



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 12th, 2020; 7:00 p.m.
Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies
1717 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Room 500

Call to Order

The regular February 2020 meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Daniel Warwick at 7:00 pm.

Introduction of Commissioners

The Commissioners identified their single member districts (SMDs). Present were: Matthew Sampson (2B01), Daniel Warwick (2B02), Aaron Landry (2B04), Randy Downs (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), Kari Cunningham (2B07), Beverly Schwartz (2B08), and Ed Hanlon (2B09).

Announcements and Public Comments

Commissioner Announcements

Chair Warwick gave commissioner announcements.

Other Public Announcements and General Comments or Future Agenda Items

Glenn Engelmann, the President of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA); Bill McLeod, the Executive Director of Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets; Nick DelleDonne, the President of the Dupont East Civic Action Association (DECAA); and Pat Powell, the Senior Director of Operations and Preparedness for the Golden Triangle BID, gave other public announcements and general comments or future agenda items.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Agenda

Northside Tavern – Application for a Substantial Change to the Establishment’s Retailer’s Class “C” Restaurant License at 1726 Connecticut Avenue NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Announcements and Public Comments (Continued)

Other Public Announcements and General Comments or Future Agenda Items (Continued)

Inspector Wendy Cadell, a Ward 2 Solid Waste Inspector for the Department of Public Works (DPW), gave an update regarding the work of the agency.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Agenda (Continued)

Mad Hatter – Application for a Substantial Change to the Establishment’s Retailer’s Class “C” Tavern License at 1321 Connecticut Avenue NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Bar & Lounge 54 – Application for a New Retailer’s Class “C” Tavern License at 1207 19th Street NW

The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.

Eye Bar / Garden of Eden – Application for Substantial Changes to the Establishment’s Retailer’s Class “C” Nightclub License at 1716 I Street NW

Commissioner Silverstein moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B protests Eye Bar / Garden of Eden’s application for substantial changes to the establishment’s Retailer’s Class “C” Nightclub license at 1716 I Street NW based on the adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood and based on the adverse impact on residential parking needs and vehicular and pedestrian safety.

Souvlaki – Application for a New Retailer’s Class “D” Restaurant License at 1917 18th Street NW

Commissioner Shchwartz moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports the request for a stipulated license as part of Souvlaki’s application for a new Retailer’s Class “D” Restaurant license at 1917 18th Street NW.

Zoning, Preservation, and Development Agenda

1601 Massachusetts Avenue NW – Application for a Modification of Consequence to the Plans Approved by BZA Order No. 19557 to Refine Several Components of the Architectural Elements and Open Spaces of the Australian Embassy Building

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Landry seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia is requesting a modification of consequence to the plans approved by BZA Order No. 19557 to refine several components of the architectural elements and open spaces of the Australian Embassy building at 1601 Massachusetts Avenue NW,

WHEREAS, the renovation as proposed is within the confines of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B,

WHEREAS, the primary proposed modifications include:

- Refinements to the building façade materials,
- Increased height to one of the public art “zones” on 16th Street NW and new detailed information regarding the proposed sculpture for that zone,
- The addition of exterior signage adjacent to the main entrance stating “Embassy of Australia”,
- The removal of one of the proposed street trees on Massachusetts Avenue NW due to conflicts with utilities as recommended by the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that the proposed modifications are within the criteria of a modification of consequence and believes that the proposed modifications are an improvement to the built environment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the application for a modification of consequence to the plans approved by BZA Order No. 19557 to refine several components of the architectural elements and open spaces of the Australian Embassy building at 1601 Massachusetts Avenue NW.

1315 16th Street NW – Application of KWHP DC LLC for a One-Year Time Extension of BZA Order No. 19695 to Allow the Applicant to File the Proposed Structure Plans to the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs for the Purpose of Securing a Building Permit

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Landry seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-1). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the applicant at 1315 16th Street NW is requesting a one-year extension of BZA Order No. 19695 to allow the applicant to file the proposed structure plans for the purpose of securing a building permit,

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting on January 10, 2018, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission considered this matter. With 9 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission supported the project as proposed by a vote of 8-0-1, and

WHEREAS, there are no known changes to the proposed plans compared to what was presented to the Commission in January of 2018.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports a one-year time extension of BZA Order No. 19695 to allow the applicant to file the proposed structure plans for the purpose of securing a building permit.

