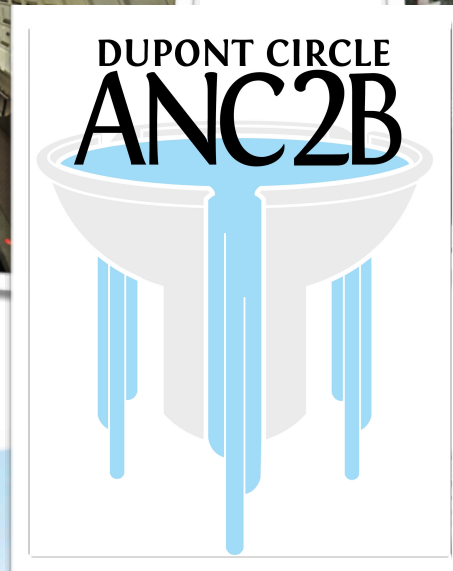




# Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2B)

## Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2010



Approved by ANC 2B on March 9, 2011  
Submitted to the D.C. Council

# Purpose

This Annual Report provides a snapshot for the community of the activities, key decisions, and finances of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2B) from October 2009 through September 2010.



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# Who We Are

## **Elected Representatives**

We are your grassroots elected neighborhood representatives. Each Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner represents a Single Member District (SMD) of approximately 2,000 residents, made up of several city blocks. As a 9-member Commission, we represent roughly 20,000 residents in the Dupont Circle area. We are elected every two years in the general November election.

## **Voice of the Neighborhood**

The Commission has the authority to weigh in on infrastructure and development projects, public policy issues, and regulatory applications -- such as alcoholic beverage licenses, historic preservation review, and zoning requests. We do not create laws or make final rulings, but the Commission's positions and decisions are to be given "great weight" by all city agencies and boards.

## **Liaisons to City Officials**

ANCs were created in part to improve constituent services in the District. If residents or businesses in the neighborhood need assistance getting a hold of the appropriate District official to solve a problem, we can help.

## **Community Partners**

The Commission works closely with a host of neighborhood-based organizations -- such as the Dupont Circle Village, Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets, the Dupont Circle Conservancy, and the Dupont Circle Citizens Association -- to coordinate events and community-building activities throughout the year.



Meet the nine Commissioners who served on ANC 2B during FY 2010:



**Mike Feldstein (2B01)**  
Vice Chair from June 2010 -



**Bhavna Patel (2B02)**



**Bob Meehan (2B03)**



**Jack Jacobson (2B04)**  
Treasurer



**Victor Wexler (2B05)**



**Mike Silverstein (2B06)**  
Chair through May 2010



**Phil Carney (2B07)**  
Secretary



**Will Stephens (2B08)**  
Vice Chair 2009-2010  
Chair from May 2010 -



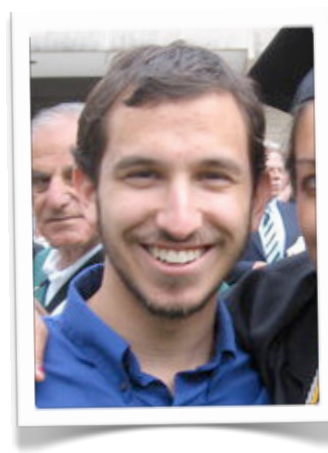
**Ramon Estrada (2B09)**



Meet the staff who served the Commission in FY 2010:



