



Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2B)

Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2011



Approved by ANC 2B on April 18, 2012
Submitted to the D.C. Council

Purpose

This Annual Report provides a snapshot of the activities, key decisions, and finances of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2B) from October 2010 through September 2011.



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Who We Are

Elected Representatives

We are 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 Commissioners who served on ANC 2B during FY 2011:



Mike Feldstein (2B01)
Vice Chair



Kevin O'Connor (2B02)
(from Jan. 2011)

* Not pictured: Bhavna Patel (thru Dec. 2010)



Bob Meehan (2B03)



Jack Jacobson (2B04)
Treasurer (thru Dec. 2010)



Victor Wexler (2B05)



Mike Silverstein (2B06)
Treasurer (from Jan. 2011)



Phil Carney (2B07)
Secretary



Will Stephens (2B08)
Chair



Ramon Estrada (2B09)

Meet the staff who served the Commission in FY 2011:



Freddie Blicher

Executive Director (2004 - Aug. 2011)
Web/IT Consultant (from Aug. 2011)



Justin Queirolo

Public Policy Intern
(Nov. 2010 - June 2011)

*pictured with Ward 2
Council Member Jack Evans



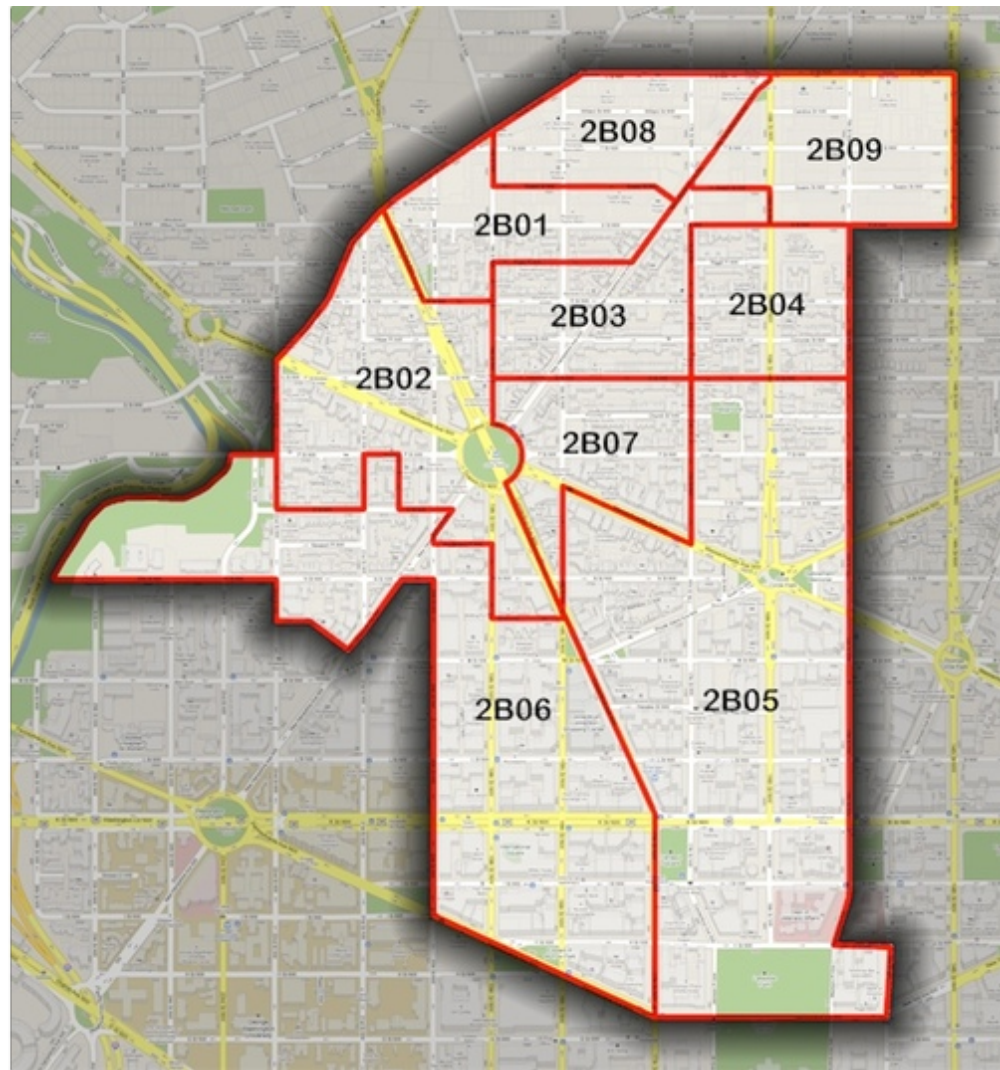
Tony Lowry

Executive Director
(from Aug. 2011)

Our **Executive Director** keeps the ANC functioning smoothly, by preparing our agendas and minutes for publication, directing constituent questions to Commissioners, and ensuring that our Commission opinions get to the appropriate District agencies and boards through formal letters. Freddie Blicher served as Executive Director for seven years, until stepping aside to become our Web/IT consultant in August 2011. We were pleased to bring aboard Tony Lowry as our new Executive Director at that time.