1737-1741 N Street NW – Historic Landmarking Application for the Tabard Inn

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Landry seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the applicant and property owners, Fritzi Cohen and Employees (ESOP), have submitted a historic landmark nomination for the Tabard Inn at 1737-1741 N Street NW,

WHEREAS, the proposed property of 1737-1741 N Street NW is within the boundaries of ANC 2B and the Dupont Circle Historic District,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that the nomination meets the determination of eligibility and the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that the property meets the National Register Criteria and should be considered significant at the following levels of significance:

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, and
- Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the historic landmark nomination for the Tabard Inn at 1737-1741 N Street NW.

Public Space Committee Agenda

Public Space Application by Annabelle for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 4 Tables, 31 Seats, and 4 Umbrellas at 2130 Florida Avenue NW

Chair Warwick moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Sampson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-1-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports Annabelle's sidewalk cafe application for 2130 Florida Avenue NW as the hours meet ANC 2B's Public Space Guidelines and the configuration retains the existing width of the sidewalk based on keeping a long-standing brick wall next to the sidewalk.

Public Space Application by Annabelle for a Valet Staging Zone with 2 Non-Meter Parking Spaces at 2132 Florida Avenue NW

Chair Warwick moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Sampson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports Annabelle's request for a valet parking public space permit as it is essentially a continuation of the previous establishment's valet parking permit. ANC 2B appreciates that the applicant has agreed to park cars in a lot rather than utilize street parking in the neighborhood.

Public Space Application by Douglas Development Corporation for Streetscape Improvements, Including a New ADA Ramp, Curb Cut, Driveway, Bike Racks, Steps, Awnings, Retaining Wall, and Patio, at 1733 N Street NW

The Commission delayed consideration of this matter until the ANC's regular March 2020 meeting.

General Agenda

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Special Event Permit for the 2020 17th Street Festival on Saturday, August 29th

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Landry seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the 17th Street Festival is an annual gathering and celebration of the diversity of culture, restaurants, retailers, nonprofit organizations, community leaders, entrepreneurs, and local businesses of 17th Street NW, the Dupont Circle neighborhood, and the District,

WHEREAS, there are over 100 vendors, with more than 60 artists and makers displaying everything from fine art to jewelry, ceramics to crafts, and every creative item in between,

WHEREAS, the kids zone has activities for children, including a large slide, soccer, snow cones, face painting, and games throughout the day, and

WHEREAS, the 17th Street Festival takes place within the borders of ANC 2B.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets' special event application to occupy 17th Street between P Street and R Street NW in order to stage the annual 17th Street Festival on Saturday, August 29th, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets' request for complete 100% waiver of any applicable police or public space permit fees that would be charged for the event.

Consideration of Proposed Expenditures for Porta Potties for the 2020 17th Street Festival

Commissioner Landry moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B approves expenditures up to \$2,000 for the rental of portable toilets for the 17th Street Festival in 2020, contingent on approval by the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC).

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Vital Voices Global Partnership's DC Revenue Bond Program Application for the Purchase of 1509 16th Street NW

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Vital Voices Global Partnership is seeking DC tax exempt revenue bond financing for the purchase of 1509 16th Street NW to be used as its new administrative headquarters,

WHEREAS, the proposed property of 1509 16th Street NW is within the boundaries of ANC 2B,

WHEREAS, Vital Voices Global Partnership is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization whose mission is to support "a global movement that invests in women leaders who are solving the world's greatest challenges. Guided by the belief that women are essential to progress in their communities, we identify women with daring vision for change. We then partner with her to make that vision a reality. Through long-term investments that expand her skills, connections, and visibility, we accelerate and scale her impact."