**Freddie Blicher**  
Executive Director  
(2004 - present)

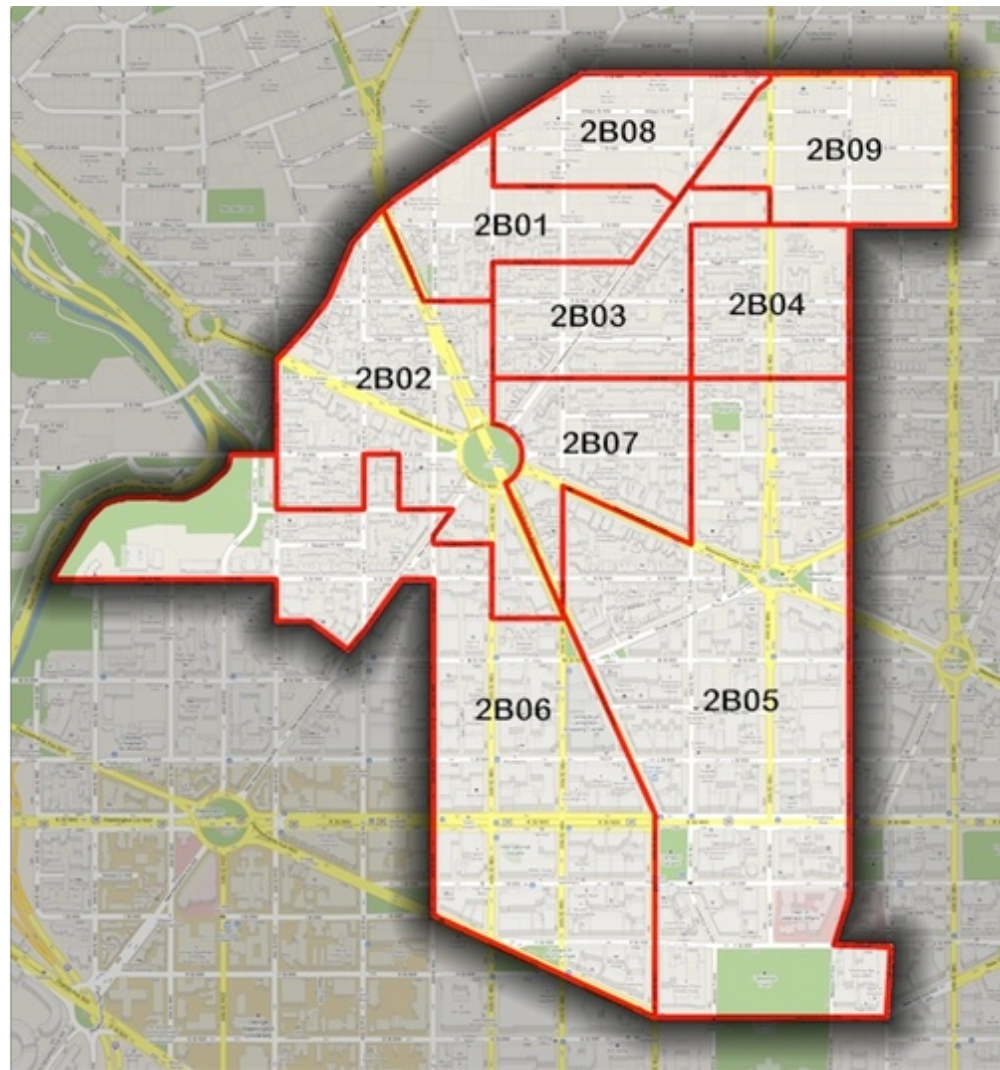


**Chris Andrews**  
Public Policy Intern  
(2009 - 2010)

Our **Executive Director** keeps the ANC functioning smoothly, by preparing our agendas and minutes for publication, serving as our webmaster and information technology officer, directing constituent questions to Commissioners, and ensuring that our Commission opinions get to the appropriate District agencies and boards through formal letters.

Our **Public Policy Intern** helps us make more informed decisions, by keeping track of important developments in the Council and District boards, researching key issues, and surveying how other ANCs and cities tackle similar problems. In December 2009, the Commission voted to name the internship in honor of Desi Deschaine, our neighborhood constituent services representative from the office Ward 2 Council Member Jack Evans, who passed away suddenly in Summer 2009 at the age of 29. Beginning in FY 2011, the internship will carry with it a \$1500 stipend annually in memory of Desi.