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.

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 2011.

This report only provides a summary. Those wishing to learn more can visit our Commission's public website at www.dupontcircleanc.net, where we post notices, agendas, minutes, and other information in hopes of keeping our neighbors informed.

The Commission takes official action as a group at our monthly public meetings. 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 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

Neighborhood Parks

The Commission worked with DDOT, WMATA, and others to ensure that the triangle park north of Dupont North Metro exit would be improved for safe pedestrian use during renovation of both Dupont South Metro entrance and the park itself. In addition, the Commission passed a resolution supporting the preservation of the garden park on the east side of Dupont Circle between Mass Ave and P Street NW.



Dupont Underground

The Commission continued to work 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.

Farragut Metro Station Development

The Commission continued to request a “virtual tunnel” between the Farragut Metro stations, which was finally implemented in 2011. In addition, the Commission supported the Golden Triangle BID’s proposal to add “Golden Triangle” to one of the Farragut station’s official station names.



Alcoholic Beverage Licensing

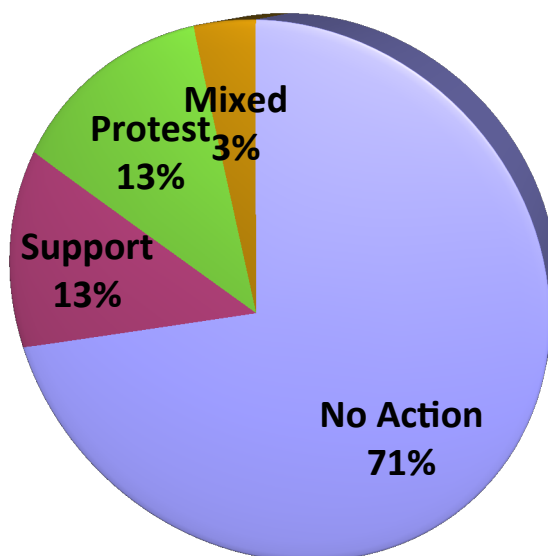
A Chief Focus Area for ANC 2B

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.

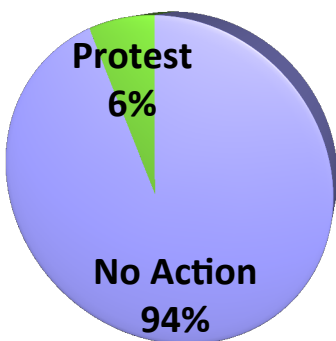
By the Numbers

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 86 alcoholic beverage applications we saw in FY 2011:

