



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 20th, 2021; 7:00 p.m.

In-Person – 2445 M Street NW, Conference Center

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), Evelyn Hudson (05), Adam Friend (07), and Margaret McDonald (08) were present.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Adoption of Past Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Causey made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular September 2021 minutes. Commissioner Friend 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

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

Report from the Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto

Victoria Casarrubias, the Executive Assistant and Scheduler for Councilmember Brooke Pinto’s Office, gave updates from the Councilmember’s Office.

Announcements and Public Comments

Commissioner Patel and John George, the President of the Foggy Bottom Association (FBA), gave announcements and public comments.

General Agenda

Update from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Regarding Funding from Boston Properties for Improvements to the Foggy Bottom-GWU Metrorail Station

Ann Chisholm, the DC Government Relations Officer for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), gave an update regarding funding from Boston Properties for improvements to the Foggy Bottom-GWU Metrorail station.

Update from the Friends of Francis Field Regarding Rebecca Coder Park

Gary Griffith, the President of the Friends of Francis Field, gave an update regarding Rebecca Coder Park.

Matters Before the District Department of Transportation

Consideration of a Resolution Supporting a Traffic Safety Assessment for the Intersection of Virginia Avenue and G Street NW

Commissioner Barbisch gave an update regarding a traffic safety assessment for the intersection of Virginia Avenue and G Street NW.

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Completion of Sidewalk Work on 23rd Street Between L Street and M Street NW

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

The sidewalk on 23rd Street between L Street and M Street NW is a principal route for people walking to the George Washington University's medical buildings on M Street NW and GW Hospital and for students at School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens who walk from the school on N Street NW to public transportation. The sidewalk on this block was only partially completed. ANC 2A supports completion of a safe sidewalk for persons of all ages and abilities.

Matters Before the Zoning Commission

Zoning Commission Application by Boston Properties for a Modification of Consequence to Zoning Commission Orders #06-110 and #06-120 at 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

The Commission delayed consideration of this matter until the ANC's regular November 2021 meeting.

General Agenda (Continued)

Update from GW Regarding the University's Dining Program

Kevin Days, GW's Director of Community Relations; Karen Zinn, GW's Associate Vice President of Business Services; and David Avitabile, counsel for GW, gave an update regarding the university's dining program.

Matters Before the Zoning Commission (Continued)

Zoning Commission Application by Hillel at The George Washington University for a Modification of Consequence to Zoning Commission Order #06-11P at 2300 H Street NW

Chair Epstein 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 Hillel at The George Washington University's Zoning Commission application for a modification of consequence to Zoning Commission Order #06-11P at 2300 H Street NW.

Matters Before the Historic Preservation Review Board

Historic Preservation Review Board Permit Application for a Third-Floor Addition at 2513 I Street NW

Commissioner Patel made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Friend 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 permit application for a third-floor addition at 2513 I Street NW.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Development Project at 2507 I Street NW

The Commission removed this matter from the ANC's meeting agenda.

Matters Before the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding DC's New Encampment Pilot Program

Commissioner Omicini 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:

WHEREAS, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS) has been [piloting a program](#) that accelerates disbursement of vouchers worth one year's rent to encampment residents at select sites, coupled with the permanent closure of those sites to any encampment in the future,

WHEREAS, two pilot program-targeted encampment sites, at 20th/21st Street and E Street NW and at Virginia Avenue and 25th Street NW, are located within the boundaries of ANC 2A,

WHEREAS, ANC 2A did not receive advance notice of the pilot's implementation,

WHEREAS, as part of this pilot program, homeless service providers in DC, including Miriam's Kitchen in ANC 2A, have been given an expanded role in the housing match process,

WHEREAS, [around half](#) of the individuals at the L Street NW and M Street NW sites had moved into housing at the time of the closure, some were offered hotel accommodations for several days, and others were still waiting for a voucher or unit when the closure began, and

WHEREAS, the trust of the unhoused is the most important currency of an agency or group seeking to assist this community, and it is nearly impossible to build trust when an individual is displaced by an agency without a stable place to go.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports the speedy progression of the [Housing First](#) approach associated with the pilot program, ensuring that every eligible encampment resident can access housing, and urges that all eligible individuals at a site should have access to housing by the time a pilot program encampment site is to be closed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests clarification from DMHHS on what portions of the housing process have been delegated to service providers like Miriam's Kitchen and Pathways to Housing, including whether pilot program units are being inspected solely by service providers rather than the DC Housing Authority (DCHA).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests information on what specific criteria make an individual eligible for pilot program-related housing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests that encampment residents who wish to be a part of the program and meet the criteria to receive pilot-program related housing be added to service providers' or DMHHS' list of eligible individuals.

