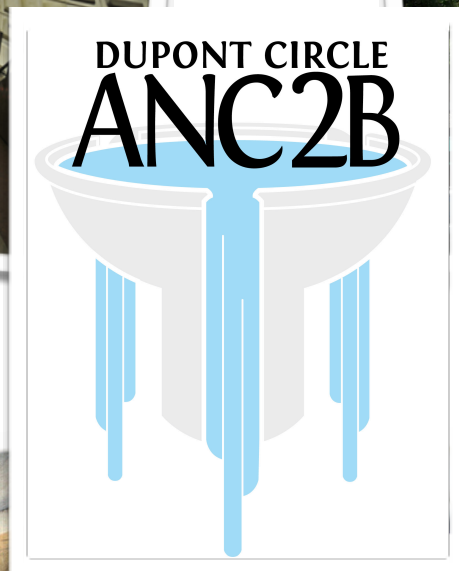




# Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2B)

## Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2012



Approved by ANC 2B on January 9, 2013  
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 2011 through September 2012.



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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, Dupont Festival, and the Dupont Circle Citizens Association -- to coordinate events and community-building activities throughout the year.



Meet the Commissioners who served during FY 2012:



**Mike Feldstein** (2B01)  
Vice Chair



**Kevin O'Connor** (2B02)



**Bob Meehan** (2B03)



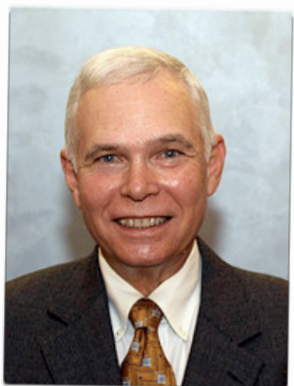
**Jack Jacobson** (2B04)



**Victor Wexler** (2B05)



**Mike Silverstein** (2B06)  
Treasurer



**Phil Carney** (2B07)  
Secretary



**Will Stephens** (2B08)  
Chair



**Ramon Estrada** (2B09)



Meet the staff & consultants who served the Commission in FY 2012:



