

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C**  
**Adams Morgan**  
**Minutes of October 6, 2021**

**I. Call to Order and Introduction of the Commissioners**

A meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held electronically on October 6, 2021. Commissioner Irani called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. In attendance were Commissioners Amir Irani (1C01), Celeste Carano (1C02), Peter Wood (1C03), Meghan Faulkner (1C04), Benjamin Hart Butz (1C06), and Fiona Clem (1C08). Members of the public joined electronically.

**II. Officers' Reports**

**A. Chair's Report**

Commissioner Irani had no report.

**B. Secretary's Report**

Commissioner Clem had no report.

**C. Treasurer's Report – Presentation of the proposed ANC 1C FY2022 budget**

Commissioner Faulkner gave an overview of the ANC 1C [FY2022 budget](#) noting that the timing of the allotments from the city can vary. Commissioners noted the anticipated cost of renting meeting space when in-person meetings return and an expected increase in grants.

**III. Commissioner Announcements/Committee Meeting Agendas**

- Commissioner Clem reminded everyone about DC's new area code (771) starting in November.
- Commissioner Butz commented that it was great to see so many neighbors at recent community events and thanked those who organized them.
- Commissioner Faulkner reported on a DDOT pilot parking program and said that 2020 passes will be extended through the end of 2021. She also announced that Marie Reed pool hours will be extended in mornings and evenings.
- Commissioner Wood noted that he heard good feedback on Adams Morgan Day and Porchfest. He also said that he and others can help with StayDC applications, and that there is a suicide prevention event on October 23 and people can contact him for more information.
- Commissioner Carano said that the agenda for the October 27 Public Services and the Environment Committee meeting will be forthcoming by email and online. She also announced that a [fundraiser for Jubilee Housing](#) will be held on October 20.
- Commissioner Irani announced that the agenda for the October 13 ABC and Public Safety Committee meeting would include the police report and consideration of a new restaurant ABC license for D Light Café located at 2475 18th Street NW. He added that meeting access details are posted on the ANC 1C website.
- Commissioner Irani announced that there was currently nothing on the agenda for the October 20 meeting of the Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee, but meeting details will be posted

at [ANC1C.org](http://ANC1C.org).

#### **IV. Public announcements**

- Allie Bobak from Councilmember Nadeau's office said Councilmember Nadeau hopes to come to an ANC meeting soon with updates. Ms. Bobak urged people to sign up for their newsletter at [brianneknadeau.com](http://brianneknadeau.com) and provided her contact information: 202-531-5186, abobak@dccouncil.us. A member of the public asked about additional bikes in bikeshare docks, and she said they are looking into that.
- Tara Vassefi shared her perspective in support of public use of the Adams Morgan plaza.
- Kristen Barden of the Adams Morgan BID reported that Porchfest was a success. She announced a Cars and Coffee event featuring a car show along Columbia Road on Sunday, October 24; the Apple Festival on Saturday, October 30 in Unity Park; short Halloween videos to be shown throughout the neighborhood on October 30 and 31; and holiday displays planned for after Thanksgiving.
- Travoris Culpepper reported on upcoming construction along V Street from 13<sup>th</sup> Street to Florida Avenue to install distribution feeders to the Champlain substation. He noted that construction on that substation has been pushed back to 2024 and said a community meeting will be held at the end of October.
- Vikram Surya Chiruvolu commented on trucks along Columbia Road and jersey barriers that Truist Bank attempted to place around the plaza in September without work permits. He asked to enter into the ANC's records documents from the 1970s regarding use of that space. He gave an update on the court case over the plaza and on the homeless encampment.
- Eric (last name not provided) commented on the tractor trailers on Columbia Road on September 22 and 24 that blocked a lane of traffic and asked the ANC to condemn these actions by Truist Bank.
- Ren Thomas commented that Truist Bank has been dismissive of the unhoused residents on the plaza and urged everyone to think about what we can do to protect those individuals.
- Chris Otten said there is a serious housing problem and temporarily moving people from the plaza to a hotel was not helpful. He also said that a commissioner has mischaracterized his role at the plaza, and he wanted to set the record straight that he has not urged anyone to do anything to get arrested.
- Alan Roth noted that he commented on mischaracterizations by the same commissioner at last month's meeting.

