



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

November 14, 2023

Mr. Japer Bowles  
Director  
Mayor's Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Affairs  
2000 14th Street NW, Suite 101  
Washington, DC 20009  
[japer.bowles@dc.gov](mailto:japer.bowles@dc.gov)

Mr. Fred Moosally  
Director  
Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration  
2000 14th Street NW, Suite 400 S  
Washington, DC 20009  
[fred.moosally@dc.gov](mailto:fred.moosally@dc.gov)

RE: Support of the 17th Street High Heel Race

Dear Director Bowles and Director Moosally,

At its regular meeting on November 8, 2023, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission ("ANC 2B" or "Commission") considered the above-referenced matter. With 8 of 8 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (8-0-0):

WHEREAS, the 36th Annual 17th Street High Heel Race took place along Frank Kameny Way on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, was sponsored by Mayor Muriel Bowser and the Mayor's Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Affairs (MOLGBTQ), and was attended by DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson, Councilmembers Matthew Frumin, Zachary Parker, and Brooke Pinto, and the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Acting Chief of Police Pamela Smith,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B, at its September 13, 2023 meeting, passed a resolution calling on MOLGBTQ 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;" and the ANC provided input and was consulted on safety measures and street closures,

WHEREAS, John Kim competed against hundreds of contestants to win the 17th Street High Heel Race for the third year in a row, and thousands of revelers participated in the festivities,

including patronizing the many LGBTQ-serving businesses along 17th Street NW and legally purchasing and consuming alcoholic beverages; and the race, the costume contest, and other activities were safe and free from violence, harassment, or domestic terrorism,

WHEREAS, staff of the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (ABCA) arrived at the event and began ordering LGBTQ restaurants and bars to cease sales in outdoor areas, contradictory to their operations and practices in years past, and costing the businesses thousands of dollars in losses; and contradictory information is circulating about the methods and rationale for the crackdown, including open container provisions of D.C. Code § 25-113(a)(2)(A)(ii) and § 25-1001(a), and

WHEREAS, these crackdowns on LGBTQ-serving businesses are of the exact type that used to occur before there were openly LGBTQ people on the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis (ABC) Board, and

WHEREAS, the ABC Board currently has no residents of Ward 2 nor any openly LGBTQ people.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B congratulates the organizers and city officials for a safe, enjoyable, and memorable event, and congratulates 17th Street High Heel Race winner John Kim on his third victory in a row.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B calls for the DC Government to release a detailed after action report on the race that includes information on ABCA's enforcement actions and proposals to prevent future occurrences, and that other DC Government agencies contribute to such a report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B calls on Mayor Muriel Bowser to nominate, and the DC Council to confirm, at least one resident of Ward 2 and at least one openly LGBTQ person to the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board.

Commissioners Vincent Slatt ([2B03@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2B03@anc.dc.gov)), China Dickerson ([2B04@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2B04@anc.dc.gov)), and Meg Roggensack ([2B01@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2B01@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 "Meg Roggensack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Meg Roggensack  
Chair