**Tony Lowry**  
Executive Director

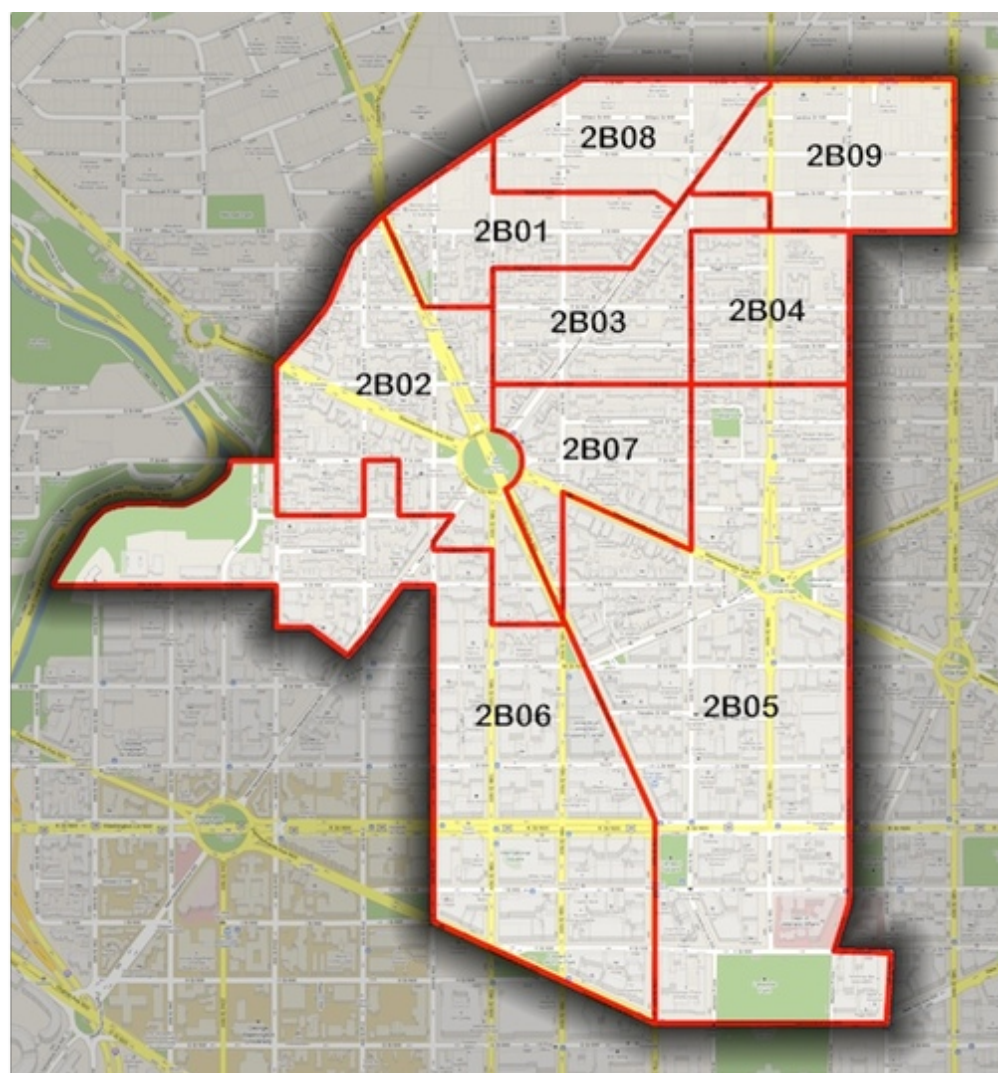


**Freddie Blicher**  
Web/IT Consultant

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. Tony Lowry serves as our Executive Director.

Our **Web/IT Consultant** helps us keep our public website, our internal intranet, and our email system functional and up-to-date, as well as assisting the Commission with all manner of other technology issues and trouble-shooting. Former Executive Director Freddie Blicher serves as our Web/IT Consultant.

# 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 2012.

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 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 the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to provide much-needed repairs to the S Street dog park. In addition, the Commission supported the joint application of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association and Friends of S & T Street Parks to become formal DPR community partners for these parks. The Commission also hosted public discussions on proposed renovations to the Stead Park playing field.



## **Dupont South Escalator Repairs**

The Commission worked with staff from the Metro (WMATA) and the Golden Triangle BID to ensure that community members and businesses were kept up-to-date on the year-long project to replace the Dupont South Metro exit escalators.

## **Capital Bikeshare Locations**

The Commission supported the continuing growth of the Capital Bikeshare system by working with DDOT representatives to find an appropriate location for an expanded bike-sharing station, at the north side of the T Street park.