WHEREAS, in addition to its broader global and national work, Vital Voices Global Partnership intends to offer local amenities and services to Dupont Circle and District residents and institutions:

- Training facilities,
- Business and social enterprise impact accelerator,
- Human rights institute,
- Conference and event space,
- Artist-in-residence program and gallery,
- Technology hub,
- Youth empowerment home base, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes Vital Voices Global Partnership’s mission and activities will be of benefit to Dupont Circle and District residents.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports Vital Voices Global Partnership’s application for seeking tax-exempt revenue bonds for financing the purchase and upgrade of the property at 1509 16th Street NW.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Updates to the District Elements of the Comprehensive Plan

Chair Warwick recused himself.

Commissioner Landry moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion. Commissioner Silverstein moved to adopt a proposed amendment to the resolution to add the following text to the beginning of the resolution:

ANC 2B recognizes the District’s greatest need in land use matters is a critical shortage of housing at all levels other than luxury housing, and that shortage is especially acute at affordable housing levels.

Therefore, we strongly support the Mayor’s initiative to create a minimum of 36,000 additional housing units by the year 2025, with at least one-third of those units being affordable housing. We believe special efforts should be made to ensure that an abundant number of those units deemed affordable be earmarked for tenants and families with an income of 30-50% of the area median income (AMI). Affordable housing should be defined to include housing that is affordable to families, existing residents, and people of low and moderate incomes who are the backbone of service industries in the neighborhood.

We further urge that the Comprehensive Plan Amendments acknowledge that the District’s land use and development policies and actions were deliberately used for decades as a means to achieve de facto segregation by race and income class, and we applaud current initiatives, such as eliminating restrictions in broad areas of the District that limit those areas to single family housing only. Allowing duplexes, triplexes, and townhouses throughout those areas would be a means to increase density and diversity. ANC 2B includes five historic districts, and we recognize that historic preservation laws and guidelines will serve to ensure that development will be consistent with the unique character within those historic districts.

The Comp Plan should address the housing crisis with a goal of development without displacement. We must acknowledge that gentrification and higher rents have displaced 25,000 District residents in a decade, and 90% of them were people of color. Displacing long-term residents, often families whose ties to the District go back generations, is not an acceptable way to address the housing shortage.

Therefore, we urge that as additional housing is provided, special protections should be included to retain, replace, and increase stocks of affordable housing. The goal of all major development should be no net loss of affordable housing.

Commissioner Downs seconded the motion for the amendment, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-2-0). Commissioner Silverstein moved to adopt a proposed amendment to the resolution to remove the following three paragraphs from the resolution:

The ANC 2B recommends changing the Commercial Land Use Category around Dupont Circle Metro Station and northward along Connecticut Avenue to Florida Avenue (1500-1700 blocks of Connecticut Avenue), and its immediate surrounding area which are currently classified as Medium Density Commercial to the Mixed Use category of High Density Commercial and High Density Residential.

Since the beginning of this process, the District's housing crisis has been more clearly articulated, the Dupont Circle Business Improvement District was formed, and some of the best locations for future housing in the District are close to transit and commercial areas.

The ANC 2B understands the Future Land Use Map is a designation which new developments going through discretionary review processes must not be incompatible with. In addition to the Future Land Use Map, ANC 2B recognizes zoning regulation and historic preservation review are additional constraints on development within Dupont Circle and the District.

Commissioner Hanlon seconded the motion for the amendment. A roll call vote was requested. The motion for the amendment was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-2-0). The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Schwartz: Yea
Commissioner Downs: Nay
Commissioner Sampson: Nay
Commissioner Landry: Yea
Commissioner Cunningham: Yea
Commissioner Silverstein: Yea
Commissioner Hanlon: Yea

Commissioner Hanlon moved to adopt a proposed amendment to the resolution to remove the following text from the resolution with the understanding that the text will be considered during the ANC's regular March 2020 meeting:

Add “Consider the removal of parking minimums and consider the implementation of parking maximums throughout Near Northwest.” ANC 2B believes mandatory parking minimums are destructive to the future strength and resilience of commercial districts by inducing demand for car traffic, and in residential areas parking minimums negatively impact the cost of housing.