All License Applications

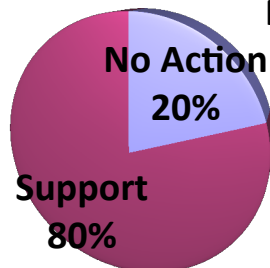


License Renewals

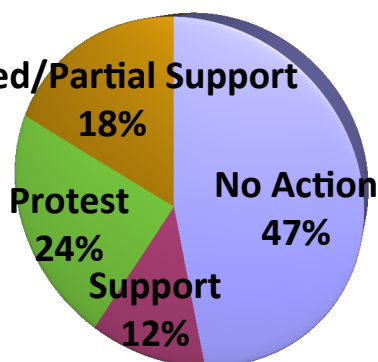


Substantial Changes

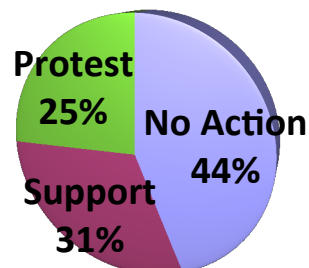
VA Changes



Mixed/Partial Support



New Licenses



Some highlights from this data:

- We considered 86 total alcoholic beverage license applications
- We protested only 11 of those applications
- Of 48 renewal applications, we protested only 3
- We supported or took no action on all 5 requests to change VAs

Resolution of Protests

Though we protested a total of 11 alcoholic beverage license applications in FY 2011, only 2 of these protests made it to final hearing before the ABC Board. In each of the other cases, the Commission was able to negotiate with the establishment to amend the hours in the application, to enter into a Voluntary Agreement that addressed the ANC's concerns, or to otherwise resolve the issues that led to the protest. The ABC Board ruled on the two applications which made it to final hearing as follows: The Board ruled against the protest of the T Street sidewalk cafe for Policy Restaurant (14th Street NW), and the Board limited the hours in the renewal of the license for Marrakesh Palace (P Street NW) while also requiring the establishment to take additional security measures.

ABRA Policy Committee Work

The Commission's ABRA Policy Committee is tasked with issues that are larger than any single application. In FY 2011, the Committee considered and recommended revised ANC 2B public space guidelines for sidewalk cafes, with input from neighbors and business representatives. The Commission adopted these new guidelines and incorporated them into our Policy & Procedures Manual. In addition, the Committee began work on a "Voluntary Agreement toolkit" with sample language and explanation to assist applicants, residents, and other stakeholders in reaching agreement during a liquor license protest.

Dupont West Moratorium

The Commission created an ad hoc committee which held several public meetings on the expiration and renewal of the West Dupont Liquor Moratorium (P Street NW). The Commission approved a report recommending removal of the southeastern-most block of the moratorium (i.e., the current location of Ping Pong Dim Sum), as well as lifting restrictions on additional CR or DR (restaurant/deli) licenses.



Support for Reimbursable Detail

The Commission urged the D.C. Council to provide much-needed funding for the reimbursable detail program, which pays a portion of the costs for off-duty police officers to be stationed at late-night venues prevent public safety issues from arising or escalating.

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, and must seek approval from DDOT, with ANC input. In FY 2011, we reviewed 20 public space applications for sidewalk cafes -- supporting 19 and protesting 1 due to noise concerns about a new cafe on a previously completely residential block.



Valet Parking Permits

Valet parking that uses public space also requires a permit from DDOT. In FY 2011, we considered 6 valet parking applications (including 3 at the same location). We objected to 1 based on the establishment running illegal valet, and objected twice to a location that would have caused severe traffic issues Dupont Circle. The applicant moved the site, and we voted to support the new location.

Other Public Space Permits

In addition, we considered 6 public space permits for other uses, including for the Freshfarm Markets (Dupont Circle and Vermont Ave locations), car-sharing spaces, new building signage, and a loading space for a condo building on 17th Street. We voted to support all 6 of these applications.

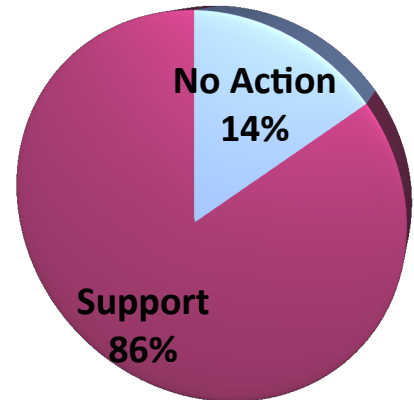


Historic Preservation

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 7 HPRB applications during FY 2011, supporting 6 and taking no action on the remaining application. We did not object to any HPRB application as presented in FY 2011.