# Alcoholic Beverage Licensing

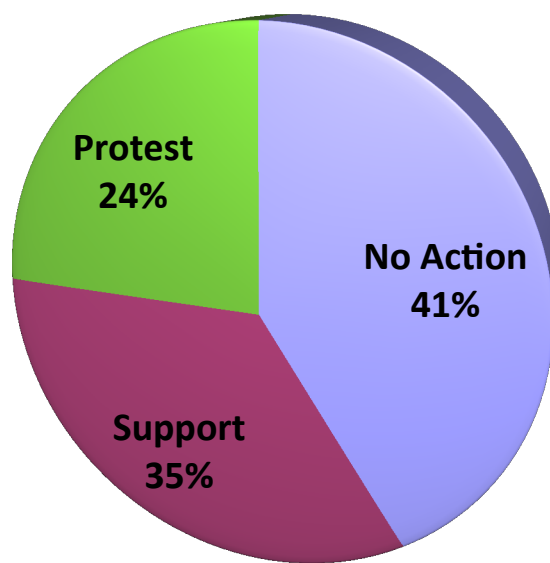
## **A Chief Focus Area for ANC 2B**

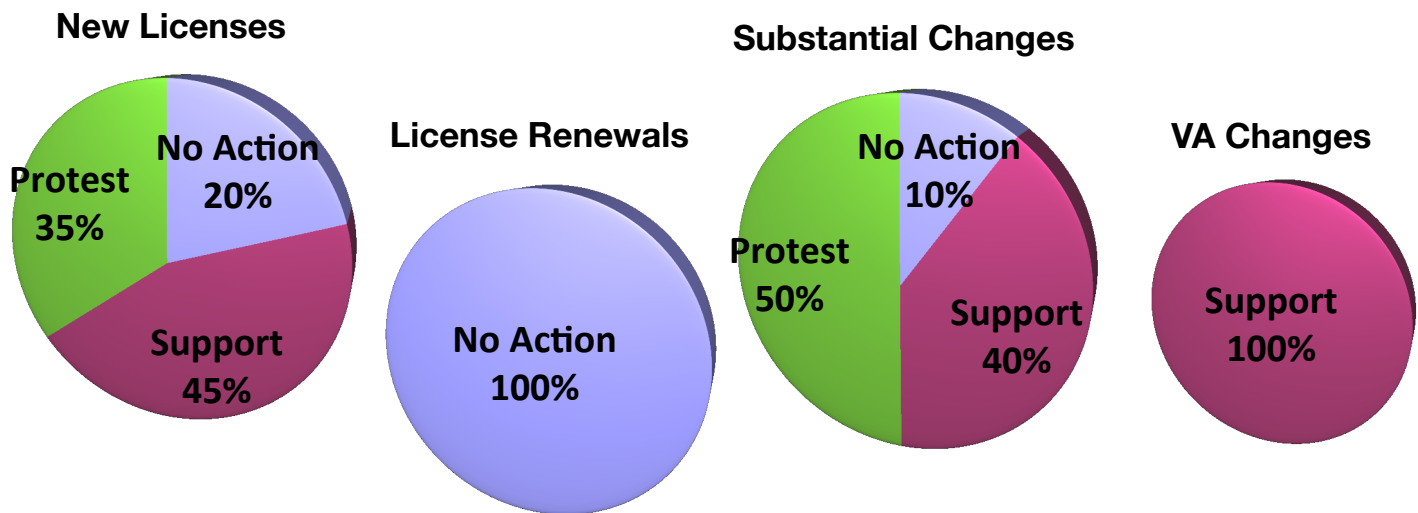
ANC 2B is home to over 250 liquor-licensed establishments, well more than any other ANC and representing over 20% of all such establishments in the District. A large percentage of our work thus deals with liquor license applications. New licenses, changes to existing licenses, and renewals come to us 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 49 alcoholic beverage applications we considered in FY 2012:

**All License Applications**





Some highlights from this data:

- We considered 49 total alcoholic beverage license applications.
- We took no action on 20 of those applications.
- We voted to support 17 of those applications.
- We protested only 12 of those applications.
- We took no action on all 15 renewal applications.
- We supported all 4 requests to change a Voluntary Agreement.
- We withdrew 2 protests after further discussions.

### **Resolution of Protests**

Though we protested a total of 12 alcoholic beverage license applications in FY 2012, none of these protests went to final hearing before the ABC Board. After successful negotiations regarding security plans, we voted to withdraw 2 of our protests voluntarily. In each of the remaining 10 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.



## **ABRA Policy Committee Work**

The Commission's ABRA Policy Committee is tasked with issues that are larger than any single application. In FY 2012, the Committee continued its 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.

## **Omnibus Liquor Bill**

The Commission designated ABRA Policy Committee Chair Ramon Estrada as our representative on Council Member Graham's ABRA Omnibus Bill task force. The task force, comprised of representatives from ANCs, liquor establishments, and community groups, met over a series of weeks to consider comprehensive amendments to DC's liquor laws. The Commission voted to support the Task Force's proposed changes, except for the 400-foot limitation on individual protestants, the vague language regarding dismissal of protestants when an ANC enters into a Voluntary Agreement, and certain provisions regarding the process for citizens associations to be provided standing as protestants.



