



# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D

### Regular Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2017, 7:00 pm  
Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church  
2200 California Street NW

### Call to Order

Chair David Bender called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

### Establishment of Quorum

Commissioners David Bender (2D01) and Ellen Goldstein (2D02) were present, establishing a quorum. There were 22 residents and visitors in attendance.

### Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Goldstein moved to approve the meeting agenda. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

### Approval of September 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Goldstein moved to approve the September 18, 2017 meeting minutes. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

### New Business

#### Streetscape for Massachusetts Avenue NW (DDOT)

Allen Yang, an engineer for the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) Massachusetts Avenue NW Rehabilitation Project, gave an overview of the scope of the project. He said that the project will include streetscaping work, sidewalk improvements, and repaving of the roadway.

Mr. Yang announced that DDOT will be holding a public meeting regarding the project on Tuesday, October 24th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Friends Meeting of Washington, 2111 Florida Avenue NW. He encouraged local residents to attend the public meeting to learn more about the project.

Commissioner Goldstein asked how long the planning for the project has been underway. Mr. Yang said that planning for the project started in June of 2017. He said that the project team started by conducting extensive surveying and that the team is now developing the project proposal.

## Administrative and Financial Matters

### Commissioner Comments

Chair Bender said that there have been ongoing email conversations between residents who live in the area near the Islamic Center of Washington and have concerns about the lack of street parking in the area during times of prayer. He said that the lack of parking enforcement is contributing to the problem. He added that he will be sending the community's concerns to the neighborhood's representative in the Mayor's Office.

### Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Goldstein said that the current balance of the ANC's checking account is \$9,839.16.

Commissioner Goldstein moved to approve a \$300 check to Peter Sacco, the ANC's Administrative Coordinator, for administrative services he performed during the months of July, August, and September of 2017. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

### Approval of the FY 2018 Budget

Chair Bender moved to approve the ANC's proposed FY 2018 budget. Commissioner Goldstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

### Commissioner Comments (Continued)

Commissioner Goldstein moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the need to address the abandoned properties of foreign missions in the neighborhood. Chair Bender seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, many abandoned embassy properties throughout the city, but especially in ANC 2D, have deteriorated for years and years — often decades — with no recourse for surrounding residential neighbors,

WHEREAS, most of these properties pose serious threats to neighbors as they contain trash, overgrown weeds and plantings, and rodents, and too often become encampments or gathering places for unwelcome individuals,

WHEREAS, these properties also threaten neighbors because they contain unmonitored and neglected electrical and plumbing systems, and other hazards found in long-abandoned properties,

WHEREAS, these properties, because of their damaged and vulnerable structures, not only create eyesores, but also threaten important architectural treasures from our city's history, as well as neighborhood housing values,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of State has been slow to act when it comes to effectively addressing the serious quality of life problems posed by abandoned embassy property to DC residential neighborhoods,

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton has called for public attention to this problem and has requested a meeting with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to discuss these concerns and to provide more accountability, and

WHEREAS, DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson has introduced legislation that calls for the city to create and maintain a list or inventory of abandoned foreign mission property.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2D commends the efforts of Congresswoman Norton and Chairman Mendelson and urges them to continue to demand accountability and significant progress on the matter of abandoned foreign mission property in the District of Columbia so that all residents can enjoy our U.S. Capital City, where foreign missions live up to the same standards required of all property owners in the District of Columbia — and as they are required to do in other major world capitals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2D asks that Mayor Muriel Bowser use the power of her office to appoint a special official to work on behalf of our neighborhoods to press the U.S. Department of State to remember that foreign missions exist in DC residential neighborhoods and to demand that they meet the highest standards for their properties.

## **DC Government Reports**

### **Metropolitan Police Department (PSA 208)**

Sgt. Miguel Rodriguezgil, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District ([miguela.rodriguezgil@dc.gov](mailto:miguela.rodriguezgil@dc.gov)), gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood. He said that there has been a recent spike in property thefts, specifically thefts from automobiles, in the neighborhood. He encouraged meeting attendees to not leave any valuables in their cars.

Commissioner Goldstein said that she has noticed a lot of broken glass from car break-ins on the ground on the lower part of Phelps Place NW. Sgt. Rodriguezgil said that MPD believes that local residents are not reporting all of the thefts that occur in the neighborhood. He encouraged residents to report any thefts to MPD.

Chair Bender said that the traffic officer who used to ticket speeding drivers coming off of Taft Bridge has not been present in a while. Sgt. Rodriguezgil said that he would talk to Lt. Jerome Merrill about the matter.

## Mayor's Office

Chair Bender said that Jerry Chapin, the neighborhood's representative in the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), is not present due to an illness.