Commissioner Schwartz seconded the motion for the amendment, which was voted on and did not pass (VOTES: 2-5-0). A roll call vote for the final motion was requested. The motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-2-0). The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Schwartz: Nay
Commissioner Downs: Yea
Commissioner Sampson: Yea
Commissioner Landry: Yea
Commissioner Cunningham: Yea
Commissioner Silverstein: Yea
Commissioner Hanlon: Nay

The resolution reads as follows:

The Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2B) is proud to have participated in the process of amending the D.C. Comprehensive Plan. ANC 2B appreciates that the Office of Planning has been responsive to feedback ANC 2B and the Dupont Circle neighborhood have provided regarding this process dating back to 2016. ANC 2B is thankful that our suggestions submitted in 2018 were included in the Recommended Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan in October 2019, and that an additional opportunity for ANC feedback was granted.

ANC 2B recognizes the District's greatest need in land use matters is a critical shortage of housing at all levels other than luxury housing, and that shortage is especially acute at affordable housing levels.

Therefore, we strongly support the Mayor's initiative to create a minimum of 36,000 additional housing units by the year 2025, with at least one-third of those units being affordable housing. We believe special efforts should be made to ensure that an abundant number of those units deemed affordable be earmarked for tenants and families with an income of 30-50% of the area median income (AMI). Affordable housing should be defined to include housing that is affordable to families, existing residents, and people of low and moderate incomes who are the backbone of service industries in the neighborhood.

We further urge that the Comprehensive Plan Amendments acknowledge that the District's land use and development policies and actions were deliberately used for decades as a means to achieve de facto segregation by race and income class, and we applaud current initiatives, such as eliminating restrictions in broad areas of the District that limit those areas to single family housing only. Allowing duplexes, triplexes, and townhouses throughout those areas would be a means to increase density and diversity. ANC 2B includes five historic districts, and we recognize that historic preservation laws and guidelines will serve to ensure that development will be consistent with the unique character within those historic districts.

The Comp Plan should address the housing crisis with a goal of development without displacement. We must acknowledge that gentrification and higher rents have displaced 25,000 District residents in a decade, and 90% of them were people of color. Displacing long-term residents, often families whose ties to the District go back generations, is not an acceptable way to address the housing shortage.

Therefore, we urge that as additional housing is provided, special protections should be included to retain, replace, and increase stocks of affordable housing. The goal of all major development should be no net loss of affordable housing.

ANC 2B generally agrees with the Recommended Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan as related to Dupont Circle and surrounding area. Upon review of the Near Northwest Area Element, the Future Land Use Map, and other portions of the Recommended Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, and upon receiving feedback from neighbors, community organizations, and local businesses, ANC 2B provides the below consolidated feedback, building upon our previous resolutions to the Office of Planning.

Near Northwest Area Element

ANC 2B represents Dupont Circle which is within the Near Northwest Area Element.

2108.11 Policy NNW-1.1.10: Parking Management

In the last sentence of the proposed amendment, strike “and ridesharing services” to read “In addition, efforts should be taken to encourage visitors to these commercial districts via non-motorized modes and public transit.” ANC 2B believes visitors to Near Northwest commercial districts should not be encouraged to use car-based services, whether hailed, shared, or personally-owned.

Add “Consider the removal of parking minimums and consider the implementation of parking maximums throughout Near Northwest.” ANC 2B believes mandatory parking minimums are destructive to the future strength and resilience of commercial districts by inducing demand for car traffic, and in residential areas parking minimums negatively impact the cost of housing.

2108.12 Policy NNW-1.1.11: Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

Replace paragraph with “Improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists through the continued upgrading and improved maintenance of all sidewalks, intersections, and roadways, and by supporting the construction of networks of protected bike lanes and trails. Sidewalks should be constructed and maintained in such a way as to ensure accessibility for people who are elderly or disabled. Protected bike lanes offer many benefits, including improved safety and walkability for pedestrians, reducing traffic accidents and injuries for cyclists, and making bike riding more attractive for riders of varying abilities.” This language clarifies maintenance of all sidewalks and additional context.

2108.15 Policy NNW-1.1.14: Transit to Georgetown

Replace paragraph with “Improve transit connections to Georgetown by implementing a transit way on K Street.” Language specific to the H Street streetcar can be removed, and “transit way” can be left non-specific to transit mode.

