



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

December 13, 2021

Councilmember Brooke Pinto  
Councilmember, Ward 2  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 106  
Washington, DC 20004  
[bpinto@dccouncil.us](mailto:bpinto@dccouncil.us)

RE: Symbolic Designation of the 1600 Block of New Hampshire Avenue NW in Honor of Roman Bondarenko

Dear Councilmember Pinto:

At its regular meeting on December 8, 2021, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 9 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (9-0-0):

WHEREAS, Roman Bondarenko was a 31-year old amateur painter and resident of Minsk, Belarus who died on November 12, 2020 from injuries he received after a scuffle with unidentified persons while trying to protect displays of protest against the dictatorship of Alexander Lukashenko,

WHEREAS, the authorities tried to suppress information related to this tragic event by arresting Artsiom Sarokin, a doctor who worked at the hospital where Roman was treated, and Katsiaryna Barysievich, a journalist who reported on Roman’s death,

WHEREAS, these events led to large, anti-Lukashenko protests and rallies in the Square of Changes neighborhood of Minsk which ended in mass arrests, including two Belarusian journalists, Katsiaryna Andreyeva and Darya Chultsova, who were later sentenced to prison for live streaming the protests,

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed H.Res. 124 and the U.S. Senate has introduced S.Res. 241, which acknowledges this incident, and the 116th Congress passed the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020, an earlier version of which DC’s own Congresswoman Norton cosponsored,

WHEREAS, members of the Belarusian American community have requested that the 1600 block of New Hampshire Avenue NW be symbolically renamed Roman Bondarenko Way to

respect Roman's memory and show support for Belarusian democracy and the freedom of the press, and

WHEREAS, the Belarussian Embassy is located within the borders of ANC 2B, and there is precedent for such as renaming. The streets fronting the Russian, Chinese, and Saudi Embassies have been named for Boris Nemtsov, Liu Xiaobo, and Jamal Khashoggi respectively.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the section of New Hampshire Avenue NW in front of the Belarusian Embassy at 1619 New Hampshire Avenue NW, between R Street and Corcoran Street NW, be honorarily designated as “Roman Bondarenko Plaza”, and calls on the DC Council and Mayor Muriel Bowser to take any and all steps to immediately enact this necessary and meaningful action as a tribute Roman Bondarenko and the Belarusian community and as an expression of support by the residents of the District of Columbia for democracy in Belarus and for the indispensable value of a free and independent press.

Commissioners Robin Nunn ([2B03@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2B03@anc.dc.gov)) and Matthew Holden ([2B08@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2B08@anc.dc.gov)) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Holden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Matthew Holden  
Chair