



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

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, September 13th, 2023; 7:00 p.m.  
Online via Zoom

**Call to Order**

The regular September 2023 meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Meg Roggensack at 7:01 pm.

**Introduction of Commissioners**

The Commissioners identified their single member districts (SMDs). Present were: Meg Roggensack (2B01), Jeffrey Rueckgauer (2B02), Vincent Slatt (2B03), Z Stein (2B05), Matt Johnson (2B06), Patricia Bencivenga (2B07), Zach Adams (2B08), and Christopher Davis (2B09).

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Chair Roggensack adopted the ANC's meeting agenda by unanimous consent.

**Announcements and Public Comments**

**Introduction by Ann Blackwell, the New Executive Director of Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets**

Ann Blackwell, the new Executive Director of Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets, introduced herself to meeting attendees.

**Commissioner Announcements**

Chair Roggensack and Commissioners Johnson and Bencivenga gave commissioner announcements.

**Committee Updates**

Commissioner Johnson, Chair of the ANC's Complex Applications (CAPP) Task Force, and Commissioner Rueckgauer, Chair of the ANC's Mobility Committee (MC), gave committee updates.

**Reports from DC Government Representatives**

Grace Reeder, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS); Pablo Velasco Rodriguez, the Constituent Services Coordinator for Councilmember Brooke Pinto’s Office; and Harold Davis, a Solid Waste Inspector for the Department of Public Works (DPW), gave DC Government reports.

Other Public Announcements and General Comments or Future Agenda Items

Susan Volman, the President of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA), and Bill McLeod, the Executive Director of the Dupont Circle Business Improvement District (BID), gave other public announcements and general comments or future agenda items.

**Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board Agenda**

Dos Toros Taqueria – Application for a New Retailer’s Class “C” Restaurant License at 1350 Connecticut Avenue NW

Commissioner Stein moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion. Commissioner Johnson moved to adopt an amendment to the proposed resolution to change the language regarding the closing hours for outdoor alcoholic beverage sales. Commissioner Rueckgauer seconded the motion for the amendment, which was voted on and did not pass (VOTES: 3-5-0). The final motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-2-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports Dos Toros Taqueria’s application for a new Retailer’s Class “C” Restaurant license at 1350 Connecticut Avenue NW.

Barrel Cartel – Application for a New Retailer’s Class “A” Internet License at 1341 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 3.2.1.

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

ANC 2B supports Barrel Cartel’s application for a new Retailer’s Class “A” Internet license at 1341 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 3.2.1.

Firtuned – Application for a New Medical Cannabis Manufacturer License at 1341 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 1

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

ANC 2B supports Firtuned’s application for a new Medical Cannabis Manufacturer license at 1341 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 1.

The House at 1229 – Application for a New Retailer’s Class “C” Club License at 1229 19th Street NW

*Commissioner Stein recused himself from voting on this matter.*

Commissioner Johnson moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-1-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports The House at 1229’s application for a new Retailer’s Class “C” Club license at 1229 19th Street NW.

**Land Use Agenda**

1625 Massachusetts Avenue NW – Office to Residential Conversion

*Commissioner Davis recused himself from voting on this matter.*

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

ANC 2B supports the Historic Preservation Review Board application for 1625 Massachusetts Avenue NW.

**Public Space Committee Agenda**

Public Space Application by The Palm for a Valet Staging Zone Occupying 2 Non-Meter Spaces at 1225 19th Street NW

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

ANC 2B supports The Palm’s public space application for a valet staging zone occupying 2 non-meter spaces at 1225 19th Street NW.

**General Agenda**

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Calming at Multiple Unsignalized Intersections Along 15th Street NW

Commissioner Rueckgauer moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Commissioner Johnson moved to adopt an amendment to the proposed resolution to add language regarding lowering the posted speed limit along 15th Street NW. Commissioner Bencivenga seconded the motion for the amendment,

which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The final motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, 15th Street NW between Rhode Island Avenue and U Street NW is a three-lane, one way street with an early 1960s design intended to prioritize a far greater volume of commuters departing downtown than is regularly observed by residents of the present day,

WHEREAS, 15th Street NW between Rhode Island Avenue and U Street NW, as well as the blocks flanking it, is predominately residential with substantial pedestrian activity and one of the busiest protected bicycle facilities in the District,

WHEREAS, the generous roadway size and generally low volume of traffic encourages some drivers to travel at speeds that pose great danger to other vehicles and other users of the street,

WHEREAS, traffic signal timing on the 15th Street NW corridor still seems to be timed for 30 miles per hour, which further encourages vehicles traveling at excessive, unsafe speeds,

WHEREAS, the posted speed limit along 15th Street NW is 30 miles per hour,

WHEREAS, many requests have been submitted to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) asking for what should be relatively simple, fast, and low-cost changes and improvements, especially at unsignalized crosswalks (N Street NW, O Street NW, Church Street NW, Corcoran Street NW, and Swann Street NW), to discourage speeding and improve safety of all users,

WHEREAS, the nominal signs “asking” drivers to yield to pedestrians at the unsignalized crosswalks are routinely ignored by drivers traveling at speed no matter how many pedestrians may be present or where in the crosswalks they may be, and

