



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D**

Regular Meeting Agenda

Monday, October 7th, 2025; 7:00 p.m.

In-Person – St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 1830 Connecticut Avenue NW

Online via Zoom – <https://dc-gov.zoom.us/j/85998407966>

If you do not have a computer or access to the internet, you may join the meeting via phone at (301) 715-8592 or (646) 558-8656 with meeting ID 820 2765 4787 #.

Call to Order

Chair Feld called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Establishment of Quorum

Commissioners Robyn Lipton (2D01) and Carole Feld (2D02) were present, establishing a quorum.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Feld moved to approve the ANC's meeting agenda with a few changes: 1) Lt. Sakulich will be representing MPD, not Capt. Hamelin; 2) Reem Rayef will not be attending from WMATA; and 3) Mahesh Patel from the Platinum DC Club will also be attending along with Jeffrey Rueckgauer, 2B02@anc.dc.gov to discuss the Settlement Agreement Termination/Modification. Commissioner Lipton seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

St. Margaret's Rector Richard Weinberg

Commissioner Feld welcomed St. Margaret's Rector Richard Weinberg and expressed gratitude to St. Margaret's contribution to our community. She also thanked John Bello. Rector Weinberg noted that part of their mission is to serve our neighborhood. He also reminded people that their Rummage sale is on October 18 and is still taking donations until Oct. 10. It's pretty epic, has a great reputation and is St. Margaret's biggest fundraiser. Commission Feld mentioned that people come from all over to attend and not to miss.

Approval of September 8, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Chair Feld noted that we will delay approval of ANC2D September 2025 meeting minutes to the November 10 ANC2D meeting.

Administrative and Financial Matters

Commissioner's Comments

Chair Feld thanked our volunteer administrator Peter Sacco, St. Margaret's, especially Rector Weinberg and John Bello for their community service. She recognized and thanked community advocates for the work they do in supporting our community with a special thank you to fellow Commissioner Robyn Lipton for her service.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Lipton noted that the balance at the end of September was \$20,039.62

Approval of ANC 2D FY'26 Budget

Commissioner Lipton noted that next year's budget would be very similar to this year. Annual quarterly Allotment totals \$3,757.00. Annual bank interest is around \$200, therefore total receipts are \$3,957.00. Have a substantial balance, so there is generous cushion. She went on to detail the various expenses noting that we are fortunate to have a volunteer administrative assistant but can't assume it will be forever, so put a cushion in the budget. Total expenses would be \$8,600.00, ending in a deficit of \$4,643.00. But since we have a good deal of money in the checking account, the ending balance at the end of the year would be \$15,396.00.

After an opportunity for comment, Commissioner Lipton moved to approve the budget, Commissioner Feld, seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 2-0-0).

Government Reports

Chair Feld thanked our Govt. Liaisons for their time and support.

Mayor's Office

"Ty" Abilla, update on impact of shutdown, the budget, collaboration between federal law enforcement and MPD, ICE activities and the National Guard

Talent Capitol Initiative: Oct 1. Mayor Workforce Economic Development Leaders and Employer Higher Education and Non-Profit Partners unveiled the "Talent Capitol Initiative." Website powered by local tech companies, offers ai driven career navigation and support services, great opportunity for unemployed or furloughed former federal workers, and other DC residents.

Ward 8 Advanced Tech Center: Oct. 2 Mayor joined Bloomberg Philanthropies in launching a new Ward 8 Advanced Tech Center, available districtwide for Healthcare employment and apprenticeship for high school students to gain experience for high level healthcare careers.

DC's 2025 Employment Summit: Tomorrow MLK library, office of disability rights will cohost DC's 2025 Employment Summit.

Shutdown. No new updates. Partnership with Fed agencies (FBI, ATF, MPD) continues as it existed prior to the federal crisis. Partnership excludes ICE, National Guard and Homeland Security. If you see any type of bad interaction impeding someone's rights, flag it to MPD, they have a complaint platform. Photos are helpful. Share info with Ty too. National Guard staying until Nov. 29. Ty said still TBD re: getting money back from Congress, Councilmember's office may have more info. Chair Feld thanked Ty for her service and support.

Councilmember's Office

Brian Romanoski, Councilmember Pinto's office provided an update on impact of shutdown, on budget, National Guard, ICE activities in the city, Tranquility bill and other issues.

