

Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

September 2025 Meeting Minutes

DATE: September 9, 2025

ANC 2C COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioner Michael Shankle, Commissioner Jim Swart, Commissioner Nancy Groth, Commissioner Thomas Lee

ANC 2C COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Shankle called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. in a hybrid format at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library ([2025 09 09 ANC 2C Community Meeting \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2025_09_09_ANC_2C_Community_Meeting)).

2. ROLL CALL:

All commissioners were present and a quorum was established.

3. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS:

The commissioners introduced themselves.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION: Commissioner Groth moved to approve the amended agenda, adding Thompson Elementary PTO under “Neighborhood Collaborations” and removing 620 I Street under Transportation/Public Space. Seconded by Commissioner Swart. Approved unanimously. (Vote 4-0-0)

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Commissioner Shankle stated that August’s meeting minutes would not be reviewed until October.

6. TREASURER REPORT:

September 2025: starting balance of \$63,904.96. Commissioner Lee stated that the month ended with the same amount, with no deposits or additions.

7. OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

1. Bank Signature Card

A plan to update the bank signature card was discussed. Commissioner Lee stated that he would send out a Doodle poll to the commissioners and schedule the visit to the bank.

2. Website Refresh

Commissioner Groth stated that the website refresh had not been contracted out, and could be combined with contracting for administrative support.

3. Administrative Support

Commissioner Shankle stated that he would share the administrative support position description with the commissioners to collect feedback before posting it.

8. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Commissioner Shankle introduced MPD 1st District Commander Colin Hall. Commander Hall stated that MPD's deployment with federal partners would continue across the District of Columbia as the task force continued its efforts to reduce crime. He reported that crime has reduced since the deployment.

Commander Hall emphasized that the MPD wanted to approach community concerns with transparency. He added that the MPD has more knowledge about the local community than the federal troops and requested that the community continue an open dialogue.

Commissioner Groth commented that the Chinatown "hub" storefront for MPD, DBH, and other DC government agencies on H Street is still not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, without a push-button door opener or even a doorbell to notify the need for assistance with the door.

Commissioner Groth expressed constituents' concerns about federal troops being unidentifiable and wearing masks. Commander Hall stated that the MPD will always be identifiable and that there have been efforts to make federal troops identifiable.

Commissioner Groth asked Commander Hall about the mulch laid at McPherson Square by National Guard troops in a heavily-promoted photo op, expressing concern about providing bedding material for the many rodents that inhabit that NPS park. Commander Hall stated that he would connect Commissioner Groth with the appropriate contact to resolve the issue.

Commissioner Swart asked Commander Hall to reestablish a drug-free zone near the charter school in Chinatown. Commander Hall confirmed that the zone would be reestablished after the appropriate amount of time passes.

Commissioner Shankle asked about the traffic checkpoints. Commander Hall stated that these checkpoints were common before the COVID-19 pandemic and have finally returned. He added that the traffic checkpoints appear different due to the presence of federal partners but emphasized that the procedure was not unusual.

A community member asked Commander Hall to reinstate the drug-free zone on 7th Street in Chinatown. Commander Hall stated that the MPD officers in the area would be happy to discuss how to cooperate best to mitigate drug activity and crime.

A community member asked for clarity about the MPD's partnership with ICE. Commander Hall stated that MPD was not directly assisting ICE with their operations. However, MPD would support ICE if cooperation was ever necessary.

A community member expressed concern about the drastic increase in arrests and criticized the partnership with ICE. Commander Hall stated that the greater number of officers with the federal partnership has led to a greater number of arrests.

A community member inquired into the separation of parents and children during the detainment process in D.C. Commander Hall stated the MPD was not involved in the detainment process but would continue to advocate on behalf of the community.

A community member expressed concern about potential misinformation surrounding police and federal troop activities in D.C. Commander Hall stated that the MPD sought to avoid the political aspects of the operation and instead focus on reducing crime.

9. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. MPD 2nd District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Michael Hamelin, michael.hamelin@dc.gov, 202.698.1405 or Lieutenant Sylvester Garvin, sylvester.garvin@dc.gov, 202.774.6866.

No items.