#### **V. Presentation by the Office of Lottery and Gaming (OLG) and the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA)**

Peter Alvarado, Director of Regulation and Oversight, at the Office of Lottery and Gaming (OLG) and Sarah Fashbaugh, Community Resource Officer, at the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) discussed recent changes that allow for [sports wagering](#) and electronic [games of skill](#) at licensed establishments. They reported that Grand Central, at 2447 18th Street NW, is the first District restaurant/bar with a class B license for wagering and explained the process that a business must go through to qualify for that. They urged residents to let OLG or ABRA know if they have problems with a licensee.

Commissioners and members of the public asked about security plans for Grand Central; the number of such licenses allowed in an area; any zoning restrictions; giving notice to the ANC and the community when an application is made and allowing for a comment period before the license is granted; increased police presence; how the business paid for its license and where the fee goes; assessing the issue in the larger context of city night life; what benefit it would be for the community; types of machines allowed; age requirements to use them; visibility of the machines from outside the restaurant; and any limits on the number of such licenses that can be issued.

## **VI. Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Irani moved for adoption of the consent agenda which consisted of [minutes](#) from the September 2021 ANC meeting and the proposed ANC 1C [FY2022 budget](#). Commissioners passed the consent agenda by a vote of 6 to 0.

## **VII. Regular Agenda**

### **A. Preliminary matters**

#### **1. Resolution regarding the special election for 1C07 Commissioner**

Commissioner Irani reported that a special election will be held on November 3 for the vacant commissioner seat for single member district 1C07. He said registered voters in 1C07 can cast their ballots in-person from 6pm to 10pm on November 3 at Mary's Center, 2333 Ontario Road NW, for one of two candidates – Jacob Faleschini and Grant Gendron – that have been certified by the DC Board of Elections. Irani moved a [resolution](#) providing for the special election. Commissioner Faulkner seconded the motion. The candidates briefly introduced themselves then Commissioners passed the resolution by a vote of 6 to 0.

### **B. ABC and Public Safety Committee**

Commissioners discussed adding to the agenda consideration of a letter of support for a stipulated license for D Light Café but decided to wait for the matter to be considered by the ABC and Public Safety Committee the following week.

#### **1. ABC restaurant license (CR) application by Entice Lounge at 1725 Columbia Road NW**

Commissioner Irani reported that Entice Lounge has applied for a restaurant license ([ABRA-117477](#)) and that ongoing settlement agreement discussions have been productive. He moved to adopt a [resolution](#) protesting the license on the bases that it would have an adverse impact on the peace order and quiet of the neighborhood and on the residential parking needs and vehicular and pedestrian safety. The resolution would also authorize any ANC 1C Commissioner to act on behalf of the Commission in this matter. He noted that the protest would be filed with the intention of reaching an agreement with the owners. Commissioner Butz seconded the motion. Commissioners discussed the status of the negotiations and remaining questions about hours of operation and sound mitigation efforts, the type of restaurant it will be, and what would happen to the protest if an agreement were reached. Commissioners then passed the resolution by a vote of 6 to 0.