2109.10 Policy NNW 1.2.10: Sustainable Development

Reinstate this paragraph as modified: “Encourage the use of green building practices within Near Northwest, with a particular emphasis on solar installations and green roofs. Rooftop gardens should be encouraged in new construction and major rehabilitation projects as a way to create additional green space, reduce stormwater runoff, and provide an amenity for residents.” ANC 2B is unclear as to why this section was removed, and is comfortable if this or similar suggestions on green building practices are being applied District-wide instead of specific to Near Northwest.

2112.1 Intro to NNW-2.2 DUPONT CIRCLE

Remove the word “parking” to read “The healthy mix of commercial and residential uses necessitates careful management and balance of public safety and noise to maintain a high quality of life.”

Action NNW: “Cap Park” Project

To reflect an updated project name, replace instances of “Cap Park” with “Connecticut Avenue Streetscape and Deck-Over Project”

Policy NNW: LGBTQ Cultural Hub

To reflect the intent of ANC 2B’s suggestion for an LGBTQ Cultural Hub, replace language with “Celebrate existing and new LGBTQ arts, cultural experiences, and history within Dupont Circle with placemaking and sustained, active programming in parks and community areas in the neighborhood.”

Action NNW: Expanded Recreation Center at Stead Park

To reflect recent plans for the Community Center at Stead Park, change title as above and change entire paragraph to: “Create an expanded recreation center at Stead Park to include modern facilities to accommodate the growing needs of community programming for residents of all ages. The expanded Recreation Center should strive to receive certification as a net zero energy building.”

A “Children’s Library” and “outreach services” are not consistent with the DCPL Library Facilities Master Plan nor within the scope of DCPL’s services. Those items are also not within the current plans of DPR for the space.

Supporting the LGBTQ+ Community in the Housing Element and the Community Services and Facilities Element

ANC 2B represents Dupont Circle and is proud to be the neighborhood which is historically the center of D.C.’s LGBTQ+ community. We are proud of our LGBTQ+ community and the fact that D.C. is one of the most welcoming jurisdictions in the country. Members of the LGBTQ+ community can have needs different than non-LGBTQ+ members and the Comprehensive Plan should plan for these needs moving forward.

Housing Element

H-4.3 Meeting the Needs of Specific Groups

Persons in the LGBTQ Community should be identified as one of the populations which have specific requirements that benefit from specific supportive services as profiled in this section.

Policy H-4.3.x

Housing for LGBTQ Older Adults should be considered as an addition to this section. D.C. has the highest percentage of LGBTQ adults in the country but critically insufficient LGBTQ-affirming older adult housing compared to other comparable cities.

Community Services and Facilities Element

In this element, and as appropriate in the Housing Element, indicate better support for youth experiencing homelessness who self-identify as LGBTQ, which constitutes nearly half of D.C.’s youth experiencing homelessness.

Include health care and services for LGBTQ patients, a group that faces disparities similarly to other populations identified as at-risk or disadvantaged.

Action CSF-2.3.D: Improving Coordination and Service Delivery Among District Agencies

Include the LGBTQ community in this language, as there are specific healthcare and services the LGBTQ community either requires or can benefit from.

Implementation Element

2507.5 Policy IM-1.5.3: Faith Institutions

Replace paragraph with: “Recognize faith institutions as members of neighborhood life in Washington, D.C., including their role as neighborhood centers, social service providers, and community anchors. Engage with local faith institutions as participants in neighborhood planning and development initiatives to ensure the views and needs of their members, some who might not otherwise participate in such discussions, are recognized and addressed.”

This continues to recognize the contributions and importance of religious institutions while avoiding language that could be construed to give specific institutions greater weight on neighborhood planning on development initiatives compared to similar institutions.

Administrative Matters

Approval of the ANC’s Regular December 2019 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Landry moved to approve the ANC’s regular December 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-1-0).

Approval of the ANC’s Regular January 2020 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Landry moved to approve the ANC’s regular January 2020 meeting minutes. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-1).