2. MPD 1st District Crime and Community Awareness, Captain Paul Hrebenak, Paul.Hrebenak@dc.gov, 202.643.8471, Lieutenant Araz Alali, Araz.Alali@dc.gov, 202.698.0066.

No items.

3. Metro Transit Police Department, Deputy Chief Stephen Boehm, SBoehm@wmata.com, Captain Aaron Donald, ADonald@wmata.com, District 1 Commander, Lieutenant David Barga, dbarga@wmata.com, District One Evenings, 202-306-5783.

Lieutenant Barga reported that crime has reduced in the metro system by 37% since 2024. He recommended that community members keep electronic devices stowed away on the metro when possible.

Commissioner Shankle asked about federal involvement with the Metro Transit Police Department. Lieutenant Barga stated that federal partners have provided back-up to enforcement in the metro system and on the buses.

Commissioner Lee asked about an uptick in arrests occurring on the metro system. Lieutenant Barga said that since enforcement has increased with the involvement of the federal partners, the police have been able to make more arrests.

A community member asked about citations given to passengers who have not paid to ride the buses. Lieutenant Barga stated that measures have been taken to increase enforcement. However, the bus drivers have been instructed to be non-confrontational to avoid the possibility of being assaulted.

Commissioner Swart asked about fare evading rates. Lieutenant Barga said that there have been fewer instances of evasion as violent crime decreases.

4. Office of Mayor's Office Ward 2 Mayor's Liaisons – Tadaí Abilla, Ward 2 Liaison, Tadai.Abilla@dc.gov, 202.805.7122 and Adriana Macedonio, Ward 2 Liaison, Adriana.Macedonio@dc.gov.

Ms. Macedonio stated that the mayor was not happy with the federal surge in D.C. She added that federal enforcement requires congressional approval.

Ms. Macedonio said that a "Ward 2 Cleanup Day" would occur with volunteers from the community.

Commissioner Lee asked Ms. Macedonio about a community member's desire for a drug-free zone by his building. Ms. Macedonio stated that the Mayor's Office would connect with the community member and look for a solution.

A community member expressed disapproval of the mayor's cooperation with federal partners. Ms. Macedonio thanked the community member for his advocacy and stated that she would pass along the message to leadership.

5. Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto -- Brooke Pinto Councilmember, Ward 2, bpinto@dccouncil.us, 202-724-8058, Maddy White, Constituent Services, mwhite@dccouncil.us, and Brian Romanowski, Constituent Services Director, bromanowski@dccouncil.us, 202-285-9195.

Constituent Services Director Romanowski provided an update on legislative activity related to federal involvement in D.C. government.

Commissioner Lee asked Mr. Romanowski to look into the drug-free zone in Chinatown. Mr. Romanowski stated that he would speak with Councilmember Pinto about allocating resources to the issue.

A community member asked why Councilmember Pinto has not been outspoken about the federal surge at community events. Mr. Romanowski stated that Councilmember Pinto has been active on CNN and MSNBC, but he would speak with her about appearing at local events to speak.

A community member asked why the fee for cutting down heritage trees for the new Commanders stadium was being waived. Mr. Romanowski stated that Councilmember Pinto was attempting to prevent this through legislative channels.

6. DCSBOE Representative Allister Chang, Literacy, Education in the Budget, & Access to Advanced Coursework, Allister Chang allister.chang1@dc.gov.

Mr. Chang was not present.

7. DowntownDC BID, Ellouise Johnson, Deputy Director of Public Space Operations, Lukas Umana, Director of Public Space Operations, lukas@downtowndc.org, 202.270.0366.

Deputy Director of Public Space Operations Johnson provided an overview of “Clean & Safe Data.” Ms. Johnson stated that their efforts will reduce the number of rodents in public spaces. She added that graffiti removal efforts have also been successful.

Ms. Johnson announced community activities taking place in Chinatown. She also shared about two public art projects that were used to beautify public spaces.

Commissioner Groth asked about posting wheatpaste posters on behalf of a constituent. Ms. Johnson stated that posters placed on private and public property are considered litter, and that DowntownDC BID spends hundreds of dollars each month to remove them. Commissioner Groth asked if there was any distinction between political speech and advertisements. Ms. Johnson said that any poster placed without consent is not allowed.