# Our Neighborhood



**The Dupont Circle Neighborhood** reaches from Lafayette Square, in front of the White House, up to U Street, and from Rock Creek Park over to 14th Street. It is home to roughly 20,000 residents, 5 Historic Districts, mixed-use and commercial corridors, countless embassies and chanceries, non-profits and think tanks, several schools, a municipal pool, 2 of the city's busiest Metro stations, and over 250 liquor-licensed establishments -- including many of the District's most popular restaurants, bars, and clubs.

## What We Do

Each month, the Commission deals with a far-reaching and diverse set of issues and items. The following pages describe many of these from Fiscal Year 2010.

However, this report only provides a summary. Those wishing to learn more can visit our Commission's public website at [www.dupontcircleanc.net](http://www.dupontcircleanc.net), where we post notices, agendas, minutes, and other information in hopes of keeping the neighborhood informed.

The Commission takes official action as a group at our monthly public meetings. However, individual Commissioners also carry out invaluable work between these meetings, which we do not highlight or attempt to quantify in this report. This work includes meeting with local police officers, helping to plan neighborhood events, participating in public fora on key issues, testifying before District agencies or the Council, hosting small-group meetings to discuss construction and renovation projects, and negotiating agreements between the neighborhood and liquor-serving establishments. The single-handed efforts of a Commissioner to save a tree or get a curb repaired will benefit the neighborhood for years to come and represents the kind of grassroots activism that is an important part of our work, but that is difficult to capture in an Annual Report. Therefore, while the following pages describe a good deal of what we do, it is not the full story.



# Transportation & Infrastructure

## 17th Street & 18th Street Projects

The Commission worked closely with the DDOT, the Urban Forestry Administration (UFA), DC Water, and local businesses through countless meetings and walk-throughs to ensure these federally-funded projects had appropriate designs and specifications to meet the needs of residents and businesses, promoted safety and handicapped accessibility, were coordinated between agencies to avoid waste, and preserved and enhanced the tree canopy.



## Dupont Underground Trolley Station

The Commission worked for several months with the office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning & Economic Development to ensure appropriate community input on the proposed renovation and use of the old Dupont trolley station.

## Multi-Modal Transportation

The Commission supported installation of new bike lanes around the neighborhood, an upgraded transit corridor on K Street, dedicated bus lanes, a study on modern streetcar capability, and a “virtual tunnel” that would allow Metro riders to transfer between Farragut North and Farragut West stations at no cost.



## **S Street Dog Park**

The Commission held public meetings and worked with local NGO Circle Dogs and the Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) to establish guidelines and park management.



## **Public Notice of DDOT Projects**

After several significant projects caught residents by surprise, the Commission requested DDOT to provide greater public notice to residents and ANCs for upcoming projects.

## **Traffic Mitigation Measures**

The Commission supported a study of potential speedhump installation on the 1700 block of Riggs Place NW, as well as a neighborhood-wide study to assist in determining the potential effects of such speed mitigation measures.



## **Connecticut Ave.**

The Commission asked DDOT to study the feasibility of creating a green space over the Connecticut Avenue underpass between the Circle and Q Street NW and supported median installation and beautification projects both north and south of the Circle.