Shutdown: Local govt. work shouldn't be impacted. Major impact already hurting local economy including retail, restaurants, tourism, museums, park trash buildup, etc. Council passed emergency legislation for mayor's office to issue marriage licenses. If facing hardships navigating many areas and services from the local govt.--contact our office re: local services. Pinto meeting with members of Congress to stop bills affecting home rule from passing.

Other DC Business: Voted to approve RFK stadium deal, 13% salary increase for MPD and recruits; extending the juvenile curfew postponed until later this month. Pinto remains focusing on public safety --911 call center still having issues. DPW leaf collection starts first Monday of Nov. 3, like previous years. 4 Diff. zones; not to be confused with ANC numbers, if you already have trash collection from the city. Private buildings should have private collection. Have option of Bagging in paper bags before Nov. 3 but need to schedule 311 for yard refuse collection. Long service window for bag pickup: 14 biz days. DDOT Permanent Streeteries regulations going into effect soon, most or all will go away. Dupont Deckover --check the project website for updates. Dupont Circle metro elevator was replaced. Escalator work is still going on will be completed next fall. Money taken by Congress last fiscal year is going into DC's reserves.

Residential Tranquility Act Update. Still confirming info. Believe the Council has passed enough versions of it that it is still in effect. ANC2D neighbors and Comm. Lipton noted that there were people with amplified noise devices outside the Chinese ambassador's residence, and the secret service were not stopping unattended noise devices. There is a problem in the law defining "What is discretionary and 'unattended'." Comm. Lipton asked if there was a written policy on what is "unattended" and "discretionary." Chair Feld reminded Brian that the ANC and neighborhood advocates had specifically asked for "unattended" to be defined in the legislation. Brian noted that one of the residential tranquility bills would become law November 8. Noted that there are many versions, with different dates and will get back to us. Chair Feld suggested that there should be training for MPD and any other enforcers of the law on the definition of "unattended." Also, need clarification on when the MPD should be coming out to enforce the law. Later in the meeting, Brian noted that there is no gap with the Residential Tranquility Bill temporary legislation, it is still active until January 1, 2026, by which time the Congressional Review should be over and it made into law.

Councilmember Pinto running for Congress. Brian can't answer specific questions re: campaign. CM Pinto's current Term goes from Jan. 2025 to Jan. 2, 2029. If not elected to Congress would still be Councilmember until 2029. Does not have to vacate her seat to run.

Median strip on Connecticut Avenue from Florida to Columbia road, a neighbor asked if it would be eliminated, noted will get back and DDOT could answer.

Commissioner Feld thanked Brian for his service.

Metropolitan Police Department

Lt. Alexis Sakulich Metropolitan Police Department, representative for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District reported on Crime Report, RDO, Fed collaboration with MPD, ICE and other issues.

Crime: Two reported crimes. Down from 6 to 2. Thefts from autos, contractor truck equipment stolen on Leroy and 2100 block of Wyoming.

Platinum DC Club: Mandatory participation in RDO Reimbursable Detail Subsidy Program | ABCA.

- Requirement for club to employ off -duty MPD on Friday and Saturday nights.
- Platinum DC notes RDO hasn't been functioning for several years. Checking their records at-a-glance, RDO officers were provided 12 times in the past year out of 100+ requests
- Owner has made requests for officers as required, but they simply don't show up, and he gets no notice when officers are unavailable. Want to be let go of that requirement.
- Lt. Sakulich noted 5 Friday /6 Sat. clubs required to make the request to have RDOs. Friday total 12 clubs and Sat. 16 clubs, each RDO has a slot for two officers to work. Put request out in 2D first. Now don't have many MPD signing up for RDO, lots of other activities for MPD overtime plus regular shift.
- MPD provides coverage from midnight shift though not at the door. 1700 block of Connecticut. Always have an officer assigned at that block. RDO officer at the club would be only for that club, at the door and monitoring the club outside. If there is a problem would go inside will assist, but not primary security.
- Don Friedman said that having an RDO or not should not affect the security staffing at the club, since the club's own security should not change whether an RDO shows up.
- Marie Drissel asked the difference between RDO and club's security. RDO monitoring the club, making sure things are orderly. Not the primary security for the club at the night. Stationed outside of the club. Duties: RDO officer handles things related to a specific club. Other officers will still handle second district assignments are not tied down to that nightclub. RDO are an extra pair of eyes and muscle. Insurance would be the club to cover parttime RDO officers, will look into it and get back to you.
- Comm. Jeffrey Rueckgauer ANC2B noted that the RDOs are specific to an establishment. Are there to react in case a situation occurs outside or inside the premises. Two clubs could share an RDO. Have

heard a lot of issues with RDOs not being fulfilled. Would benefit from re-establishing neighborhood patrols with the same officers. RDOs are an expense, clubs are paying for them, even if they don't show up. Need to log when they don't have an officer. RDO early on used off duty officers from diff. jurisdictions. Didn't have MPD policing powers. Suggest reinstituting that and to give them police powers, if going to have RDO, need to have the officers there.