HPRB Applications



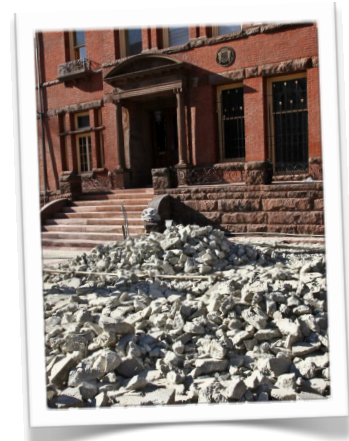
New Process to Review HPRB Applications

HPRB applications often take longer than others to discuss, because they involve architectural presentations and potential changes to the neighborhood that last for decades. The Commission voted in FY 2011 to first have presentations of HPRB applications at a public meeting of the Commission’s Zoning, Preservation, and Development Committee, which meets the First Tuesday of every month. This will hopefully allow for a more full discussion of complicated HPRB applications and also improve the efficiency of the monthly Commission meetings.

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 2011, we heard a total of 6 requests for zoning relief, supporting 5 and opposing 1. The zoning relief we supported included projects at 1461 S Street NW (residential addition), 1813 M Street NW (commercial third floor addition), 1729 H Street NW (relief from parking minimum), 2018 Hillyer Place NW (residential addition), and 17th & O Streets NW (new condo construction). The zoning relief we opposed was an application to the Foreign Missions Board of Zoning Adjustment (FMBZA) to allow the Republic of the Congo Embassy (pictured) to use the Toutorsky Mansion at 16th & Riggs Streets NW as a chancery.



New Process to Review Zoning Relief Applications

Like HPRB applications, applications for zoning relief often require more lengthy discussion than is possible at our general monthly meetings. Therefore, in FY 2011 we voted to have zoning relief presentations first made to our Zoning, Preservation, and Development Committee, which meets on the first Tuesday of every month. As with HPRB applications, this will hopefully allow a more full discussion of important zoning issues and also improve the efficiency of our regular Commission meetings.

Public Safety

Collaboration with Police

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

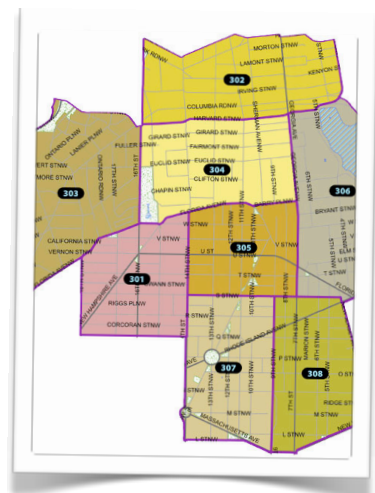


Addressing Drunk Driving

After two tragic deaths related to drunk driving near Dupont Circle, the Commission asked MPD to enhance law enforcement actions to deter drunk driving in the neighborhood.

MPD Boundary Shifts

The Commission hosted a special meeting in July 2011 to address the proposed shifts in MPD's service boundaries. In particular, we voiced concern about MPD's plan to break up 2B into multiple service areas, rather than remaining as a single area. The new MPD boundaries went into effect in January 2012. The area north of Q Street now lies within the 3rd District (headquartered on U Street NW).



Public Policy Issues

In addition, the Commission frequently weighs in on 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 marriage equality and higher taxes on vacant or blighted property. Below are two key examples of our public policy opinions from FY 2011.



Voting Rights & Re-districting

We voiced concerns about inappropriate security measures at the Reeves Center (precinct 141, pictured) and also about the limited number of primary precincts in the April 2011 special election for At-large Council Member. In addition, we were tasked by the D.C. Council with recommending new Single Member District boundaries for ANC 2B using 2010 census data. We organized a series of meetings and notices and submitted a draft plan to the Council in September 2011. Once approved, the new boundaries will take effect beginning in 2013.

Inappropriate DPW Fines

After complaints from around the neighborhood, we voiced concern in Summer 2011 about the Department of Public Works' practice of invasive dumpsters searches and fines residents for de minimus violations of the legal requirement to separate recyclables from regular trash.