# Alcoholic Beverage Licensing

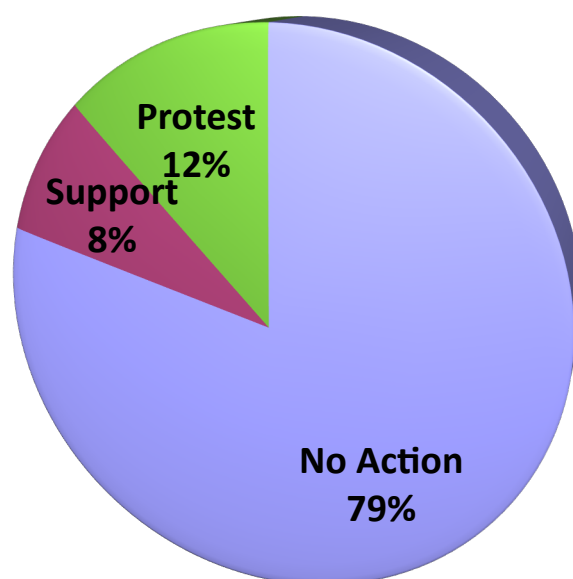
## **A Chief Focus Area for ANC 2B**

ANC 2B is home to over 250 liquor-licensed establishments, well more than any other ANC and representing over 20% of all such establishments in the District. A large percentage of our work thus deals with liquor license applications. New licenses, changes to existing licenses, and renewals come to us before going to the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board -- where our opinion is to be given "great weight." We may choose to support, protest, or take no action on an application. Or, if the application has multiple components, we may partially support or protest it.

## **By the Numbers**

While the Commission considers a very large number of applications per year, we take action on very few, and protest even fewer. The following charts show our actions on the 155 alcoholic beverage applications we saw in FY 2010:

**All FY 2010 Alcohol Applications**

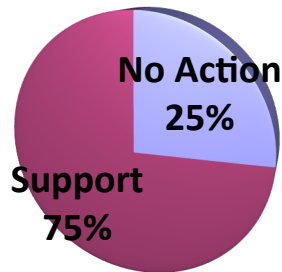




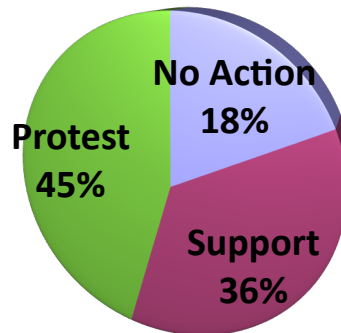
**License Renewals**



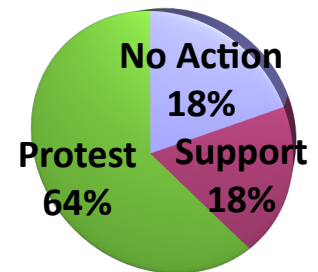
**VA Changes**



**Substantial Changes**



**New Licenses**



Some highlights from this data:

- We considered 155 total alcoholic beverage license applications
- We protested only 19 of those applications
- Of 116 renewal applications, we protested only 2
- We supported or took no action on all 4 requests to change VAs

### **Resolution of Protests**

Though we protested a total of 19 alcoholic beverage license applications in FY 2010, none of these protests resulted in the ANC carrying the protest through to final hearing before the ABC Board. Instead, the ANC was able to negotiate with establishments to amend the application, to enter into a Voluntary Agreement, or to otherwise resolve the issues that led to the protest.

### **ABRA Policy Committee**

In late 2009, the Commission established an ABRA Policy Committee to work on issues that are larger than any single application -- such as proposed amendments to the District's alcoholic beverage laws and regulations, public safety and noise issues related to over-saturation of late-night activity, guidelines for the Commission to follow on considering public space sidewalk cafe applications, and model language for Voluntary Agreements.

# Use of Public Space

## Public Space Sidewalk Cafes

Sidewalk cafes are a signature feature of the Dupont Circle neighborhood. Establishments rent the sidewalk cafe public space from the city, but must seek approval from DDOT, with ANC input. In FY 2010, we reviewed 4 public space applications for sidewalk cafes -- supporting 2 and protesting 2 due to concerns about pedestrian safety, handicapped access, and trash at those locations.



## Valet Parking Permits

As of 2009, valet parking that uses public space also requires a permit from DDOT. In FY 2010, we considered 25 valet parking applications. We supported 24. We opposed only 1, due to an inappropriate proposed staging area that would have caused severe traffic issues Dupont Circle.

## Other Public Space Permits

In addition, we considered 9 public space permits for other uses, including the Freshfarm Market (both the Dupont Circle and Vermont Ave locations) and the continuation of the DC2NY commuter bus location on the 1900 block of Mass. Ave. NW. We voted to support 8 applications, and we took no action on the remaining application.