- Comm. Lipton noted that with its predecessor, had disturbances with the club, and asked Lt. Sukulich what the situation is now under the new ownership. Lt. Sukulich said she does not think there have been any issues with the club, which is a marked change from the past.

Residential Tranquility Act. Lt. Sukulich indicated that MPD Special Operations Division will handle any violations of sound if called. Will get back to us with their definition of "unattended."

Chair Feld thanked Lt. Sukulich for her service and for keeping us safe.

Traffic Safety Input (TSI) Updates from the District Department of Transportation

Christophe Wassmer was supposed to give an update on Traffic Safety, Input & Other Updates from the District Department of Transportation, including the Dupont Deck over, WMATA bus detour, and other business. Could not attend the meeting at the last minute due to scheduling conflict.

New Business/Old Business

Cameroon Embassy trash disposal Comm. Feld read update from Cliff Seagroves/St. Dept.

- Cameroon's Ministry of External Relations has informed our Embassy that it is dispatching a team to Washington to address this matter. thanks to the direct involvement of the U.S. Ambassador to Cameroon and his team
- At a minimum, the new structure in the back of the embassy appears to be an addition that requires the prior approval of both the Department of State's Office of Foreign Missions and the Foreign Missions Board of Zoning Adjustment. We will raise this new development with the Embassy of Cameroon.
- We will also reach out to the Department of Buildings. There is a slight misunderstanding. DOB personnel cannot normally enter the premises of a chancery, but they are free to make visual assessments from adjacent properties or public space.
- Will also flag for the U.S. Embassy in Cameroon the current state of the property.

Settlement Agreement Termination/Modification request by Dupont Eatery, Inc. t/a Platinum DC Club (1805 Connecticut Ave., NW). Richard Bianco, Mahesh Patel, Comm. Jeffrey Rueckgauer ANC2B 2B02@anc.dc.gov

- Owner Mahesh Patel introduced himself and his GM. Noted hire off-duty police officers. Own many clubs. Have training manuals. Don't advocate confrontation, works with the neighborhood; owns the building and plans to being here for the long haul. Do not sell and doesn't like renting places out.
- Door count is low: 100 people a week/ 20 people a day which is fine. Doesn't want a huge crowd in front. Prefer to have our own security staff trained his way than RDO, a lot easier and for insurance policies.
- Have full kitchen now and great food. Same with other clubs he owns such as Good Guys and Paper Moon. Indicated he dominates clubs in the area, not by the number of people but the quality and how he runs his establishments. Strong management team.
- Doing things different than the previous owners. Extended hours have worked with Good Guys at Glover Park.
- His attorney Richard Bianco noted on the legal side, his renewal procedurally is different from a standard renewal. This is different because of the amendment or termination of the voluntary settlement agreement that they are seeking. Requires them to attempt to meet with the concerned parties before September 30, 2025, the date the petition to terminate/amend was due to be filed. Sent a letter to the concerned parties on the Sept. 14, and there was not enough time to meet. Protest or consideration of the renewal plus the amendment petition can be considered in the ANC's ordinary course of business.

Procedurally, client inherited a settlement agreement from 2020 from the prior owner who was inexperienced and had some undeniable issues.

