



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 21st, 2021; 7:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Call to Order

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

Adoption of the Agenda

Chair Epstein made a motion to adopt the ANC’s meeting agenda. Commissioner Causey seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Adoption of Past Meeting Minutes

Chair Epstein made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular March 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Barbisch seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

Community Forum

Remarks by Mayor Muriel Bowser Regarding Administration Priorities, Followed by a Discussion Regarding Community Concerns

Mayor Muriel Bowser, along with several DC Government agency directors, gave remarks regarding administration priorities and then engaged in a discussion with commissioners and meeting attendees regarding community concerns.

Report from the Metropolitan Police Department’s PSA 207

Commander Duncan Bedlion, the Commander of the Metropolitan Police Department’s (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

Report from the Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto

Barry Weise, the Legislative Director for Councilmember Brooke Pinto’s Office, and Brian Romanowski, the Constituent Services Coordinator for the councilmember’s office, gave updates from the councilmember’s office.

Commissioner Updates

Chair Epstein and Commissioners Omictin, Causey, Patel, and Friend gave commissioner updates.

Announcements and Public Comments

John George, the President of the Foggy Bottom Association (FBA); Cheryl Morse, a Consumer Outreach Specialist for the DC Office of the People’s Counsel (OPC); and Valca Valentine, a Consumer Services Outreach Specialist for OPC’s Water Services Division, gave announcements and public comments.

General Agenda

Update Regarding a Proposed Change in the DC Comprehensive Plan Designation for Columbia Plaza at 2400 Virginia Avenue NW

Meridith Moldenhauer, counsel for Columbia Plaza; Thomas Roberson, the Director of Capital Area Real Estate Services LLC; and Kingdon Gould, the Owner and Vice President of the Gould Property Company, gave an update regarding a proposed change in the DC Comprehensive Plan designation for Columbia Plaza at 2400 Virginia Avenue NW.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the District Department of Transportation’s Virginia Avenue NW Protected Bike Lanes Project

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

WHEREAS, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has requested comment from the public and ANC 2A on Notice of Intent (NOI) #21-01-PSD, which provides for [100 percent designs](#) of Virginia Avenue NW between Constitution Avenue and Rock Creek Park and Potomac Parkway NW, including two-way protected bike lanes, and

WHEREAS, coordination around loading management, ensuring negligible losses in the efficiency of vehicular circulation, the expansion of pedestrian safety improvements, access to Capital Bikeshare, and safe protected bicycle facilities were pursued between neighborhood and community stakeholders on the Virginia Avenue NW corridor, including cycling and safe street advocates, restaurants and liquor stores with loading needs, the Watergate residences, the Watergate Hotel, the Watergate office buildings, the National Park Service (NPS), and ANC 2A.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports the [100 percent designs](#) in this NOI as presented, with the following modifications:

1. Add a seamless painted transition to the 21st Street NW protected bike lanes, in the north and south directions, where they intersect with Virginia Avenue NW, modeled on what currently exists in these designs at the intersection with G Street NW, and
2. The closure of the 1700 block of Virginia Avenue NW to all vehicle traffic, as unanimously approved by the ANC in a resolution in May of 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A would like to reiterate its support for the following items already included in these concept designs:

1. That there is no net loss of parking spaces; in fact, more parking spaces are created, and
2. The signalization of the G Street and Virginia Avenue NW intersection, as called for in a [resolution](#) unanimously approved by the ANC in June of 2015.

Matters Before the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration

Logan Circle Liquors – Application to Transfer the Establishment’s Retailer’s Class “A” Liquor Store License to 2517 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

The Commission delayed consideration of this matter until the ANC’s special May 2021 meeting.

Matters Before the Historic Preservation Review Board

Historic Preservation Review Board Concept Application to Construct a Four-Story Rear Building at 2519-2523 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

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

ANC 2A does not oppose the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) concept application for 2519-2523 Pennsylvania Avenue NW and asks HPRB to carefully consider the community input regarding the application.

Matters Before the Mayor’s Special Events Task Group

Special Event Application for the Army Ten-Miler on October 10th, 2021

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

ANC 2A supports the special event application for the Army Ten-Miler on October 10th, 2021.

Matters Before the Mayor’s Office and DC Council

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Funding for the DC Essential Workers' Bill of Rights

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: 5-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, essential workers have risked their lives to keep all of us safe. It is critical that the DC Council allocate some of DC's \$2.5 billion in federal funds to improve the lives of the workers who risked their lives to keep our city operational,

WHEREAS, the recommendations outlined by labor and community groups in the DC Essential Workers Bill of Rights (EWBR) would ensure that essential workers receive increased pay and protections for the remainder of the pandemic and for any future emergencies,

WHEREAS, the DC Essential Workers Bill of Rights states that during a State of Emergency essential employers must provide 80 hours of sick leave to be used to isolate, quarantine, or take care of loved ones due to illness or childcare responsibilities related to school or daycare being closed due to the pandemic,

WHEREAS, the DC Essential Workers Bill of Rights states that during a State of Emergency an essential worker who earns less than \$100,000 per year would be provided with hazard pay, of \$3.00 per hour, for each pay period the essential worker works during the emergency,