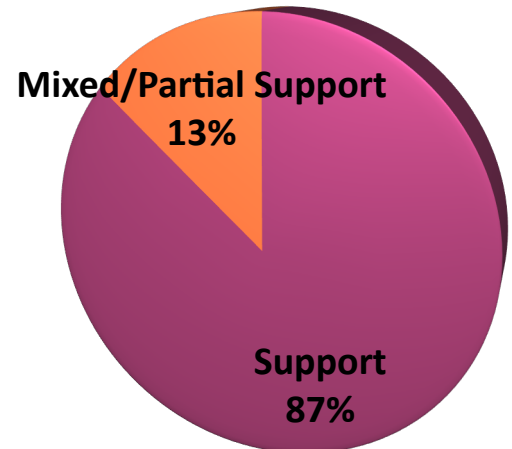


# Historic Preservation

## Applications to the HPRB

ANC 2B is home to parts of 5 different designated Historic Districts. As such, developers, business owners, and homeowners often must apply to the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) for approval of new construction or renovation in the neighborhood. The Commission hears and considers these applications in order to provide our “great weight” before the HPRB. We collaborate closely with the Dupont Circle Conservancy (DCC) on these issues, and frequently incorporate the DCC resolution into our own. We considered 15 HPRB applications during FY 2010, supporting 13 in full and making modifications or recommendations for change in only 2 applications. As the chart to the right shows, we supported almost 90% of the projects as presented.

**HPRB Applications in FY 2010**



## Historic District Regulations

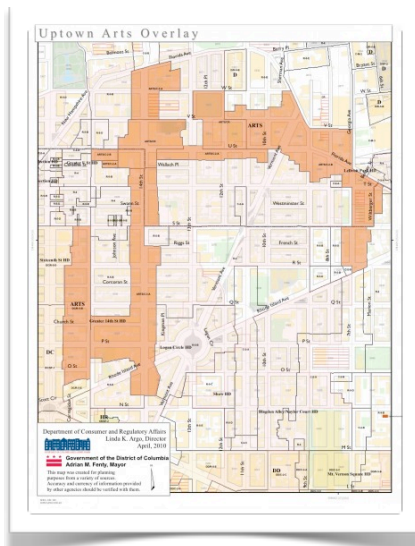
In addition to historic preservation applications for specific projects, the Commission voted to ensure that the proposed regulations for creating new Historic Districts afforded both pro- and anti- groups equal footing.



# Zoning

## **Zoning Variances & Special Exceptions**

When developers, residents, or businesses require relief from zoning requirements, they must apply to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA). The Commission hears these applications first, to provide our “great weight” to the BZA. In FY 2010, we heard a total of 9 requests for zoning relief, supporting all 9.



## **ARTS Overlay District**

The Commission also considered proposed amendments to the 14th Street / U Street ARTS Overlay regulations, which are intended to encourage various arts uses. We supported the recommendations of the Logan Circle neighborhood committee before the Zoning Commission to allow an increased percentage of street frontage for restaurants and bars, to calculate the limit block-per-block rather than along the whole corridor, and to eliminate restaurants as an eligible “arts” use.

## **Zoning, Preservation & Development Committee**

In FY 2010 we established a Zoning, Preservation, and Development Committee to keep track of zoning- and preservation-related issues in the Council and relevant boards and agencies, to recommend Commission action on policies and regulations that affect land use in the Dupont Circle area, and to organize training sessions on these important issues.

# Public Safety

## **Collaboration with Police**

The Commission works closely with our neighborhood police, served by PSA 208 under Lieutenant Scott Dignan. We invite MPD to report on crime and law enforcement at our public meetings, and Commissioners join community members at the PSA's monthly public safety meeting.



## **National Police Night Out**

The Commission supported the MPD's annual National Police Night Out, which was held for the second year on Dupont Circle itself, providing maximum visibility for the police and community members to get to know each other better.