## **Promoters and Security Plans**

In the wake of tragic violence outside of Heritage India in late 2011, the Commission urged the D.C. Council to support regulation of promoters. The Commission also considered how to best deal with establishments with a history of violations or incidents, including engaging a consultant to help review nightclub security plans.

# 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 2012, we reviewed 21 public space applications for sidewalk cafes -- objecting to 1, and supporting 1 only in part.



## Valet Parking Permits

Valet parking that uses public space (for staging or parking) also requires a permit from DDOT. In FY 2012, we considered 4 valet parking applications. We did not object to any of the 4 proposals.

## Other Public Space Permits

In addition, we considered 10 public space permits for other uses, including for the Freshfarm Markets (both the Dupont Circle and Vermont Ave locations), non-valet parking, new building signage, and uses of public space during construction. We voted to support all but 2 applications, both for private parking purposes.



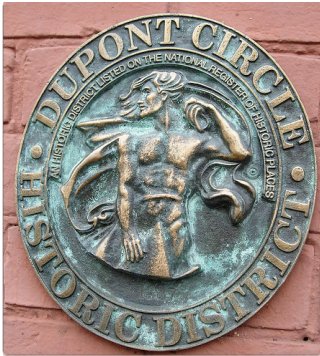
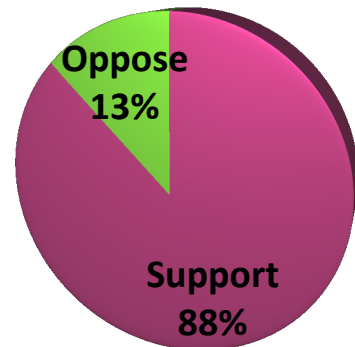
# Historic Preservation

## 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 8 HPRB applications during FY 2012, supporting 7 and opposing 1 (an application by a non-owner to landmark the building at 1518 K Street NW).

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 in FY 2012 began having presentations of HPRB applications first at a public meeting of the Commission’s Zoning, Preservation, and Development

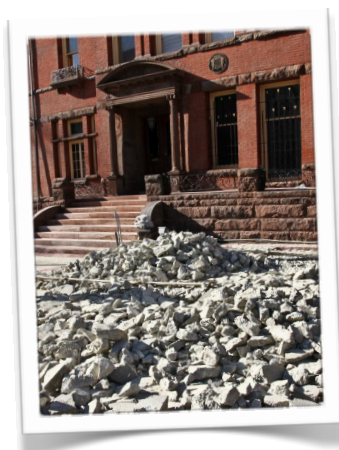
Committee, which meets the First Tuesday of every month. This has allowed for a more detailed discussion of complicated HPRB applications than is possible at the full Commission meetings.



# 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 2012, we heard a total of 6 requests for zoning relief, voting to support all 6. The zoning relief we supported included projects at 1250 NH Ave NW (redevelopment of apartment house), 1307 19th Street NW (relief from parking minimum), 2028 P Street NW (massage studio), St. Matthews Court NW (carriage house office), 1820-1822 Jefferson Place NW (extension of zoning order), and 1629 Corcoran St NW (renewal of parking lot).



### **Congo Embassy Green Space Recovery**

Commissioners worked with the Dupont Circle Citizens Association and city agencies to successfully lobby for restoration of the green space in front of the Republic of Congo embassy on 16th Street NW (pictured), which had been improperly paved in violation of the zoning order the embassy received in approving the use of the building as a chancellery.

## **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 2012 we began to have any complex or detailed zoning request presentations first made to our Zoning, Preservation, and Development Committee, which meets on the first Tuesday of every month.

# Public Safety

## Collaboration with Police

The Commission works closely with our neighborhood police, served by Police Service Areas (PSA) 208 and 301. In FY 2012, we began building new relationships with our new officers in the Third District, which now covers the northern portion of ANC 2B.



## Prostitution-Free Zone Act Amendments

We voted to oppose the proposed amendments to the Prostitution-Free Zone Act, which even the MPD considered to be likely unconstitutionally broad. The act was not amended.