- Existing Settlement is an impediment to implement part of the new owner's program. Looking at three different areas to amend in the SA:
 - 1) Apply for expanded hours of operations. Want to expand hours of operation and hours of sale and service to serve lunch or brunch options, kitchen is a big part of his operation. Weekdays: 9:00 am to 3:00 am, hours of operation; 9:00 am to 2:00 am sales and service/ weekends: 9:00 am to 4:00 am hours of operation; 9:00 am to 3:00 am sales and service. No alcohol service during the extended hour
 - 2) Apply for the termination of the RDO. Problem creates an issue for us with security staffing. Must perform in house as if the RDO staff was there. Alternative will have an additional security staff to do the job of the RDO.
 - 3) Apply for use of second floor space: Has a COO for nightlife establishment. Ideally use that for the time being as an events space, for bookings for parties. Don't have the volume to support expansion into that space. Would like to use it on an as needed basis. Occupancy is 89. Underutilized. Don't have to get another liquor license. Could have food there and come back down.
- Bianco noted their idea is to ask for everything and then come to a compromise with the signatories of the SA.
- Owner indicated they are open to changes and open to working with the community.
- Don Friedman president of the SKNC, talked in his personal capacity, since the SKNC hadn't been able to meet with such short notice before this meeting. Appreciate the owner's effort, therefore not opposing the renewal of the license. Concerns re the requested amendments to the SA: S/K's mission is to preserve that character of the neighborhood. Community may be required to have the club, but not required to endorse an expansion, and disappointed about the timing of notification to change the SA agreement. Patel indicated that the late notice was a logistical issue, not intentional. Friedman indicated that they haven't had any opportunity to negotiate before this. Also, Friedman indicated that Patel bought the club with the Settlement Agreement. Patel discussed the longevity of the club and that times and owners change, and things need to change with the times.
- Commissioner Jeffrey Rueckgauer ANC2B discussed ANC procedural issues. Said that the establishment needs to submit a substantial change application (hours, occupancy and excusal from RDO) with ABCA. ANC can't vote on this until ABCA formerly notifies us and there is a public notification/placard on this. Owner can't change anything independently without ABCA's approval. A renewal is a renewal. Need to put in a "substantial change" placard before the ANC can vote on it. A powerful public conversation process would take place as well before the vote.
- Peter Sacco indicated that the ANC can respond to the renewal process before November 24.
- Commissioner Rueckgauer indicated why he found the request to the SA reasonable. 1) Hours: there are other establishments with the requested hours in 2B. 2) Second floor space: previously had several bars in that space, but promoters would be prohibited, the events would have to be curated. Also need to make sure that ABCA would allow the club to expand their license into that space, doesn't happen by default. 3) RDO: his advice is to use documentation of how many times officers did not show up, helps the argument, if MPD not able to deliver the goods, RDO is a wasted effort.
- Marie Drissel, former ANC Commissioner and neighborhood advocate had dealt with the former club owners. Personally, believes asking for a lot, has serious problems with another entrance to that building on Florida Ave. Mayor introduced legislation to have poker and blackjack, and will be a problem for the future for the neighbors, not matter what the club says it won't do. Also, indicated it was a problem that they weren't given proper notice. Other issues agree with Jeff on, but is concerned about a new entrance on Florida and getting into a different entity. Will be working with SKNC and the ANC.
- Owner Patel indicated that it wouldn't be another entrance/exist. Would use the existing entrance. Financially have seen a 20% decline in all business, this establishment has been slow in building. Long term goals are to work with the neighbors. Richard Bianco said that the introduction of a new entity would only be relevant if he was renting it to a new nightlife establishment that would need its own

entrance/exit. Current settlement does not exclude opening another establishment with another entity. If everyone is on the same page with permitting expansion, we would not need another entrance/exit.

- Commissioner Feld asked about working with promoters on the second space. Patel indicated doesn't like working with promoters. Right now, it's just storage, not the best use for the space, something we grow into. Good Guys has been voted best strip club in DC, took years to establish it, that's what we're about.
- Commissioner Feld indicated that the issue would be on the next ANC meeting and would investigate all procedures, etc. She thanked all for participating.

NOI WMATA & DDOT: Emergency no parking zone (ENP) east side of Florida Ave NW at Decatur Pl NW for temporary southbound D74 bus stop during the Deckover project detour. NOI# 25-207-CPD regarding reestablishment of Metrobus stops to support WMATA detour operations.

Commissioners Feld and Lipton explained the situation and asked for public comment. Chair Feld also talked about the bus stop on Mass Ave directly after crossing the bridge and Waterside Drive. Noted here was another accident. A bus hit a car, and WMATA said that it was just a nick. It is a dangerous situation and a traffic jam/safety situation. Chair Feld is going to request a traffic study on this.

There was no protest on the NOI. Comm. Lipton mentioned that there was a fact sheet available.

Announcements and Open Comment

- Mitchell Park 20th Annual Fall Fun Day, Sunday, October 26, 2pm to 5 pm
- St. Margaret's Rummage Sale, Oct. 18, 9am-2pm, donations accepted through Oct. 16, 8am-6pm

Date of Next Meeting

Chair Feld said the next meeting is Monday, November 10 and will take place at St. Margaret's or via zoom.

Adjournment

Chair Feld called the meeting over at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Feld, ANC2D Chair and Secretary.