Matters Before the Department of Human Services

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Comprehensive Changes to DC's Emergency Rental Assistance Programs

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:

WHEREAS, the STAY DC program has assisted nearly 20,000 households with their rent and utility payments, both for missed payments and future expenditures,

WHEREAS, the STAY DC program has also denied nearly 10,000 applications, with most denials on the basis of missing or insufficient documentation,

WHEREAS, technical problems, as well as the inaccessibility of the application in other languages, hampered STAY DC's success for the first few months of its rollout,

WHEREAS, the form continues to impose burdensome and time-consuming requirements on applicants, including:

- lengthy documentation requirements,
- unclear and subjective requirements for self-attestation of income, in particular for those working in the cash economy, and
- a complicated user interface that has deterred some from applying in the first place, with over 30,000 applications in draft form,

WHEREAS, STAY DC's federal funding has almost been exhausted, with \$55 million left in the program and a final date to apply set for October 27th, 2021,

WHEREAS, additional federal funding, collected from states that did not meet their emergency rental assistance goals, is not expected until at least February 2022,

WHEREAS, the eviction moratorium is lifting across DC, and thousands of renters may be threatened with eviction if they cannot access rental assistance money, and

WHEREAS, hundreds of eviction cases have already been filed, including some in ANC 2A, which has a significant amount of rent-controlled housing.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A strongly urges the Mayor and the DC Council to find additional monies in the absence of dedicated federal funds, for instance from the contingency reserves, to continue offering rental assistance to all who qualify until additional federal funds become available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests that the STAY DC portal remains open to allow tenants to apply in order to properly assess the full pandemic-related rental assistance need in DC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A strongly urges that rental assistance, provided either through STAY DC or the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), be expanded to cover debt on loans taken out to pay rent, tenants with rental debt on units they moved away from during the pandemic, and subtenants whose landlords do not cooperate with the application process.

Matters Before the DC Council

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding DC Council Bill B24-0215 – the “Sexual Harassment Data Collection and Reporting Act of 2021”

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, as introduced DC Council Bill B24-0215 would require DC Government agencies to collect data regarding the number of sexual harassment complaints that their employees raise as well as what the outcomes of such complaints are,

WHEREAS, it also requires the Office of Human Rights (OHR) to compile and submit an annual report to the DC Council and the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) regarding the data collected,

WHEREAS, “sexual harassment” includes any of the following:

- A. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or any other conduct of a sexual nature when any one of the following criteria is present:
 - a. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual’s employment, or
 - b. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for an employment decision affecting the individual, or
- B. Other conduct of a sexual nature that is severe or sufficiently pervasive as to alter an individual’s working conditions, or that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment,

WHEREAS, each calendar year beginning with the year in which this act takes effect, each agency’s Sexual Harassment Officer shall track how many sexual harassment complaints by the agency’s employees:

- A. have been reported,
- B. have been resolved by mediation,
- C. have been investigated,
- D. have been substantiated through investigation,
- E. have been deemed unsubstantiated through investigation,
- F. have resulted in administrative or disciplinary action against one or more individuals determined to have sexually harassed the complainant,
- G. have resulted in legal action,
- H. have resulted in a financial settlement, and
- I. are pending.

WHEREAS, by February 20 of each year, each Sexual Harassment Officer shall transmit all data that the Sexual Harassment Officer has collected regarding the preceding calendar year to OHR, and

WHEREAS, by March 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, OHR shall submit a report to the DC Council and OAG, including the data described in Section 3 of this act for each agency.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports DC Council Bill B24-0215 and encourages the DC Council to document the financial impact sexual harassment has on DC's workforce and on DC Government agencies in order to properly address the crises vulnerable workers face.

Administrative Matters

Approval of the ANC's FY 2021 Quarter 4 Financial Report

Commissioner Causey made a motion to approve the ANC's FY 2021 Quarter 4 financial report. Chair Epstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Second Approval of the ANC's FY 2022 Budget

Commissioner Causey made a motion to approve the ANC's FY 2022 budget. Chair Epstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

Adjournment

Chair Epstein adjourned the meeting at 10:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yannik Omictin', written in a cursive style.

Yannik Omictin
Secretary, ANC 2A01