## Public Safety Liaisons

In April 2012, the Commission appointed two non-Commissioner neighbors as our designated public safety liaisons -- Noah Smith and Kishan Putta. The public safety liaisons began hosting a series of community fora on broad public safety issues, including pedestrian and bike safety, collaboration with MPD representatives, and community impact statements for criminal sentences.



# 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 key examples of our public policy opinions from FY 2012.



## **Internet Gambling**

The Commission successfully urged the D.C. Council to repeal the law passed as part of a budget rider to authorize internet gambling, based chiefly on the concern that the public had not had a chance to discuss the matter.

## **Food Truck Vendor Regulation**

The Commission voted to support some regulation of the burgeoning mobile food truck industry, while preserving the creativity of the industry and its ability to utilize public parking spaces within the neighborhood.



## **Medical Marijuana**

The Commission voted to support its first application for a medical marijuana dispensary in the neighborhood. The applicant subsequently withdrew its request.





# Supporting Neighborhood Cohesion

## **Community Involvement Committee**

In FY 2012, our Community Involvement Committee continued to organize informal neighborhood “summits” to bring together leaders of community, non-profit, and businesses organizations serving the neighborhood. In addition, the Committee continued its 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 2012, including the following:

- 17th Street Festival (pictured);
- Dupont Festival’s events and activities in Dupont Circle;
- Summer movies in Stead Park;
- Capital Pride Parade;
- Youth Pride Festival;
- 17th Street High Heel Race;
- Stonewall Kickball events in Stead Park;
- Voice of One;
- D.C. At-Large Councilmember candidates forum;
- Mayor Gray’s Ward 2 budget town hall;
- Bike DC; and
- The Right2Know March.

# Recognizing Neighborhood Contributions

## Recognition of Outstanding Individuals and Organizations

The Commission often recognizes individuals or organizations in the neighborhood for their leadership, commitment to the neighborhood and city, and outstanding contributions to our happiness and quality of life. In FY 2012, these included:



- Honoring Dupont Festival co-founder and Groundhog Day organizer **Aaron DeNu** with a framed copy of the D.C. Council's "Groundhog Day" resolution;
- Supporting the Mayor's nomination of then-President of the Dupont Circle Conservancy **Rauzia Ally** to join the Historic Preservation Review Board;
- Supporting the **DC Center**'s efforts to procure office space in the Reeves Center.

# Institutional Development

## Improving Our Communications

The Commission continued in FY 2012 to improve our website, which we hope will serve as a dynamic and interactive space where neighbors can find comprehensive information about the Commission and the neighborhood. Key items added to our website over the course of FY 2012 include the following: resolution letters dating back to March 2008, an improved page for Voluntary Agreements, an open-source community calendar for neighborhood events, a Flickr photo stream, a new map of ANC 2B, and a Google calendar for reserving the Resource Center for meetings. In addition, we posted news items more regularly on our News/Blog feature and launched a Twitter feed. We will continue to improve our public communications in FY 2013.



## Dupont Circle Resource Center

Commissioners continued work with the National Park Service and our partner organizations on plans to repair and renovate the Dupont Circle Resource Center, our ANC office, in order to make it more usable as a neighborhood amenity. The Commission engaged regular cleaning service for the Resource Center and expanded the pool of community organizations that may use the center -- including Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets, Freshfarm Markets, the Dupont Circle Citizens Association, Dupont Festival, Dupont Circle Village, the Dupont Underground Coalition, and Cultural Tourism DC's "PassportDC" event.



# Fiscal Year 2012 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 \$21,521.48 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 Backpack, our online intranet work system. We spent a grand total of \$17,957.92. On the following page is a chart of our FY 2012 expenses, using the categories required by the D.C. Auditor's office.

