

**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B
(DUPONT CIRCLE)
#9 Dupont Circle, NW Washington DC 20036
Phone: 202-296-7333**

**PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, July 11th, 2001, 7:30 pm
St. Thomas Parish, 1772 Church Street, NW**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chair Vince Micone. The following commissioners were present and introduced themselves: David Jolliffe (2B03), Jeff Hopp (2B04), Doug Damron (2B05), Vince Micone, Chair (2B02), Irv Morgan (2B07), Marilyn Newton (2B06), and Norma Chaplain (2B01).

After thanking everyone for coming and noting that the MPD lieutenants had not yet arrived, the Chair proceeded to the first agenda issue.

1. Presentation by the Board of Elections and Ethics on the District's New Voting System

The Chair introduced Alice Miller, Executive Director of the Board of Elections and Ethics, who introduced her attendant staff. The new voting system is called the "optical scan system", and voting is done on the back and front of one ballot. If a person votes for more than the number of candidates specified on the ballot, then the voting machine will spit out the offending ballot in order for the voter to correct the error or ask for another ballot. Sample ballots were then handed out to those present and almost everyone participated in the demonstration. There followed a thoughtful question and answer period.

At this point the Chair proceeded to OPEN FORUM time and introduced Louise Ware who is working with DC Wayfind on a one year grant to help pedestrians and drivers better find their way around the city. DC Wayfind is seeking to expand the sign system and is asking for volunteers to go through targeted neighborhoods and point out sites that need to be included on the signs. Louise may be reached at 202-661-7584 and louise@dc.downtown.org

LOCAL POLICE and CRIME REPORTS.

Micone announced that Lt Groomes, who is Lieutenant in PSA 309, will be acting Lieutenant in PSA 308. He also announced that MPD is in the process of redrawing Public Safety Areas so that all Dupont Circle area will be in one PSA: this would mean that 17th street as it runs through ANC 2B would be in one PSA.

Sergeant Brett Parson, who is the Co-ordinator of the MPD Gay, Lesbian, Transgendered, and Bisexual Unit along with Sgt. Gainer, announced that his unit would be deployed at certain intervals out of the Dupont Circle Resource Center. He emphatically pointed out that the Resource Center would not be a 911 facility. Do not come expecting emergency assistance. He told everyone that he lived in the neighborhood and not to hesitate to call him at home to report a crime.

LT. Groomes, Lieutenant of PSA 309 and Acting Lieutenant in PSA 308 stated that a lot of crimes are not being reported. She then handed out to those who wanted them 2 x 5 cards on reporting a crime, especially a hate or bias crime.

She also talked of a new Power Shift that she will head that will get more officers out on the streets in certain areas to enforce laws. She emphasized that more officers are needed on the streets and that citizens should write to the Chief concerning this. George Britton of 21st Street who is head of Dupont Square Association said that Community Policing is not working in his neighborhood (2B02), police manpower is seriously deficient almost to the point of being nonexistent, and that he calls 911 about crimes, some of them car burglaries in progress, and does not get call backs even when he gives his name and address and says that he wants to be interviewed. He stated that P Street is an open air drug market; crack at one end of P Street and smack at the other.

Groomes response was that Lt. Parks would be informed of the carport on the alley off the 1400 block of Hopkins Street and that by the 28th of July Power Squads would be deployed on 14th and 17th Streets and P Street.

The Chair then moved that ANC 2B write a letter to the Chief and Commander Beach about the shift in Lieutenants and endorsing consolidating more of the Dupont Circle area into a single PSA. After a second by Commissioner Newton, the motion passed UNANIMOUSLY, there being no NAYS and no ABSTENTIONS and the AYES being UNANIMOUS.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair introduced the new representative from Jack Evans office Mr. Jeff Coudray and a representative from David Catania's Office. Clark Ray, the Neighborhood Service Coordinator for Ward 2 was also introduced.

