



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 16th, 2022; 7:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Call to Order

Chair Jeri Epstein (06) called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Commissioners Yannik Omictin (01), Joel Causey (02), Trupti Patel (03), Donna Barbisch (04), Evelyn Hudson (05), Adam Friend (07), and Margaret McDonald (08) were present.

Discussion Regarding Community Guidelines

Commissioner Omictin gave an overview of the community guidelines for ANC meetings.

Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Causey made a motion to adopt the ANC’s meeting agenda. Commissioner Friend seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Adoption of Past Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Hudson made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular January 2022 meeting minutes. Commissioner Barbisch seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Community Forum

Report from the Metropolitan Police Department’s PSA 207

Lieutenant Bredet Williams, 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

No one was present regarding this matter.

Report from the Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto

Pablo Velasco Rodriguez, the Constituent Services Coordinator for Councilmember Brooke Pinto’s Office, gave updates from the Councilmember’s Office.

Report from the District Department of Transportation

Donovan Boyd, the Ward 2 Community Engagement Specialist for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), gave updates from the agency.

Commissioner Updates

Commissioners Hudson, McDonald, Omicini, Barbisch, and Friend gave commissioner updates.

Announcements and Public Comments

A local resident made announcements and public comments.

Update Regarding Ward 2 ANC Redistricting

Barbara Kahlow and James Harnett, members of the Ward 2 ANC Redistricting Task Force, gave updates regarding the Ward 2 ANC redistricting process.

General Agenda

Update from the Office of Campaign Finance

No one was present regarding this matter.

Update from Reverend Wendy Hamilton

Reverend Wendy Hamilton gave updates regarding her advocacy on behalf of DC residents.

Presentation Regarding Upcoming Renovations to the American Institute of Architects' Headquarters Building at 1735 New York Avenue NW

Conor Dunn, an Associate Architect and Project Manager for EHDD, and Carl Holden, an Architect for Hartman-Cox Architects, gave a presentation regarding upcoming renovations to the American Institute of Architects' headquarters building at 1735 New York Avenue NW.

Update from DC Health Regarding COVID Protocols

Ivan Torres, a Language Access Coordinator for DC Health, gave an overview of DC's COVID protocols.

Matters Before the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration

ExPat – Application for a New Retailer's Class "C" Tavern License at 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Benjamin Sislen, the Chief Executive Officer of ExPat Hospitality, gave an overview of ExPat's alcoholic beverage license application for 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

The Commission delayed action regarding the matter until the ANC's regular March 2022 meeting.

Matters Before the Public Space Committee

Public Space Application by the Federal Reserve Board for Streetscape Improvements, Including Utility Service Connections, Site Security Upgrades, Accessibility and Landscape Enhancements, and Stormwater Best Management Practices, at 1951 Constitution Avenue NW

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

ANC 2A supports the Federal Reserve Board’s public space application for streetscape improvements at 1951 Constitution Avenue NW.

Public Space Application by the U.S. Department of State for Streetscape Improvements, Including Perimeter Security Upgrades, at 2201 C Street NW

The Commission delayed consideration of this matter until a future ANC meeting.

Public Space Application by Tatte Bakery & Café for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 Tables, 16 Seats, and 3 Umbrellas at 2129 I Street NW

Commissioner Friend made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Causey seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-1-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports Tatte Bakery & Café’s public space application for a new, un-enclosed sidewalk café at 2129 I Street NW.

Matters Before the District Department of Transportation

Establishment of an ANC Committee Regarding Potential Safe Transportation Infrastructure Changes in Foggy Bottom and the West End

The Commissioners and meeting attendees engaged in a discussion with Mr. Boyd regarding various DDOT matters in the neighborhood. Commissioner Barbisch stated that the ANC will hold a listening session with DDOT in the coming weeks.

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Matters Before the DC Council

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding DC Council Bill B24-0566 – the “Walk Without Worry Amendment Act of 2021”

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

WHEREAS, traffic-related deaths and injuries have risen sharply in the last several years, last year reaching their highest level [since 2008](#), in part due to dangerous infrastructure that prioritizes speedy automobile circulation over pedestrian safety,

WHEREAS, in response to this paradigm, Councilmember Nadeau and other Councilmembers introduced the [Walk Without Worry Amendment Act of 2021](#), which would require the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to take measures to prevent pedestrian injury by proactively adding safe transportation infrastructure to certain critical locations, such as near schools, Metrorail stations, and mid-block crosswalks, and

WHEREAS, there are at least [50 locations](#) in ANC 2A that fit the eligibility criteria laid out in the Walk Without Worry Amendment Act of 2021 for critical safety improvements for pedestrians, such as raised crosswalks, raised intersections, or continuous sidewalks.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the swift passage and implementation of the Walk Without Worry Amendment Act of 2021, reflecting the urgent need to build safe infrastructure within ANC 2A and across DC.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the DC Council’s Performance Oversight of the District Department of Transportation

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

WHEREAS, the use of electric scooters (e-scooters), when parked on sidewalks, can block access and create hazards for people who use wheelchairs and canes for vision assistance,

