance is urgently needed for excluded workers. Unfortunately, undocumented workers are ineligible for direct payments, UI, and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). Congress also cruelly excluded those in families of mixed-immigration status from receiving the one-time federal payments. In a mixed-immigration household, some tax filers or their children may use an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), which the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issues to those without social security numbers so that they can pay taxes. If anyone in the household uses an ITIN, no one in the household will qualify for the one-time federal payment, unless at least one spouse served in the military in 2019. This means that families with U.S. citizen children and authorized non-citizen workers are entirely excluded from federal stimulus payments,

WHEREAS, residents who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own are in dire need of modest assistance so that they can afford the basics. Given exclusions at the federal level, the DC Government must find local dollars to ensure that all DC residents get the help they need. Leaving any of our neighbors behind is morally wrong and antithetical to our professed values as a sanctuary city,

WHEREAS, Events DC's \$5 million investment in cash assistance for undocumented residents is woefully inadequate; much more is needed. The current investment will not reach approximately 25,000 of DC's excluded workers, while the \$1,000 benefit is not enough to sustain families during an economic crisis that will span for many more months. Additionally, unfortunately, this limited fund does not cover non-immigrant cash economy workers at all,

WHEREAS, DC can afford to protect all of DC's excluded workers DC through using our reserves, raising additional revenue, or re-allocating non-essential funding. When assessing the actual needs of all of DC's excluded workers, \$30 million is a modest ask

compared to \$250 million if DC were to provide comparable cash assistance to workers in the formal economy, and

WHEREAS, the city can afford to fund a temporary program to help stabilize families that call DC home. Before the pandemic began, DC had \$1.43 billion dollars in reserves, and under the newly-passed relief legislation, DC can borrow \$500 million in the 2020 fiscal year to help us meet cash flow needs and stay afloat. This better enables the DC Government to provide more adequate assistance for excluded workers beyond the funding that Events DC announced. The Mayor's budget uses the entire \$213 million Fiscal Stabilization Fund, but the other three reserves appear to be refilled by year's end. District policymakers rightly discuss how great it is that the city has been able to build up its reserves for a rainy day. They should be just as proud to use reserves when a rainy day comes. That time is now.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council to reallocate money to support excluded workers in the Mayor's proposed budget that would have a limited effect on key services.

### **Administrative Matters**

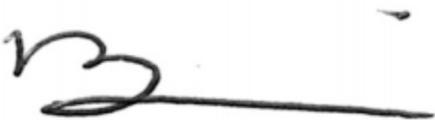
#### **Election of a New ANC Chairperson**

*The Commission delayed consideration of this matter until the ANC's regular July 2020 meeting.*

### **Adjournment**

Chair Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 11:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nicole Goldin', written over a horizontal line.

Nicole Goldin  
Secretary, ANC 2A02