WHEREAS, the near total absence of enforcement in the corridor exacerbates the safety failings as offending drivers operate with no concern of being caught or penalized.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT prioritizes implementation of automated traffic enforcement (ATE) along 15th Street NW from Rhode Island Avenue to U Street NW.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT re-times traffic signals along 15th Street NW to 20 miles per hour, encouraging drivers to travel within the speed limit, improving safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT lowers the posted speed limit along 15th Street NW to 20 miles per hour.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT improves signage along 15th Street NW, especially at the cycletrack, to remind drivers to look both ways and yield to cyclists, as well as signs reminding cyclists to yield to pedestrians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT considers raised crosswalks, all-way stop signs, and other meaningful traffic calming interventions, in conjunction with ATE, at the unsignalized intersections in order to compel driver compliance with the crosswalks and speed limit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT prioritizes restoration of all bike lane safety markings at alleys and intersections within the corridor that were not restored after roadway repaving two years ago.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT studies reducing the roadway to two thru travel lanes and reallocating the resulting free space to an enlarged cycletrack and sidewalk extensions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests when any of the traffic safety inputs (TSIs) for the unsignalized intersections in the corridor come up in quarterly prioritization, that all of them be processed together as a block so that none are left unresolved.

#### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Emergency Response to Buildings with Differing Mailing Addresses and Physical Locations

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

WHEREAS, in the District of Columbia, some buildings front on more than one, and in some cases more than two, streets,

WHEREAS, these buildings may have street-level retail that uses the address of the main building while being on a different street,

WHEREAS, in an emergency, every second can be critical to the survival of people who may have been injured inside these storefronts or on the street in front of these locations, and use of the building's address on a different street is likely to delay first responders,

WHEREAS, the Office of Unified Communications (OUC) relies upon the Master Address Repository (MAR) database, maintained by the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO), which does not contain every alternate address or alias, resulting in "not found" results and delaying response to a service call, and

WHEREAS, on August 15th, 2023, Commissioner Matt Johnson (2B06) observed a person receive a severe injury at approximately 2050 L Street NW, but a 9-1-1 caller

reported the posted address of the adjacent storefront, which was 2001 K Street NW, Suite 103, despite being on L Street NW, and Commissioner Johnson witnessed first responders turn away from the injured person as they responded to 20th Street and K Street NW, nearly two blocks away from the actual location of the storefront and injury, and this delayed care of the patient.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the Department of Buildings (DOB) immediately implements a policy that all building entrances, including those of street-level commercial tenants, must be assigned an address matching the location on the street it faces.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DOB immediately convenes a working group with OUC, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), the District of Columbia Fire and EMS Department (FEMS), the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), and any other relevant agencies to find solutions for existing mis-matched addresses and the way dispatch to these locations is handled, and to develop recommended policies for the way addresses are assigned to large buildings going forward.

#### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the 2023 17th Street High Heel Race

Commissioner Slatt moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Commissioner Davis moved to adopt an amendment to the proposed resolution to change the language regarding the creation of a safe space for the participants and spectators of the race. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion for the amendment, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The final motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the 17th Street High Heel Race was first organized by Billy Williams and Eric Little on Halloween 1986 and consisted of 25 drag queens running from JR's Bar up 17th Street NW to the upstairs bar at Annie's Paramount Steakhouse,

WHEREAS, by 1991 the 17th Street High Heel Race saw extreme police brutality against the spectators, leading LGBTQ activists to obtain apologies and concessions from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), which led to improved relations between MPD, the DC Government, and the LGBTQ community,

WHEREAS, by 2004 the costs involved in public safety around the 17th Street High Heel Race prompted Councilmember David Catania and Mayor Anthony Williams to have the city cover all fees related to public safety for the event,

WHEREAS, in 2010 Mayor Adrian Fenty and the DC Council designated the 1500 and 1600 blocks of 17th Street NW as "Frank Kameny Way" after the gay civil rights activist Dr. Frank Kameny,

WHEREAS, community activist and businessman Dave Peruzza, the owner of Pitcher's DC Bar and A League of Her Own and the longtime manager of JR's Bar, coordinated the race from 1997 until 2019,

WHEREAS, in 2017 the DC Government became an official sponsor of the event, and in 2018 the DC Government took over the organizing of the event, including the logistics and fees,

WHEREAS, Swann Street NW between S Street and T Street NW has been renamed by the DC Council and the Mayor to commemorate William Dorsey Swann, a formerly enslaved Black drag queen, and it is expected that the 17th Street High Heel Race participants will extend beyond 17th Street NW to walk along Swann Street NW,

WHEREAS, the 17th Street High Heel Race is expected to draw several thousand pedestrians starting on the afternoon of the race and extending for hours after its completion, and

WHEREAS, Dupont Circle is a neighborhood accessible by countless modes of public transportation, and public celebrations and events such as the 17th Street High Heel Race are a critical component of Mayor Bowser's Comeback Plan, which envisions a vibrant and equitable future as part of DC's Downtown Action Plan.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B fully endorses and celebrates the hosting of the 17th Street High Heel Race along Frank Kameny Way on Tuesday, October 24th, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B calls on the Mayor's Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Affairs and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to work with the ANC to create a safe space for the thousands of participants and spectators of the race, including a pedestrian-only zone and other public safety measures.

### **Administrative Matters**

#### **Approval of the ANC's Regular August 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Adams moved to approve the ANC's regular August 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-0-1).

### **Adjournment**

Chair Roggensack adjourned the meeting at 9:30 pm.