Supporting Neighborhood Cohesion

Community Involvement Committee

In FY 2011, our Community Involvement Committee organized several informal neighborhood “summits” to bring together leaders of community, non-profit, and businesses organizations serving the neighborhood. In addition, the Committee began work on a proposal for the ANC to provide grants to worthy projects and programs.



Official Support through Letters and Funding

The Commission provided support -- either through letters to appropriate city agencies, funding, or both -- to many events that took place over the course of FY 2011, including the following:

- Swann Street Halloween party;
- National Marathon;
- Bike DC;
- Capital Pride Parade;
- 17th Street Festival (pictured);
- Avon Walk for Breast Cancer;
- Youth Pride;
- DV LEAP 10k race;
- Peace Corps 50th Anniversary;
- Summer movies in Stead Park;
- Foundry Methodist Church annual picnic in Stead Park; and
- Humane Society “Walk for the Animals.”

Recognizing Neighborhood Contributions

Recognition of Outstanding Individuals

The Commission often recognizes individuals in the neighborhood for their leadership, commitment to the neighborhood and city, and outstanding contributions to our happiness and quality of life. These included:

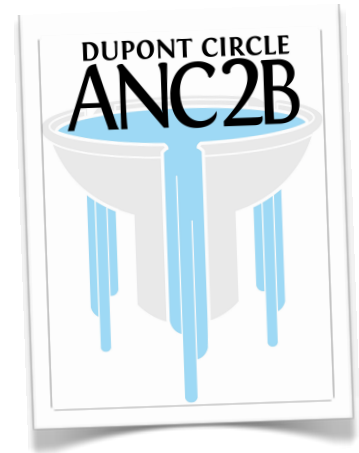


- Honoring 17th Street Festival Chair **Lee Granados** (pictured above with Ward 2 Council Member Jack Evans) with our Community Involvement Award; and
- Urging the Mayor and Council to affirm 2B06 Commissioner **Mike Silverstein** for a new, full term on the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

Institutional Development

Improving Our Website

The Commission continued in FY 2011 to improve our new website, which was launched in early 2010. We hope to make our website a dynamic space where neighbors can find comprehensive information about the Commission and the neighborhood. Key content added to our website over the course of FY 2011 included the following: annual reports dating back to 1976, official minutes dating back to 1988, historical newsletters, financial reports dating back to 2001, an historical list of Commissioners who have served Dupont Circle from 1976 forward, and our resolution letters dating back to March 2010. In addition, we began posting news items regularly on our News/Blog feature. We will continue to improve upon the website in FY 2012, with both content and features.



Dupont Circle Resource Center

Commissioners began work on plans to repair and renovate the Dupont Circle Resource Center, our ANC office, in order to make it more usable for community organizations and community meetings.

Other Institutional Developments

The Commission also took on several other institutional development projects during FY 2011 -- including building upon our new committee structure (first launched in FY 2010), bringing aboard our second Desi Deschaine Memorial Public Policy Intern, hiring a new Executive Director, and establishing a new e-blast notification system.

Fiscal Year 2011 Finances

Funds Received

Other than a small amount of interest earned from our savings account, we received all of our income from one source: the D.C. Government, which provided a total of \$15,955.58 in distributions during the course of the Fiscal Year.

Funds Spent

The bulk of our funds were spent on salary and related expenses for our Executive Director. Other notable costs included covering certain items for the 17th Street Festival and Youth Pride, as well as web hosting and our online intranet work system, Backpack. We spent a grand total of \$16,411.21. On the following page is a chart of our FY 2011 expenses, using the categories required by the D.C. Auditor's office.