WHEREAS, the DC Essential Workers Bill of Rights states that all essential workers will be provided with five days of paid bereavement leave by essential employers during a State of Emergency,

WHEREAS, the DC Essential Workers Bill of Rights states that essential workers that contract COVID-19 would be eligible for COVID-19 workers compensation. This decreases the burden on workers who would have had to prove that they contracted COVID-19 at work, which is exceedingly difficult if not impossible given the continued lack of regular COVID-19 testing and contact tracing by employers and public health officials, and

WHEREAS, employers have the responsibility to ensure workplace safety, so DC therefore must require employers to provide workers with quality personal protective equipment (PPE). Employers should also be obligated to adopt protective policies regarding airborne, droplet, and contact transmission. Workers should be able to and encouraged to quarantine due to exposure and/or stay at home while waiting for a test result without adverse employment action taken against them.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council and Mayor Bowser to implement the recommendations outlined in the DC Essential Workers Bill of Rights as articulated in this resolution. This would provide support, prevent abuse, and offer protections to DC's essential workers.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Funding for Excluded Workers

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: 5-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, in June of 2020 ANC 2A voted 6-0-0 in favor of \$30 million in funding for excluded workers. Events DC provided \$5 million and later the DC Council allotted \$9 million more. The \$14 million only allowed for a one-time payment of \$1,000 to excluded workers who have now been out of work for fourteen months,

WHEREAS, DC is home to over 30,000 residents – our neighbors, family members, community members, and workers who keep this city running – who cannot access federal assistance through unemployment insurance and/or the federal stimulus. DC’s FY 2022 budget must include cash assistance for those excluded by the federal government,

WHEREAS, excluded workers are overwhelmingly Black and immigrant residents who have also been among the hardest hit by COVID-19,

WHEREAS, the vast majority of excluded workers 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 because the pandemic has dragged on for over a year and \$1,000 is nowhere close to adequate to make up for fourteen months of unemployment or underemployment, and

WHEREAS, when assessing the actual needs of all of DC’s excluded workers, ANC 2A is asking Mayor Bower and the DC Council to allocate \$200 million in this year’s budget for financial assistance for excluded workers. This would allow each of the 13,000 workers served by the first round of funding to receive an additional \$12,000 each – \$1,000 per month for the first year of the pandemic – and allow approximately 1,900 additional excluded workers to receive this same sum.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges Mayor Bowser and the DC Council to prioritize direct financial support for excluded workers in the upcoming FY 2022 budget.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Funding for Permanent Supportive Housing Vouchers

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: 5-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the total number of unhoused residents is expected to rise in FY 2022, especially if pandemic-related supports end before the economy fully recovers,

WHEREAS, the tent encampment on E Street between 20th Street and 21st Street NW is one of the largest in DC and continues to grow,

WHEREAS, living in stable, healthy housing is a human right, and unhoused residents living in encampments and shelters are routinely subjected to unfair evictions, poor

sanitation, harassment, theft of belongings, unstable access to basic necessities, and other inhumane conditions,

WHEREAS, nearly 200 unhoused residents of DC passed away in 2020,

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services (DHS) informed residents participating in the Pandemic Emergency Program for Medically Vulnerable Individuals (PEP-V) that they would be transitioned from emergency shelter to sustained housing before the September 30th, 2021 closure of PEP-V facilities,

WHEREAS, DHS has informed PEP-V participants that there are no more available vouchers to assign to new individuals or families,

WHEREAS, in 2020 DC Housing Authority (DCHA) Director Tyrone Garrett testified that a significant portion of DCHA's housing portfolio was in dire need of repairs and maintenance, totaling \$2.2 billion in costs over the next 17 years, and

WHEREAS, the DC Auditor found that DCHA failed to complete timely repairs and left families in units with rampant lead hazards due in part to severe budget constraints.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A recommends that the following investments be included in DC's FY 2022 budget:

- At least \$96,126,983 to fund permanent supportive housing (PSH) vouchers for 2,761 eligible individuals and 432 eligible families experiencing chronic homelessness. As a program that pairs non-time limited vouchers with comprehensive case management and services, PSH is routinely regarded by experts as the best kind of housing and wraparound support for unhoused individuals and families facing high barriers to housing. This specific investment covers nearly all eligible recipients for vouchers according to the most current available data and would end homelessness for nearly all of DC's chronically unhoused.
- \$60,000,000 to fund public housing repairs. Ensuring that housing in DCHA's portfolio becomes a healthy and safe environment to inhabit keeps tenants housed stably.
- Maintain FY 2021 investments in DC's homeless street outreach programs to contact hard-to-reach unhoused individuals and ensure widespread access to the homeless services network.

Administrative Matters

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Causey made a motion to allocate \$12,000 in grants funding for the ANC's Humanitarian Grants Special Committee. Chair Epstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's FY 2021 Quarter 2 Financial Report

Chair Epstein made a motion to approve the ANC's FY 2021 Quarter 2 financial report. Commissioner Causey seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-0).

Adjournment

Chair Epstein adjourned the meeting at 12:07 am.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yannik Omictin', written over a light blue rectangular stamp.

Yannik Omictin
Secretary, ANC 2A01