2. A Proposal by the Golden Triangle BID for Newspaper Corrals
Stephanie Weisman, Director of Programming for the Golden Triangle BID gave an overview of her organizations goals. The Golden Triangle Business Improvement District covers a 38 block area between 16th and 21st Streets. The purpose of the GTBID is to try to keep a safe and friendly atmosphere in the area by handing out public safety pamphlets and to giving out information on restaurants and retail stores, maintaining 300 trash receptacles and several hundred cigarette receptacles and installing 200 bike racks. Violent crime is down 50% since 1998. The DC City Code regulates Newspaper boxes to three a block.
This is not enforced so that the GTBID took a voluntary approach with the print media on how to manage the number of newspaper boxes in one place. Participating in the program so far, are the Washington Post, the Washington Times and USA Today. Those not participating in the corrals will avoid those blocks where the corrals are located. Commissioner Morgan moved and Commissioner Damron seconded that the Dupont Circle ANC 2B endorse the proposal by the Golden Triangle BID to put newspaper boxes in corrals, Without OBJECTION the motion was APPROVED.

3. A Proposal by the Washington Area Bicyclists Association for New Bicycle Lanes.
Eric Gilliland of the WABA stated that his group had been working for a year with the DPW and the DDOT to devise a plan for bike lanes. The WABA had presented a report at the last ANC Meeting so that the Commissioners were familiar with its proposals Chair Micone stated at the outset that he had concerns with the changes in the number of lanes on 15th street but could support the concept of more bike lanes that do not take away traffic lanes. Comments from the audience contradicted some of the findings in the Bike Association's report. It was noted that 17th Street is quite congested with lots of truck double parking and a lot of stop and go traffic.
Micone moved that ANC 2B support the concept of bike lanes where possible and work with the DPW and DDOT in working out those plans with the exception of 17th street where bike lanes do not seem feasible. After a second by Commissioner Morgan the motion was approved UNANIMOUSLY, there being no NAYS and no ASTENTIONS and the AYES being UNANIMOUS.

4. Proposed Public Space Request for a Sidewalk Café for Fresh Fields at 1440 P Street NW (located in ANC 2F; adjacent to ANC 2B)

This is for comment only since the facility lies in adjoining ANC 2F. Comments from the Commissioners were that Fresh Fields is a responsible business and keeps their premises clean and that it is a tables and chairs permit only, no outside service. Fresh Fields has hired 10 additional employees to handle the outside setting. It was also stated that there is ample space (10feet) beyond the space that the sidewalk café would occupy for pedestrian traffic. The space will be delineated by terra cotta urns not by ropes and stanchions. ANC 2B took no position since this for comment only.

5. Request for a Substantial Change to ABC License #21211 for Peppers for the Purposes of Expansion to the Second Floor and Change of Capacity from 74 to 128 (2B05)

Chair Micone announced that Peppers had withdrawn their request for a substantial change and thanked Commissioner Damron for his hard work on this issue. Since the request for a substantial change was withdrawn, no action was necessary.

6. Proposed Voluntary Agreement to Address Neighborhood Issues Regarding the Renewal of the ABC License for Mansion on O Street/ HH Leonard Associates, CX (Club) #31564 (2B06)

The Chair introduced Stephen J. O'Brien, attorney for the Mansion on O Street who presented the Voluntary Agreement and stated that he thought it was the best agreement that the parties could reach. O'Brien thanked Commissioners Newton and Micone for their hard work on achieving the agreement. Chair Micone then informed the audience and the other commissioners of the salient portions of the agreement. The Agreement provides that the Applicant (Mansion on O Street) will serve alcoholic beverages only 208 days a year; Applicant shall not transfer its ABC license to any other party or any other location zoned residential; all events shall end by 11:30 p.m. on Sunday through Thursday nights and 1:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights, with the exception of New Years' Eve; no more than 200 persons can be present on the licensed premises at any one time and no representations shall be made that more than 200 can be accommodated; place, time and method of vendor deliveries was addressed; the size of vehicles and manner of unloading vehicles was covered; no live or recorded music or consumptions of alcoholic beverages outside of the premises is allowed; signs at the exits