WHEREAS, a DC Council committee report summarizes that DC lacks a safe motorized bike and electric scooter culture, resulting in many users neglecting to follow important safety rules,

WHEREAS, the DC Council implemented the Shared Fleet Devices Amendment Act of 2020 on October 1, 2021 to address these issues,

WHEREAS, the DC Council instituted a requirement on locks on e-scooters in the fall of 2021, however this has created a new set of issues where they are locked in inappropriate spaces due to lax rules and regulations from the company side, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2A requests that the following recommendations be implemented in order to ensure safety and transparency with our residents, recommendations that the ANC believes are necessary in order to maintain trust and agency accountability:

- A. Require Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps to be classified as no-lock zones,

- B. Install more bike and e-scooter corrals around the city,
- C. Require micromobility companies to prioritize the feedback of DC residents and complaints lodged with the companies, and
- D. Establish a centralized database to report and track scooters parked incorrectly across e-scooter companies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council to implement the specific recommendations outlined in this resolution so that pedestrians are safe.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the DC Council’s Performance Oversight of the Metropolitan Police Department

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

WHEREAS, in May 2021 ANC 2A voted 7-0-0 in favor of specific recommendations that the ANC put forward requesting that the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) prioritizes diversity, builds relationships with the community, and addresses issues facing law enforcement,

WHEREAS, an October 2021 lawsuit alleges that retributive actions were taken against individuals, a number of them being Black women and other officers, who came forward about mistreatment and sexual harassment occurring within MPD,

WHEREAS, a February 2022 lawsuit alleges that MPD has limited responses to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests in order to reduce the criticism and scrutiny of MPD from the media, legal professionals, ANC commissioners, and other individuals that inquire about the inner workings of MPD, placing certain individuals on a “black list” and violating the spirit of the law for FOIA obligations, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2A requests that the following recommendations from the DC Police Reform Commission report are implemented in order to restore transparency with our community partners, recommendations that the ANC believes are necessary in order to maintain trust and agency accountability:

- A. Create a public advisory board for MPD,
- B. Establish a strong internal audit function,
- C. Create a Deputy Auditor for Public Safety position,
- D. Reduce racial disparities in the use of force, and
- E. Ban the use of choke holds.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A encourages the DC Council to implement policies to promote a culture of transparency and equity within MPD.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council to implement the DC Police Reform Commission's recommendations outlined in this resolution so that public faith is restored and MPD is more diverse, inclusive, ethical, responsible, and effective.

Matters Before the Executive Office of the Mayor

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Funding for Emergency Rental Assistance Programs

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

WHEREAS, for several consecutive fiscal years, DC budgets have only allocated around [\\$7 million annually](#) for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and around \$10 million total in overall eviction prevention efforts,

WHEREAS, the uneven economic recovery from the pandemic has resulted in an unexpected FY 2021 budget surplus of [\\$576 million](#) while tens of thousands of DC residents face eviction,

WHEREAS, the federally funded and locally administered STAY DC rental assistance program helped over [33,000 families](#) while it was operational, but still has unfulfilled applications, and

WHEREAS, the DC Government requested [additional funding](#) from the federal government to address the anticipated eviction crisis, and the unmet need after receiving federal assistance is approximately [\\$187.3 million](#).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests that the Mayor's Office and the DC Council use a portion of the FY 2021 surplus to cover the outstanding need in rental assistance, foregoing the automatic allocation of surplus funding to pay-as-you-go capital funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests that the Mayor's Office and the DC Council allocate at least \$187.3 million to emergency rental assistance programs in this budget cycle. Emergency rental assistance programs, such as the kind provided by DC's ERAP and DC's Homelessness Prevention Program, are among our most important collective defenses against evictions and homelessness.

Administrative Matters

Approval of Expenditures for the Overhaul of the ANC's Website

Chair Epstein made a motion to authorize expenditures up to \$2,500 for the overhaul of the ANC's website. Commissioner Causey seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-1-0).

Update Regarding the ANC's Officers

Chair Epstein announced that she is resigning as Chair at the end of the meeting.

Chair Epstein made a motion to elect Commissioner Causey as the ANC's new Chair. Commissioner Hudson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-2-1).

Commissioner Patel nominated Commissioner Omictin to serve as the ANC's new Vice Chair. Commissioner Barbisch nominated Commissioner Friend to serve as the ANC's new Vice Chair. A roll call vote was requested. The nominations were voted on and Commissioner Friend was elected (VOTES: 4 (Friend) - 3 (Omictin) - 1 (Abstain)). The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioners Omictin: Commissioner Omictin
Commissioner Causey: Abstain
Commissioner Patel: Commissioner Omictin
Commissioner Barbisch: Commissioner Friend
Commissioner Hudson: Commissioner Friend
Chair Epstein: Commissioner Friend
Commissioner Friend: Commissioner Friend
Commissioner McDonald: Commissioner Omictin

Adjournment

Chair Epstein adjourned the meeting at 10:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Yannik Omictin
Secretary, ANC 2A01