## **P Street & "Club Central" Crime Issues**

The Commission hosted a series community meetings -- joined by ABRA, MPD, and other city officials -- on the crime increases related to the concentration of late-night activity in the area surrounding 19th & M Streets NW and the P Street corridor. As a way of mitigating public safety concerns, the Commission passed a resolution to look unfavorably on new alcoholic beverage license applications that would add to occupancy or capacity after midnight in the area south of the Circle, and well as to support taxi stands, among other proposals.



# Public Policy Issues

In addition to the specific categories described above, the Commission frequently weighs in on other public policy issues that affect the neighborhood, the Ward, or the District as a whole. We share these views with the Mayor, the D.C. Council, agency heads, our Congressional Representative, and others. In prior years, the Commission has supported legislation to provide tax benefits for the purchase of trash compactors and tax abatement measures for small businesses affected by city infrastructure projects. Below are two key examples of our public policy opinions from FY 2010.



## **Support for Marriage Equality**

In February 2009, our Commission was the first ANC to call for the D.C. Council to pass marriage equality legislation. Once legislation was introduced in FY 2010, we passed a resolution renewing our support, and several Commissioners testified before the Council in favor of

this historic civil rights bill, which went into effect in Spring 2010.

## **Vacant and Blighted Property Tax Increases**

The Commission supported legislation that would continue to impose a higher property tax on vacant property, along with blighted property, in order to provide property owners an incentive to make the property useful.





# Supporting Neighborhood Events

## Community Involvement Committee

In late 2009, we established a Community Involvement Committee, whose task is to coordinate with residents, businesses, and our many neighborhood organizations on meetings, activities, and events to celebrate the neighborhood and build social capital.



## Re-energizing Dupont Circle

The Commission provided critical support, contacts, and help with agency approvals to establish Dupont Festival, with the goal of breathing new life into our neighborhood's signature public park. In 2010, Dupont Festival included the successful Earth Day and Soccer in the Circle (left) events.

## Letters of Support

The Commission also provided letters of support for a wide range of events in and around Dupont Circle -- from the Pride Parade (right) to the High Heel Race, and from charity Marathons and Walk-a-Dog-a-thons to summer movies in Stead Park.

In addition, the Commission provided financial and logistical support for the new 17th Street Festival (above right), which celebrated the conclusion of the 17th Street "Streetscape" project with art, music, family fun, and food.



# Recognizing Neighborhood Contributions

## Recognition of Outstanding Individuals

The Commission recognized several individuals in FY 2010 for their leadership, commitment to the neighborhood, and outstanding contributions to our happiness and quality of life. These included:



- Requesting the designation of the 1900 block of Q Street NW as **Diego D'Ambrosio** Way in honor of Diego's decades of contribution to the neighborhood;
- Requesting the designation of a block of 17th Street NW as **Frank Kameny** Way to honor Dr. Kameny's pathbreaking LGBT rights work;
- Nominating former DCC president and long-time resident activist **Rick Busch** for the Historic Preservation award;
- Honoring Dupont Circle Snowball Fight organizers **Michael Lipin** and **Ami Greener** with our new Community Involvement Award;
- Honoring Soccer in the Circle co-chair **Aaron DeNu** with a Community Involvement Award;
- Providing a plaque to our neighborhood's iconic LGBT bookstore **Lambda Rising** upon their closing; and
- Recognizing the work of MPD **Sgt. John McDonald** for his many years of service to our Police Service Area, upon his promotion to Sgt. Detective in District 5.



### **Support for Dupont Circle Village**

In addition to recognizing individuals' contribution to the neighborhood, the Commission was able to provide critical support to the Dupont Circle Village organization -- which promotes events, programs, and assistance for residents to make it easier and more enjoyable to remain in the City as they get older. The D.C. Council had committed to provide \$25,000 in grant funding to the Village, but then cut out all such earmarks before final passage of the budget. Working with the Dupont Circle Citizens Association, the Commission was able to leverage \$25,000 in community amenities from the final settlement of a PUD (Planned Use Development) which the Commission had challenged several years earlier.