#### **2. ABC restaurant license (CR) application by Glory at 2406 18<sup>th</sup> Street NW**

Commissioner Clem reported that Glory restaurant has applied for a CR license ([ABRA-119052](#)) and that ongoing settlement agreement negotiations are going well to address remaining questions about noise remediation, hours of operation, and trash. She moved a [resolution](#) to protest the license on the basis

that it would have an adverse impact on the peace order and quiet of the neighborhood; and to authorize any Commissioner to act on behalf of the Commission in proceedings on this protest. She said she expects an agreement will be reached before the next ANC meeting. Commissioner Faulkner second the motion that then passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

### **C. Planning, Zoning, and Transportation Committee**

#### **1. Request for Special Exception at 2916 18th Street, NW (BZA Case No. 20546)**

Commissioner Irani reported that the PZT Committee voted to recommend that ANC 1C support a special exception request at 2916 18th Street, NW ([BZA Case No. 20546](#)). Owners Preston and Alex Ratliff and their representative Eric DeBear described their plans to add a rear deck to their house and said they have support from neighbors. Mr. DeBear said the case goes before the BZA in November and the relief is for lot occupancy and rear yard requirements. Commissioner Irani moved that the Chair write a [letter of support](#) for the BZA relief requested. Commissioners voted 6 to 0 in favor of the motion.

#### **2. Presentation on Rock'N'Roll DC Half Marathon 2021**

Diane Romo Thomas gave a presentation on the [Rock'N'Roll DC Half Marathon](#) scheduled to be held on November 13, 2021. She noted that it is just a half marathon this year and described the route through Adams Morgan coming up from Rock Creek to Calvert Street, Adams Mill Road, and Columbia Road. Ms. Romo Thomas said “no parking” signs will be posted along the course and residents will receive a notice in the mail about the parking restrictions.

Commissioners discussed constituent concerns about navigating around the course, noise from the bands, and ANC 1C’s past position against cars being towed along the route. Commissioner Irani said there were no motions or resolutions on the matter, so there was no need for a vote.

#### **3. Amended request for Special Exception at 2240 Ontario Road, NW**

Commissioner Irani reported that the PZT Committee recommended not supporting a request for special exception relief at 2240 Ontario Road, NW ([BZA Case No. 20521](#)). Project representatives addressed concerns raised at the PZT meeting and said the relief sought was for two compact parking spots in lieu of one full-sized parking spot.

Commissioners and members of the public discussed the width of the alley and the size of the parking spots; whether issues regarding a light pole and trash cans were addressed; the number of trash cans needed for an 8-unit building and how trash will be picked up; whether the cellar counts in lot occupancy and what precedent that sets.

Commissioner Irani moved that the chair write a letter in opposition to this request for special exception relief. Commissioners discussed the results if relief is not granted by the BZA; and whether the ANC could take no position. The vote on the motion failed by a 3 to 3 roll call vote with Commissioners Clem, Butz, and Irani voting yes; and Commissioners Faulkner, Wood, and Carano voting no.

## **D. Public Services and the Environment Committee**

### **1. Grant application from Platform of Hope**

Commissioner Carano reported that the PSE Committee recommended support for a [grant application](#) from [Platform of Hope](#) for \$4000 to purchase laptops which became important during the pandemic. Judy Estey from the Platform of Hope described their work with economically vulnerable families of color in Ward 1 and said they are continuing to work both virtually and in person. Commissioners approved the grant by a vote of 6 to 0.

### **2. Letter to the Department of General Services (DGS) to provide an online dashboard to track the status of DC school facilities**

Commissioner Irani reported that the PSE Committee recommended that ANC 1C send a [letter](#) to the Department of General Services (DGS) to provide an online dashboard to track the status of DC school facilities information regarding the standards to assess and monitor school air filtration and temperature control systems. Commissioner Carano cited examples of decrepit HVAC systems and poor indoor air quality and said other ANCs are sending similar letters. Commissioners discussed support from parents for this effort then voted 6 to 0 to approve sending the letter to DGS.

### **3. Contract for Audio/Visual services for ANC 1C**

Commissioner Irani reported that the PSE Committee recommended adoption of ANC 1C's [contract](#) with Gordon Chaffin for audio visual services. He noted that comments made at the September meeting had been incorporated into the contract and agreement was reached on remaining questions. Commissioners commented on the successful collaborative effort then adopted the contract by a vote of 6 to 0.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.