

**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2F REGULAR MONTHLY PUBLIC
MEETING** Wednesday, September 3, 2008 – 7:00 PM
WASHINGTON PLAZA HOTEL
10 THOMAS CIRCLE, NW

Present: Charles Reed (2F01) (Chairman), Dustin Cole (2F05), Monica Schneider (2F02), Jennifer Trock (2F04)

COMMUNITY FORUM

Chairman Reed noted a quorum was present, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and directed the Executive Director file a copy of the notice of the meeting with the minutes.

Commissioner Announcements

Watha T. Daniel/Shaw Neighborhood Library Community Design Meeting. Join the District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL), the design team of Davis, Brody, Bond Aedas and your neighbors for the fifth community meeting to discuss the design of your neighborhood library. DCPL would like to complete the design process and begin construction soon. Your input and feedback are needed now. Watha T. Daniel/Shaw Interim Library is located at 945 Rhode Island Avenue, NW. Meeting to be held on Thursday, September 4, 2008 6:30 pm.

Adult Literacy Volunteer Fair-Thursday- Find out how you can help an adult Learn to read or prepare for the GED exam and learn English as a second language. Representatives from local adult education programs will be present at the Adult Literacy Volunteer Fair-Thursday, September 11, 6:30 - 8:30pmmartin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library- 901 G Street, NW. Register by September 8th by contacting benjamin.merrion@dc.gov 202.727.243.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which is funded by the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), helps eligible District residents pay heating and cooling bills. In FY 2007, the onetime household benefit ranged from \$24 to \$1,038. Emergency energy assistance is available to low-income District residents who have received a disconnection notice for electric or gas service, or are currently disconnected. Assistance is also available to residents without home heating oil. The amount of assistance is based on household size, total household income, heating source, and type of dwelling.

LIHEAP Application:

Residents can print and complete the application and mail or hand deliver to:
2000 14th St., NW,
Suite 300 East
Washington DC, 20009

Weatherization Rehabilitation- Non-profit community-based organizations (CBOs) and community development corporations (CDCs) will provide improvements to the homes of low-income District residents. This will include the addition of energy efficient components to the home improvement efforts of these selected organizations. The CBOs who perform the actual work will identify, purchase and install appropriate energy efficiency measures in the homes they

rehabilitate or repair. Up to \$2,675 per unit will be available and approximately 318 homes will be weatherized under this program. For more information contact William Fesson at william.fesson@dc.gov or (202) 673-6750.

PSA 307 Report – Lt. Mike Smith

Commissioner Reed stated that Lt. Mike Smith has announced that he is retiring soon. Lt. Smith, an effective and dedicated police officer will be greatly missed by the residents of ANC2F.

Lt. Smith announced that violent crime is up this month. On August 23 an armed robbery took place; an arrest has been made in the case. On August 29, in another incident, an armed robbery took place and shots were fired; two arrests have been made. Smith stated that an arrest has been made in the Darryl Green murder; Green, a frequent offender, was evidently killed in a grudge.

Commissioner Cole asked Smith what could be done about hate crimes, after describing an incident Cole had observed at 14th and P streets, NW, the 24 minute delay he experienced in having police arrive on the scene. Smith indicated that hate crimes have little to differentiate them from other crimes in the sense that police seek to respond to all. Response times depend on manpower. Identifying hate crimes is also a problem in that it is hard to distinguish an assault and a hate crime, per se. Lt. Smith suggested that carrying pepper spray is a prudent security measure.

Mayor's Office Ward 2 Coordinators- Abby Petersen and Mark Bjorge

The Mayor's Office has issued a stop work order on 1124 15th, NW Street for illegal construction. The property located at 1107 11th Street, NW continues to be a problem property, however, the grass is being cut and graffiti has been removed.

Kramer reported that property located at 1426 12th Street, NW was operating as a brothel, and with the help of **Lt Smith** and **Michele Molotsky**, from Jack Evan's office, DCRA, DC and the Office of the Attorney General, numerous violations were noted at the property and the brothel was shut down. However, now it seems as the property has the incorrect tax assessment.

Mark Bjorge and **Abby Petersen** can be reached at the Office of Community Relations and Services 202-442-9509 or at mark.bjorge@dc.gov or abby.petersen@dc.gov

Community Announcements

Commissioner **Trock** announced she will be stepping down, by not running for reelection, as the commissioner for SMD04.

Logan Circle resident, **Matt Damon** announced he has collected the required signatures and will be on the November ballot for SMD04.

Logan Circle resident, **Brain Vargas** announced he has collected the required signatures and will be on the November ballot for SMD03.

DDOT

Christopher Zieman, DDOT Transportation Planner, Ward 2, was not present to give his scheduled report.