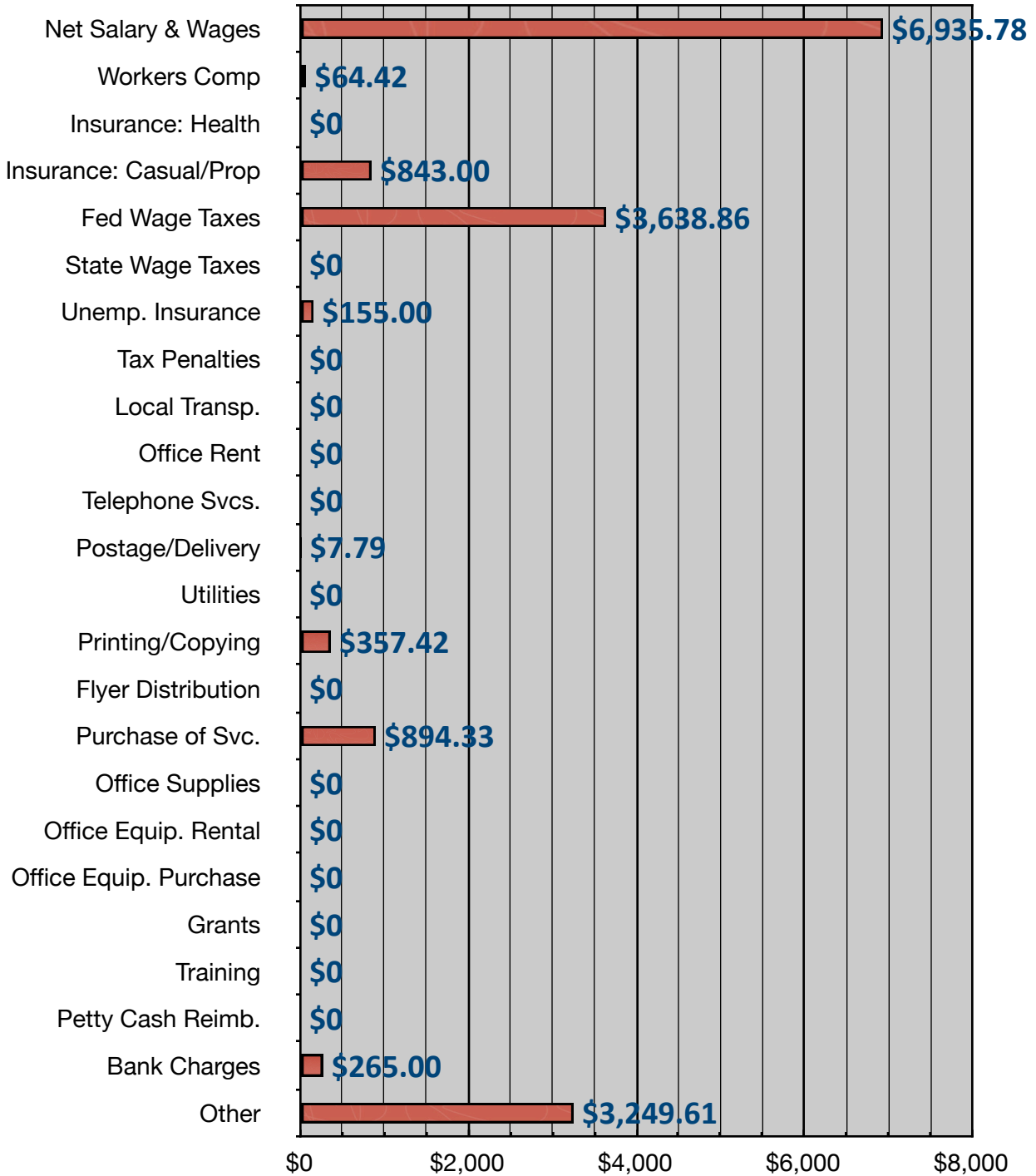
Financial Reporting

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 2011, we submitted all 4 quarterly financial reports before the required deadline (60 days after the end of the quarter). We did not have any disallowed costs in FY 2011.

Financial Standing

The Commission is in good financial standing. At the end of the Fourth Quarter of FY 2011, we had \$29,330.50 in our checking account and \$34,784.78 in our savings account.

FY 2011 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

E-mail Addresses: Each Commissioner's e-mail is in the form first.last@dupontcircleanc.net. Our Executive Director may be reached at email@dupontcircleanc.net, our Web/IT consultant can be reached at web@dupontcircleanc.net, and our Public Policy Intern may be reached at 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."

Photo Credits:

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