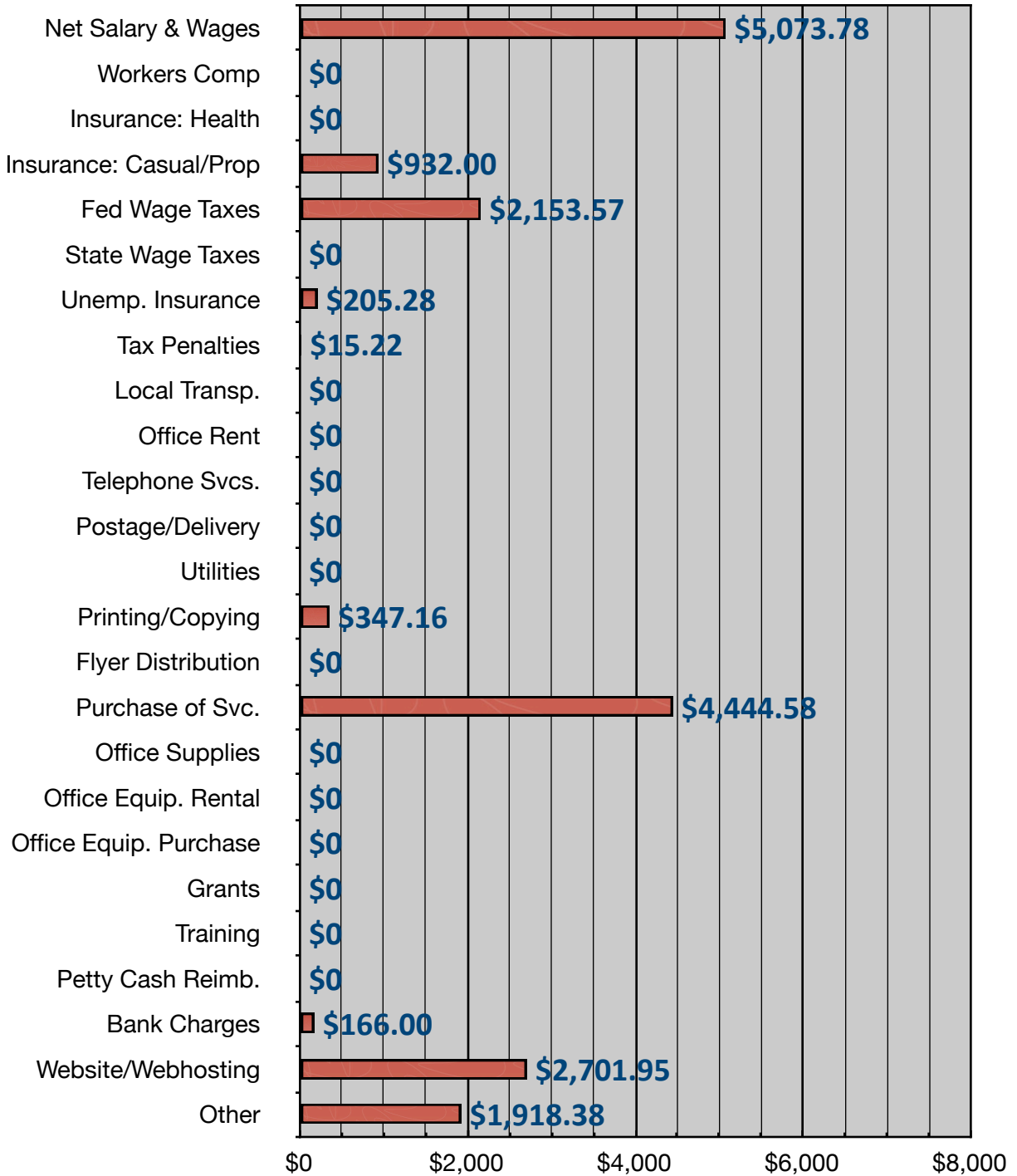
## **Financial Reporting**

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 2012, 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 2012.

## **Financial Standing**

The Commission is in good financial standing. At the end of the Fourth Quarter of FY 2012, we had \$73,407.44 in our bank account.

## FY 2012 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), our Web/IT consultant can be reached at [web@dupontcircleanc.net](mailto:web@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."

## Photo Credits:

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