General Agenda (Continued)

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Need for a New, Permanent Facility for the DC Archives

Commissioner Landry moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Hanlon seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the DC Archives and the Office of Public Records (OPR) serve the key public purpose of storing, protecting, and organizing the government documents that constitute the most universal records of District residents and those of the government that serves them.

When pieced together, these documents tell vivid stories about ordinary people of all races, classes, and genders, from all eight wards, representing both communities that exist and ones that have been lost. These documents allow both historians and family genealogists to reconstruct the lives of ordinary residents.

Additionally, the Archives holds records of public figures, objects, and private collections of public interest. Among other things, these collections chronicle the struggles for home rule and civil rights that have defined the District.

WHEREAS, the current facility used to store DC's valuable historical documents is a converted stable in Naylor Court, off 9th Street NW in Shaw, that does not meet industry standards for security, fire protection, document preservation, and public access.

The facility was commissioned in 1990 but immediately fell into disrepair due to budget cuts in the 1990s. Between that time until the restoration of the HVAC system in 2018, poor climate control allowed DC heat and humidity to severely damage paper, photographs, and objects, many of which were never separated from mold or materials that degrade them, metal paperclips, oils, and glue.

Secondly, the current archive facility is too small, leaving government records scattered across District buildings and rented spaces. Indeed, the majority of public documents held by OPR are stored at a National Archives and Records Administration facility in Suitland, MD at a cost of over \$600,000 per year, and the full cost of offsite storage is difficult to calculate because this excess storage is paid for by the agencies that generated the records.

Finally, the lack of proper reading rooms means that the Archives are substantially not available to the public. The limited access citizens and historians have strained staff resources, and it is impossible to accommodate school or university instruction, a common practice elsewhere. When space is available, researchers must work in record storage areas, a major security risk.

WHEREAS, even the best conditions outlined above are not normal for peer institutions, such as ones that store state-level documents or those of major cities. Similarly, these conditions would not be considered acceptable for a university archive or private records collection.

WHEREAS, most peer organizations operate independently of the executive branch of government, either as independent agencies, or governmentally-chartered institutions. In contrast, key decisions about the DC Archives are made by the executive. The independence of other archives reflects an understanding that the cycles of government

and politics are not conducive to the long-term planning and operations critical to a successful archive.

WHEREAS, between FY 2015 and FY 2019, Mayor Bowser and the DC Council appropriated over \$80 million to construct a new DC Archives facility and to transfer and conserve the records currently stored in rented spaces. This latest action occurred after a long period of citizen activism and after District agencies proposed several inappropriate locations.

In addition to this appropriation, capital funds from earlier building proposals remain assigned to OPR, unexpended, while the office's operational budget is insufficient for the backlog of conservation work.

WHEREAS, at the September 27th, 2018 hearing on the "District Historical Records Advisory Board Amendment Act of 2018" (DC Council Bill B22-0842), the Office of the Secretary announced that a new-construction archive, record, and education facility would be constructed at the University of the District of Columbia. The Secretary stated that construction would begin in 2019.

WHEREAS, as of December 31st, 2019, no contracts for design or construction of these facilities have been issued and no land transfer agreement between the University of the District of Columbia and the Government of the District of Columbia existed, or has been made public.

WHEREAS, at a time of major change in the District of Columbia, ANC 2B recognizes the need for a new facility and resources to make public records a public resource.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the Mayor and the DC Council secure a site for the DC Archives and the Office of Public Records at the University of the District of Columbia, design a facility, and begin substantial construction within eighteen months of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is a matter of fiscal responsibility that the Mayor and the DC Council expend funds appropriated from their constituents to preserve their own history in a timely and efficient fashion. Appropriations from earlier capital plans not dedicated to establishing a new facility at the University of the District of Columbia should be spent completing the 20-year backlog of conservation work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and the DC Council should create a lasting legacy for the citizens of the District by establishing an independent District Records and Archives Agency, governed by a Mayorally-appointed board of specialists and citizens.

This independence is the most effective way to ensure that a new facility is put to use in a timely fashion and that the operations of the Archives are consistently and freely funded in the future.

Adjournment

Chair Warwick adjourned the meeting at 10:28 pm.