## Councilmember Jack Evans' Office

Joe Florio, a representative for Councilmember Jack Evans' Office ([jflorio@dccouncil.us](mailto:jflorio@dccouncil.us)), introduced himself to meeting attendees. He gave an overview of DDOT's current dockless bikeshare demonstration period. He said that the Councilmember's office encourages local residents to send any feedback regarding the demonstration period to the office.

Mr. Florio said that the DC Council recently passed emergency legislation that would allow restaurants to choose to allow dogs to enter the restaurants' outdoor patios.

Commissioner Goldstein said that she is concerned about how dockless bikes are being left in ways that block the public right-of-way, such as in the middle of the sidewalk.

A local resident asked for an overview of how the dockless bikes work. Mr. Florio said that users download apps from the dockless bikeshare companies onto their smartphone, enter their credit card information, and then use the app to unlock a bike found anywhere on the street.

## The Office of the People's Council

Cheryl Morse, a Consumer Outreach Specialist for the Office of the People's Counsel (OPC) ([cmorse@opc-dc.gov](mailto:cmorse@opc-dc.gov)), gave an overview of OPC. She said that the office is an advocate for utility customers in DC. She said that she serves as the neighborhood's representative in OPC.

Ms. Morse distributed several OPC materials to meeting attendees, including a consumer's guide to third party utility suppliers. She said that the guide includes tips for how local residents can respond to any third party utility supplier solicitations that they may receive.

Ms. Morse gave an overview of Washington Gas' PROJECTpipes project. She said that she has received many complaints about the low-quality work that is being performed as part of the project, especially in the city's historic districts. She said that, as part of the project, Washington Gas is also relocating the gas meters of many homes to the exterior of the homes. She added that she has also received complaints about the low-quality work that is being performed as part of the meter relocations.

Ms. Morse said that Pepco will soon be submitting an application to DC's Public Service Commission (PSC) for a new rate increase.

Mr. Morse gave an overview of Washington Gas' proposed merger with AltaGas, a Canadian company. She gave an overview of the public benefits that Washington Gas is proposing as part

of the merger application. She said that PSC will be holding upcoming community hearings regarding the proposed merger.

### Councilmember Robert White's Office

Luz Martínez, a representative for Councilmember Robert White's Office ([lmartinez@dccouncil.us](mailto:lmartinez@dccouncil.us)), said that the Councilmember's office does not receive many phone calls from Ward 2 residents regarding issues in the ward. She thus encouraged local residents to reach out to the Councilmember's office if they have any issues that need to be addressed.

Ms. Martínez said that Councilmember White's priorities include education, workforce development, affordable housing, and returning citizens. She gave an overview of the legislation that the Councilmember has introduced during the current DC Council session.

### Old Business

#### Street Musicians Unreasonable Sound Levels

Chair Bender moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Goldstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2D supports the efforts of the broad-based coalition of stakeholders, including residents, business owners, workers, restaurants, and other stakeholders, impacted by the unreasonable sound levels of street musicians (buskers), which prevent nearby residents and workers from enjoying their homes and places of business.

### New Business (Continued)

#### Myanmar Military Attaché - 2300 California Street NW

Chair Bender said that the U.S. Department of State is investigating the reported electrical safety issues at the Myanmar Military Attaché building at 2300 California Street NW.

#### Open Door Market ABRA Renewal Application

Chair Bender moved to support Open Door Market's application to renew the establishment's Retailer's Class "B" license. Commissioner Goldstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2D supports Open Door Market's application to renew the establishment's Retailer's Class "B" license at 2160 California Street NW.

### Open Comments

*There were not any open comments.*

## **Announcements**

Audrey Nevitt, a board member for the Friends of Mitchell Park, invited meeting attendees to the organization's Halloween party on Sunday, October 29th. She said that the party will take place in the park from 2:30 to 5:00 pm and that there will be a band, bake table, moon bounce, face painting, and pumpkin decorating.

A representative for the Washington Studio School gave an overview of the school's current lecture series on "Challenging the Boundaries of Perception."

Commissioner Goldstein announced that the neighborhood will be holding a party for UPS delivery man Kevin Downey, who is retiring after 28 years of serving the neighborhood. She said that the party will be on Tuesday, November 7th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at Mitchell Park, with the rain location being at the home of Marie Drissel at 2135 Bancroft Place NW.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

Chair Bender said that the ANC's next meeting will be on Monday, November 20th, 2017 at 7:00 pm at Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church, 2200 California Street NW.

## **Motion to Adjourn**

Chair Bender adjourned the meeting at 8:09 pm.