10. NEIGHBORHOOD COLLABORATIONS:

**1. Creating a business-retail-residents network in Penn Quarter.
Commissioner Shankle, ANC 2C01, 2C01@anc.dc.gov.**

Commissioner Shankle stated that he was unable to contact the former president of the Penn Quarter Neighborhood Association. He added that he would continue to attempt to connect with her.

2. Chinatown revitalization effort, successor to Task Force, consideration of requesting to provide ANC 2C liaison. Introduced by Commissioner Groth 771-209-4799 2C02@anc.dc.gov.

Commissioner Swart stated that he found Mr. Lord's and Mr. Ma's address to send a letter regarding Chinatown revitalization.

MOTION: Commissioner Groth moved to designate Commissioner Swart as liaison and point of contact to write a letter to Mr. Lord and Mr. Ma on behalf of ANC 2C to engage in communication regarding the Chinatown revitalization effort. Approved unanimously. (Vote 4-0-0)

3. Thompson Elementary School PTO. Commissioner Groth 771-209-4799 2C02@anc.dc.gov.

Commissioner Groth stated that the Thompson Elementary PTO would like to arrange a call with ANC 2C to discuss collaboration for funding and volunteer assistance. Commissioner Swart stated that ANC 2C should increase its collaboration with the public schools in its jurisdiction.

Commissioner Shankle recommended arranging a virtual meeting to discuss the matter. Commissioner Groth agreed to find a time for this discussion.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Senior Wellness Center Task Force for Ward 2 and Ward 3. Final Town Hall to be held in Ward 2 September date TBA about findings of the Task Force, moving to recommendations for site selections. Commissioner Groth 771-209-4799, 2C02@anc.dc.gov.

Commissioner Groth stated that the Task Force has hosted virtual surveys with little response, and one in-person town hall in Ward 3 to discuss the Senior Wellness Center, where Ward 2 was underrepresented 10-1 for public input on priorities for programs to be offered by a future Center. As a member of the Task Force since March, Groth pushed back energetically at the July monthly Task Force meeting to get the Department of Aging and Community Life (DACL) to get real input from Ward 2 low-income seniors, focusing on Shaw which has multiple large seniors communities but no volunteer "Village" organization like the ones in Dupont, Georgetown, Foggy Bottom, and throughout Ward 3. DACL did dedicate staff time in August to one-on-one outreach in Shaw seniors buildings. Groth added that she was contacting other Advisory Neighborhood Commissions in Ward 2 to

generate attendance at a DACL-hosted town hall on this matter. Commissioner Groth stated that the event would be open to the public and encouraged participation.

12. LOCAL EVENTS THAT IMPACTED THE COMMUNITY (CONSENT AGENDA):

No items.

13. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS LICENSING (ABCA):

1. Le Midi, Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant, 1100 New York Avenue, NW, ABRA-133012, Matthew Minora (202) 625-7700, mminora@malliosobrien.com.

Mr. Minora provided an overview of Le Midi's application for a Class "C" restaurant. Commissioner Swart asked about the location of the entry for Le Midi to ensure the application was correct.

MOTION: Commissioner Shankle moved to send a letter of support for ABRA-133012 (Le Midi) for a Class C restaurant. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. Approved unanimously. (Vote 4-0-0)

2. The Continent, DC, LLC, Trade Name: The Continent, Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant, 1110 Vermont Avenue, N.W., ABRA-128701, Jeff Jackson (202) 251-1566, jjharlem112@gmail.com; Applicant requests a Class Change from a Retailer's Class "C" Restaurant to a Retailer's Class "C" Tavern. Additionally, Applicant requests to change the Hours of Live Entertainment inside of the premises only.

Mr. Jackson, the attorney representing the owners, was not present. Commissioner Groth expressed concern about the conversion from a Class C restaurant to a Class C tavern, given that a 260-unit office-to-residential building will open within months, directly behind the premises facing 15th Street. Commissioner Shankle noted that without the restaurant-license requirement that 45% of receipts be generated by food, many establishments that convert to tavern-license effectively become a bar.