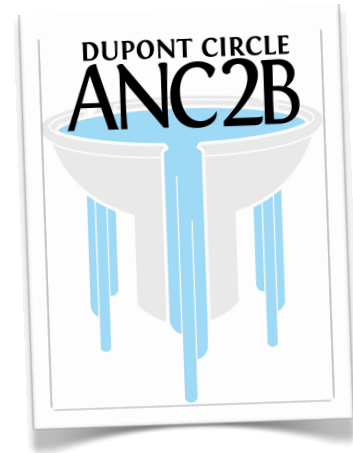
### **Desi Deschaine Memorial Public Policy Internship**

As mentioned previously, the Commission also established its Public Policy Internship position with a stipend in memory of Desi Deschaine, to begin in FY 2011.

# Institutional Development

## **New Logo and Website**

The Commission launched a revamped public website for the first time in over 7 years, designed by our Executive Director Freddie Blicher. We hope to make our new website a dynamic space where neighbors can find comprehensive information about the Commission and our work. The Commission also approved a new logo for the Commission, to go along with the official D.C. flag logo which indicates that we are a Government body. Designer Tracie Ching donated her services to create the logo (right).



## **Mike Silverstein to ABC Board**

In Spring 2010, our Chairperson Mike Silverstein, whose SMD has over 60 licensed establishments (more than any other in our ANC), was confirmed to serve on the ABC Board as a Ward 2 representative.

## **Other Institutional Developments**

The Commission also took on several other institutional development projects during FY 2010. As described above, the Commission established three committees to help keep track of the various issues we consider, and we established a named public policy internship position. In addition, the Commission continued to grow and improve its Policies and Procedures Manual, which the Commission uses as a guide for overall management and decision-making.



# Fiscal Year 2010 Finances

## **Funds Received**

We received almost all of our income from two sources. The first is our usual funding source, the D.C. Government, which provided a total of \$37,771.50 in distributions. We also received \$15,000 in reimbursement of our legal fees for the negotiation of neighborhood amenities as part of a PUD (Planned Unit Development) several years ago. Our remaining income of \$51.41 came from interest on our savings account.

## **Funds Spent**

The bulk of our funds were spent on salary and related expenses for our Executive Director. Other notable costs included \$2000 for several weeks of public information/advertisement space in the newly-relaunched Washington Blade. We spent a grand total of \$18,051.20. On the following page is a chart of our FY 2010 expenses, using the categories required by the D.C. Auditor's office.