Brain Vargas, who at the request of the ANC attended meetings on two DDOT initiatives: The 14th Street- streetscape initiative has been delayed until 2011, and the 15th Street Reconfiguration Study, is under continuing study because there has been no consensus on whether and how to reconfigure traffic patterns on 15th Street, NO.

- 10 Minute Recess -

BUSINESS MEETING

Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by **Trock**, seconded by **Reed** and after further discussion, the agenda was approved with the following amendments and a copy directed to be filed with the minutes and posted on the ANC2F website:

Add under DCEMADHS/Street Closures:
Bike DC

Under DDOT:
Street Scape project

Under ABRA:
Park Place Cafe

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Approval of ANC 2F Minutes of Meetings of July 2, 2008

Minutes of the meeting of July 2, 2008, were presented for approval.

Upon motion by **Trock**, seconded by **Schneider**, and after further discussion, the minutes were approved with direction to the Executive Director to post the same on the ANC2F website.

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Crime and Public Safety

No report

DCEMADHS/Street Closures

Sheba Farrin presented a request for street closing for the “Bike DC” Bike DC will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2008 from 7:00 AM -12:00 PM. **Farrin** stated that the request complies with the published street closing policy of this ANC and that she had made substantial progress in dealing with others entitled to notice and opportunity to comment. **Farrin** can be reached at 202/439-6134 or at sheba@bikedc.net for more information.

Charles Brodsky presented a request for street closing for the “Capital Criterium” to be held on Sunday, September 21, 2008 from 7:00 AM -11:30 PM. **Brodsky** stated that the request complies with the published street closing policy of this ANC and that he had made substantial progress in dealing with others entitled to notice and opportunity to comment. For more information, please contact race owner, **Marc Sommers** at 202/251-0454.

Kevin Reynolds presented a request for street closing for the “Capital Pride and AIDS Walk Washington” The event will be held on Saturday, October 4, 2008 from 8:30 AM -12:00 PM. **Reynolds** stated that the request complies with the published street closing policy of this ANC and that she had made substantial progress in dealing with others entitled to notice and opportunity to comment. **Reynolds** can be reached at 202/797-4458 or C_KReynolds@wwc.org for more information.

Upon motion by **Reed**, seconded by **Trock**, and after further discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, That upon review of the street closing applications pending before the D.C. Emergency Management Agency and Department of Homeland Security (“EMADHS”) and presented to the ANC, ANC 2F advise to grant such applications which are pending before EMADHS relating to: Bike DC, September 27, 2008; Capital Criterium, September 21, 2008 and Capital Pride and AIDS Walk Washington, October 4, 2008

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

DDOT

The Park Restaurant 920 14th Street, NW, rear patio hours

Upon motion by **Reed**, seconded by **Schneider**, and after further discussion, it was:

RESOLVED, That the ANC2F determines that the proposed outdoor café proposed by Park Place, Inc., in the rear of its business at 918-920 14th St. will not likely disturb or disrupt adjoining or nearby tenancies, and, accordingly, that ANC2F advise DDOT to amend the public space application as presented to the meeting to make the hours of rear

patio consistent with those of the establishment; and that, to extent the use of the café constitutes a material change in operations, ANC2F advise the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (“ABC”) to grant consent for such change; and it is,

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chairman be and is hereby authorized and directed to communicate such advice to the respective agencies and, as to ABC amend the existing voluntary agreement between the parties to reflect the above advice, if deemed appropriate.

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Community Development Committee Matters

Chairman Reed announced that in accordance with the ANC2F By-laws, he appoints **Ben Harris**, who resides in SMD 2F-01 as one of the two appointments each Commissioner may make to the Community Development Committee.

Upon motion by **Reed**, seconded by **Schneider** and after further discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, That the appointment of **Ben Harris** by Chairman Reed in his capacity as Commissioner for SMD 2F-01 as a member of the Community Development Committee, be and is hereby ratified, Mr. Harris to remain a member until his term expires and his replacement is appointed and qualified.

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

New Business

Zip Car - **Elise Perez**, Zip Car manager attended the June 2008 meeting. Then Perez stated that her Company was seeking to comply with its obligations to landscape the lot at 14th and Corcoran, N.W., so as to soften its visual impact from the street. She asked for advice of the ANC as to the nature of the landscaping, and indicated that the Company’s was not empowered under its lease to make landscape improvements. **Reed** stated that he doubted the lease would prevent the lessee from making such improvements, and he suggested as to she consult landscaping experts for particulars on how the result might be achieved. In the intervening period since the June meeting, **Perez** said that Zip Car has worked to clean up the lot by planting ivy, clearing graffiti and mulching. Further, she said she had consulted with District Garden for advice and had worked with Commissioner **Cole**. **Cole** volunteered to work further with the Company. **Reed** inquired about the Company’s illegal parking of its cars in certain public space. **Perez** said Zip Car has removed those cars. **Perez** represented to the ANC that the designated reserved parking spaces in the public space on the 1400 block of Rhode Island have been discontinued, as had the parking outside the gate of the Zip Car location at 12th and M, NW.