MOTION: Commissioner Shankle moved to remain silent about ABRA-128701 (The Continent, DC) to allow Groth time to discuss her concerns. Seconded by Commissioner Groth. Approved unanimously. (Vote 4-0-0)

3. Soga Genji Hospitality, LLC, Trade Name: Kiyomi by Masaaki "Uchi" Uchino, 1895 L Street, N.W., ABRA-132643, Matthew Minora (202) 625-7700,

mminora@malliosobrien.com New Retailer's Class "C" Tavern with an indoor seating capacity of 20 and Total Occupancy Load of 30. Sidewalk Café with seating for 15 and an occupancy load of 20. Licensee is also requesting the Alcohol Carry-out and Delivery Endorsement.

Mr. Minora discussed the application for Kiyomi by Masaaki "Uchi" Uchino. Commissioner Groth asked about the indoor seating capacity, expressing that it may be difficult to fit 20 guest seats in the space that had previously held only a Poki serving structure and stools along an eating shelf. Mr. Minora stated that the final seating capacity may be less.

MOTION: Commissioner Shankle moved to send a letter of support for ABRA-132643 (Kiyomi by Masaaki "Uchi" Uchino) for a Class C tavern. Seconded by Commissioner Groth. Approved unanimously. (Vote 4-0-0)

14. TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SPACE:

1. 620 I Street NW, DDOT Occupancy Permit, Kevin McCormick, Vice President of Construction, Monument Realty. 202.777.2018, kmccormick@monumentrealty.com.

Vice President of Construction McCormick shared the occupancy plan, which included demolition and construction on I Street for gallery development. Mr. McCormick added that demolition of non-historic portions of townhomes, demolition of a 5-story warehouse, and abatement presented public safety considerations that require ANC 2C approval.

Commissioner Groth advocated for mural possibilities by Chinatown artists on the new walls in the pedestrian-designated alley space. Mr. McCormick stated that Historic Preservation Review Board approval would be necessary for that in a later phase of the project; the current approval request of the ANC was to support the demolition phase.

MOTION: Commissioner Groth moved to support the DDOT Occupancy Permit to close the alleyway on I Street for demolition purposes. Seconded by Commissioner Shankle. Approved unanimously. (Vote 4-0-0)

15. PLANNING, ZONING, ENVIRONMENT, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION:

1. 608-624 Eye Street NW, Eye Street Residential (Project No: 321952.10) Design Development Submission. AJ Luce, MRW Gallery Place Eye LLC, aluce@monumentrealty.com, (202) 777.2014.

No items. Removed from the agenda.

2. 575 7th Street NW (Terrell Place) BZA Application, Lawrence Ferris, Goulston & Storrs, 202.721.1135, LFerris@GOULSTONSTORRS.com.

Mr. Ferris stated that the BZA Application was for an exception to the screening requirements for an HVAC unit on the roof of the building. Mr. Ferris said that the HVAC unit was tucked away and would be incredibly difficult to access.

MOTION: Commissioner Shankle moved to send a letter of support to the BZA Application to waive the screening requirements for the HVAC unit on the roof of Terrell Place. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. Approved unanimously. (Vote 4-0-0)

16. OTHER:

1. A Resolution Condemning Federal Overreach in District of Columbia Policing and Demanding the Immediate Return of Local Funds. Commissioner Groth.

Commissioner Shankle provided an overview of the Resolution that had been edited and finalized by Committee September 2, emphasizing the mischaracterization of D.C.'s "crime emergency," the installment of armed police, and the restoration of \$1 billion in funding to D.C.

MOTION: Commissioner Shankle moved to adopt the "Resolution Expressing Disapproval of Federal Overreach in District of Columbia Policing; And Demanding the Absolute Protection of D.C. Home Rule" as crafted on September 2nd, with four out of the four commissioners and two community members present. Seconded by Commissioner Swart. Approved unanimously. (Vote 4-0-0)

MOTION: Commissioner Shankle moved to appoint Commissioner Groth to represent and widely distribute the resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. Approved unanimously. (Vote 4-0-0)

17. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Commissioner Shankle moved to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Swart. Approved unanimously. (Vote 4-0-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Minutes Services LLC

Minutes Approved by: ANC 2C October 14, 2025

ANC Commissioners and Website

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Subscribe to the ANC 2C list serve at www.anc2C.us.

Meetings are scheduled for the Second Tuesday of each month.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION

Sincerely,

Nancy Groth electronic signature

Nancy Groth, Secretary, ANC 2C