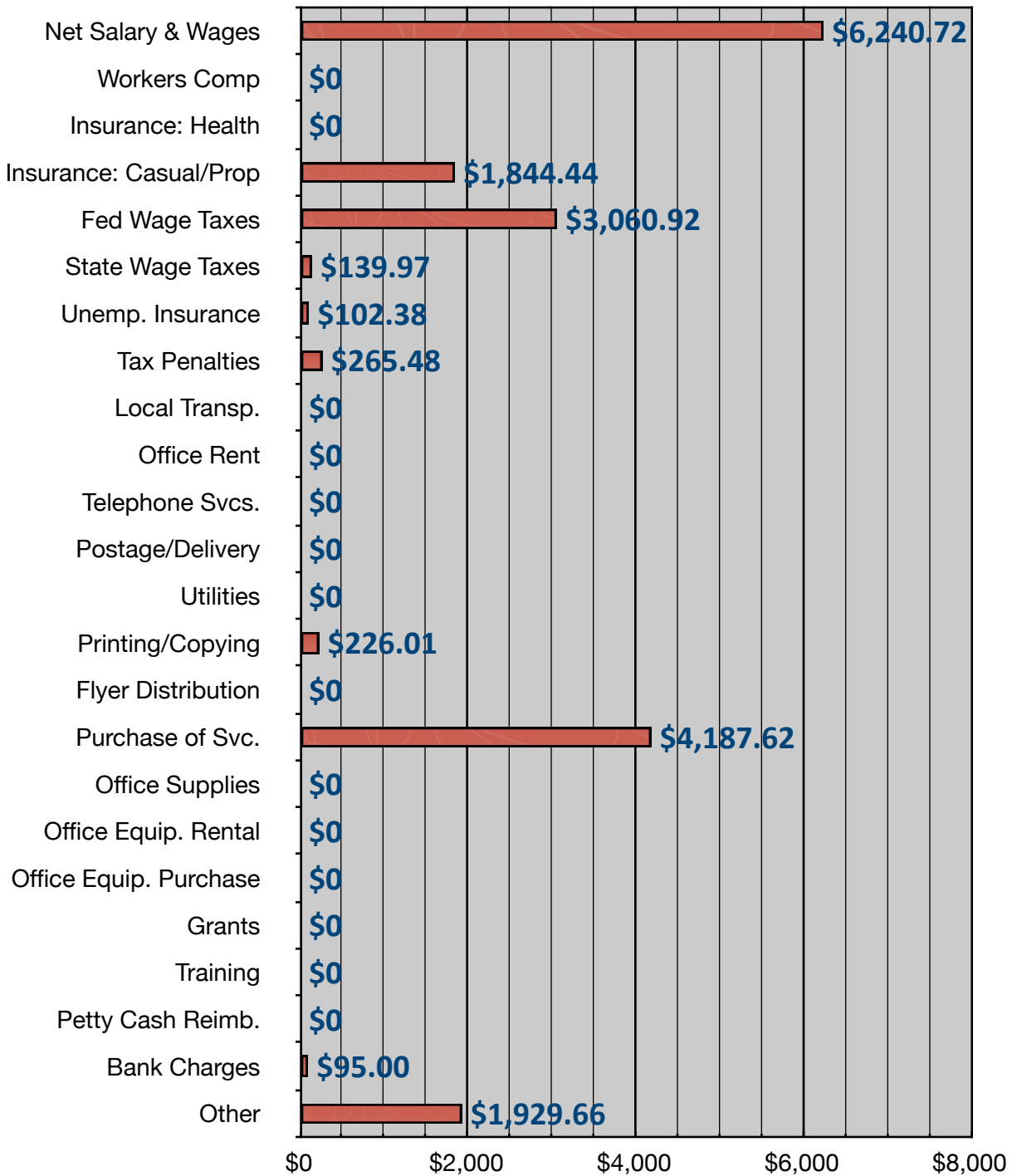
## **Financial Reporting**

We must file quarterly reports with the DC Auditor in order to maintain good financial standing and receive our quarterly disbursements from the District. In FY 2010, we submitted 3 of 4 quarterly financial reports before the required deadline (60 days after the end of the quarter). The last quarterly report was filed 2 weeks after the DC Auditor's deadline. We received no penalty for the delay.

## **Financial Standing**

The Commission is in good financial standing. At the end of the Fourth Quarter of FY 2010, we had \$34,871.15 in savings and \$38,378.19 in our checking account.

### FY 2010 Spending (dollars)



# Contact Information & Links

The Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission can be reached as follows:

**Mailing Address:** 9 Dupont Circle NW, Washington DC 20036

**Website:** [www.dupontcircleanc.net](http://www.dupontcircleanc.net)

**E-mail Addresses:** Each Commissioner's e-mail is in the form [first.last@dupontcircleanc.net](mailto:first.last@dupontcircleanc.net). Our Executive Director may be reached at [email@dupontcircleanc.net](mailto:email@dupontcircleanc.net), and our Public Policy Intern may be reached at [intern@dupontcircleanc.net](mailto:intern@dupontcircleanc.net).

**Telephone:** The Commission does not have a designated central telephone number, but each Commissioner's number (along with full contact information) can be found on our website, under the page "Commissioners" in "About Us."

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