of the applicants premises shall be maintained stating "This is a residential neighborhood – Please exit quietly."; if there are more than 30 persons at a function, Applicant shall station a staff member at the entrance to its premises to ensure that members and guests enter and exit in an orderly manner and disperse immediately upon exit; manner of disposing of and collecting trash was addressed; parking issues were addressed; Holiday decoration lighting was also addressed and a contact person for neighbors to reach was established.

Micone stated that he believed that a new era of understanding between the Mansion on O Street and the neighbors had been reached, he then moved that ANC 2B authorize him to sign the Voluntary Agreement on behalf of ANC 2B subject to legal review by the ANC's attorney. Upon a second by Commissioner Hopp the motion passed UNANIMOUSLY, there being no NAYS, no ABSTENTIONS, and the AYES being UNANIMOUS.

7. Proposed Public Space Request for Driveways at 1750 Massachusetts Ave., NW (2B07)

Present were Gretchen M. Dudney, Senior Vice President and Director of Development of The Kaempfer Company; John Todd Stewart, Deputy Director of the Institute for International Economics, prospective tenant of the new building and Allison C. Prince an attorney with Shaw and Pittman, representing the applicant. The attorney went over the history of the project and the actions of the prior ANC. She also stated that the proposed driveway cuts for the circular drive had always been apart of the plans for the site and that the proposal had been approved by the DCCA. After reviewing the record, Chair Micone noted that the former ANC did not protest the proposed use of a public space for driveway cuts and there were no written objections. It was further stated by the Applicants that since tenant would own and occupy the building, tenants could control parking on driveway, use of building and deliveries. There was some objection from the audience concerning the loss of parking and the "ugliness" of the building but, there were also comments from Commissioners that taking deliveries off the street and providing some parking on the driveway would relieve congestion on Massachusetts Ave. Commissioner Hopp after an earlier misstated motion moved with the consent of the seconder that ANC 2B approve the public space request for two curb cuts at 1750 Massachusetts Ave., NW. Upon a second by Commissioner Jolliffe the motion PASSED there being no NAYS, one ABSTENTION, and 6 AYES.

Commission Administrative Matters.

The Commission approved the February 7th, 2001 Public Meeting Minutes after amendments were made and accepted. The minutes of the May 30th, 2001 Special Public Meeting and the minutes of the June 13th, 2001, Public Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioners' Chaplain, Newton, Morgan and Damron had no reports. Chair Micone reported that there would be no Public Safety Meetings in July and thanked Commissioner Newton for her hard work on the Mansion on O Street Voluntary Agreement. Commissioner Jolliffe reported that there were trash and rodent problems at 1633 Q Street (corner of Q and 17th Streets) but that he was working on this.

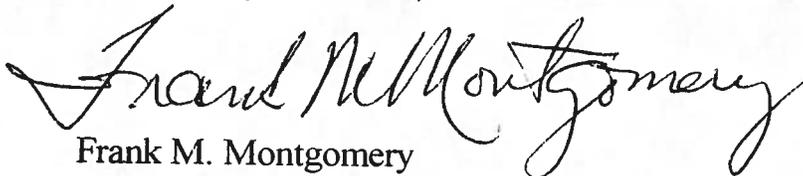
There was no OLD or NEW Business.

In response to questions from the audience it was noted that the implementation of the Parking Task Force Report was on going and questions concerning it should be addressed to Gwen Mitchell.

Mention was also made of Council Member Patterson's bill to allow parking in both wards when part of a ward had been redistricted into another ward. This would be detrimental to Ward 2. Chair Micone stated he was aware of this and would be in contact with Council Members Patterson and Evans on this.

There being no further business before the ANC 2B's Public Meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank M. Montgomery
Executive Director
ANC 2B