Reed stated that he was pleased with the progress, and hoped that it would continue. He asked whether a fence might be erected. **Cole** indicated he thought a fence might pose security problems to customers by affording cover for muggers. **Reed** indicated he would confer with **Cole** later. Having previously moved for sanctions against Zip Car prior to Ms. Perez’s appearance, **Reed** then moved to reconsider the earlier motion, which had been adopted. **Trock**

seconded, and, after further discussion the motion was unanimously approved. **Reed** then withdrew his motion without objection.

Dog Park Review- **Reed** indicated that the dog park proposed to be located at Shaw Junior High (which the ANC supported by advising the Department of Parks and Recreation to approve) had been denied by the DPR. The stated grounds of the denial was that the park would cost \$40,000, which in view of Department would be wasteful since the site in question is scheduled to be used for the school within three years. **George Kassouf**, who heads the proponent group stated that he had met with Council member, Jack Evans to discuss whether the Mayor would release the land for use as a park. No action was proposed to be taken by the ANC with respect to this matter at the present.

Bill 17-799, Single Sale Moratorium – **Reed** reported that the emergency legislation for a ban on single sales of beer and ales in parts of Ward 2 (including the area covered by ANC 2F) passed. (The motion made at the July 2008 ANC 2F meeting to advise passage of this legislation failed by a split vote). The Council is now considering permanent legislation to the same effect. There followed a substantial discussion on the merits of the proposed permanent ban. **Reed** pointed to the testimony given before the Council on the emergency bill to the effect that single sales lead to public drinking, drunkenness and serious crime and environmental problems. He stated that only two of some 40 witnesses favored passage of the bill. He also pointed to the problems ANC2F has experienced with single sales and with the effort to get bans in voluntary agreements of licence applicants. He referred to the ANC's existing policy in favor of the ban and that this policy was adopted in a prior ANC administration after polling the community and discovering overwhelming support for it. **Trock**, by **Helen Kramer**, and **Matt Raymond** stated that they favor the permanent legislation. **Trock** strongly supports this ban; this is a huge issue in this ANC, particularly, in SMD03. **Trock** referred to the fact that public drinking of single sale beers is a “huge” problem in her SMD2F-04; **Kramer** indicated that the difficulty and time spent in negotiating single sale bans into voluntary agreements was large and that the legislation would be a welcomed benefit to the administration of the ANC. She also referred to the social issues of trash, safety, sexual harassment on the streets, etc.

Commissioner **Cole** expressed concern that this only applies to ANC2F and “push the issue into other ANCs.” He also stated that the bill would discriminate against smaller retailers, since they could not afford the process of getting exemptions, as did Whole Foods in amending its voluntary agreement with ANC2F. **Reed** disputed these arguments, pointing out that the ban areas are targeted to areas where there are problems, which is beneficial since there is no need to have a prohibition where there is no evidence that public drinking of single sales is a problem. As to discrimination, he argued that sales of alcohol are traditionally and legally heavily regulated. No one has a right to sell single sales, and it is within the power of the Council to legislate in the public interests to curtail public drinking—which is against the law in any event. Commissioner **Schneider** stated she voted against the measure during the July meeting because she has not studied the issue and wished to retain the status quo. Since that time she has completed her review and supports the single sale ban. **Brain Vargas** stated that he is generally libertarian, but pointed out that sale of alcohol is a privilege and can be taken away.

Ben Harris asked who enforces the ban? **Reed** responded that public drinking is enforced by the police (although it is not a cost effective use of police resources.), and the Alcoholic

Beverage Regulatory Agency enforces the ban through its regulation of the liquor licensees. Indirectly, the community has an enforcement role through license protests.

Following the foregoing extensive discussion, **Reed** moved and **Trock** seconded the following motion, which was discussed further. It was,

RESOLVED, That ANC2F advise the District of Columbia City Council to enact a permanent bill to limit the sale of single containers of beers and ales in containers of less than 72 ounces and the sale of half pints of hard liquor within the boundaries of ANC2F; and the appropriate officers of this Commission be and are hereby authorized and directed to implement the foregoing resolution.

Vote (3-1, Cole dissenting)

Treasurer's Report (Dustin Cole, Treasurer)

Upon motion by **Cole**, seconded by **Trock**, and after further discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, That ANC2F hereby approves the Q-3 2008 Quarterly Report; as presented to the meeting.

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Upon motion by **Cole**, seconded by **Reed** and after further discussion, the following expenses were approved;

Cynthia Cota	\$938.70
Verizon	68.96
DC Treasurer	54.00
Cynthia Cota	111.03

Vote: (4-0) Unanimous

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was duly adjourned at 8:45 pm.