

**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2F REGULAR MONTHLY  
PUBLIC MEETING**

Wednesday, October 7, 2009 – 7:00 PM  
WASHINGTON PLAZA HOTEL  
10 THOMAS CIRCLE, NW

**Present:** Charles Reed (2F01) (Chairman), Mike Benardo (2F06) (Vice Chairman) Brian Vargas (2F03), Vacant (2F02), Matt Raymond (2F04), Dustin Cole (2F05-Treasurer)

**COMMUNITY FORUM**

**Commissioner Announcements and Monthly Government Reports**

**Chairman Reed** welcomed a group of 22 Chinese urban planners from the city of Chongqing (Chung-Ching) and Andy Fang from the American Planning Association. The delegation was in DC for an urban planning training camp, and visited the meeting to see public participation it's planning process. **Reed** reported briefly with the meeting with Rev. Wheeler from the Vermont Ave Baptist Church regarding the status of the house at 1207 Q Street, NW.

**PSA 307 Report – Lt. Vanessa Moore**

Overall crime in PSA 307 was down 25% last month. Moore spent time discussing with the community a death in the illegal gay sex club located at 1618 14<sup>th</sup> Street- The club has no Certificate of Occupancy, the use violates zoning, and the business is not registered with the City. Logan Circle resident, Richard Mangus had several questions for Lt. Moore regarding the operation of the club, several reports made to the police department about this club over the years, and the drug use inside and outside the club. Moore assured Mangus, and the community, that the club is under investigation and charges will be made against the club's owner. Incident report for this matter is 09142515.

PSA 307 Haunted House for children ages 3-14 and will be held on Saturday, October 31, from 6:00-8:00 pm. The family fun event will be held at Harriet Tubman Elementary School located at 1350 13<sup>th</sup> Street, NW. For more information call the 3D Sub-station at 202-576-8222.

Brian Bray is handling prostitution cases. Bray can be reached at [brian.bray@dc.gov](mailto:brian.bray@dc.gov). Please feel free to email him with prostitution problems.

Lt. Vanessa Moore Lt. Moore can be reached at 202-553-9247 or by email at [vanessa.moore@dc.gov](mailto:vanessa.moore@dc.gov)

**Report From Council Member Jack Evan**

Jack Evans reported that the District of Columbia is doing well economically, it continues to be one of the most fiscally responsible city in the country. By comparison, the city's finances are far better than cities in Maryland, Virginia. But it will take enormous political courage for the District to stay that way. The Council also has a full legislative agenda for the fall. Look for hearings regarding many issues we deal with on a daily basis, including crime, schools, and public services. September started the beginning of the next election cycle. The Democratic

primary for Mayor, Council Chair, and six Council seats is Tuesday, September 14, 2010, less than one year from now. Mayor Fenty is running for reelection. Several other Council seats are already in play. The next several months will be interesting. Evans encouraged ANC2F to invite at-large city council members to participate at all community meetings.

### **Executive Office of the Mayor**

Francisco Fimbres, Outreach Specialist is available anytime to answer questions or to listen if you have community concerns. Mr. Fimbres can be reached at 202-727-9223 (office), 202-664-6119 (cell) or Francisco.fimbres@dc.gov.

- 10 Minute Recess -

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

#### **Approval of Agenda**

Upon motion by **Reed**, seconded by **Benardo** and after further discussion, the agenda was approved with the following amendments and a direction that a copy be filed with the minutes and posted on the ANC 2F website:

- Add: Under New Business- 1618 14<sup>th</sup> Street- Illegal Club
- Add: Under -ABRA VA Ghana Cafe
- Add: Under DCHSEMA- GCF Race to End Women's Cancer

**Vote: (5-0) Unanimous**

#### **Approval of ANC 2F Minutes of Meeting of September 2, 2009**

Minutes of the meeting of September 2, 2009, were presented for approval.

Upon motion by **Vargas** seconded by **Reed** and after further discussion, the minutes were approved with direction to the Executive Director to post the same on the ANC 2F website.

**Vote: (5-0) Unanimous**

### **DDOT**

#### *Valet Parking Regulations*

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

**RESOLVED**, That ANC2f advise DDOT that, with respect to the 25 valet parking applications submitted to the meeting, ANC 2F has no objections, but

reserves the right to object if problems arise from the operations of such licensees

**Vote: (5-0) Unanimous**

### **DCHSEMA/Street Closures**

**Lisa Czop** presented a request for street closing for GCF Race to End Women's Cancer, which will be held on Sunday, November 8, 2009 from 7:00 AM -12:00 PM. **Czop** 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. **Czop** can be reached at [lisa@bwfcom.com](mailto:lisa@bwfcom.com) for more information.

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

**RESOLVED**, That upon review of the street closing application of GCF Race to End Women's Cancer to be held November 8, 2009 pending before the DC Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency ("DCHSEMA") and presented to the ANC, ANC 2F advise HSEMA to grant such application on condition that the local business are not inconvenienced by noise .

**Vote: (5-0) Unanimous**

**Betty Saylor** presented a request for street closing for Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon, which will be held on Sunday, November 21, 2009 from 8:30 AM -11:30 PM. **Saylor** 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. **Saylor** can be reached at [betty\\_saylor@hotmail.com](mailto:betty_saylor@hotmail.com) for more information.

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

**RESOLVED**, That upon review of the street closing application of Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon to be held November 21, 2009 pending before the DC Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency ("DCHSEMA") and presented to the ANC, ANC 2F advise HSEMA to grant such application.

**Vote: (5-0) Unanimous**

### **ABRA**

#### *Ghana Café Voluntary Agreement*

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

**RESOLVED**, That the ANC 2F authorize the execution of the Voluntary Agreement as presented to this meeting and that such Agreement be delivered to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board ("ABC Board") with the request that the

pending protest be withdrawn subject to acceptance of the Voluntary Agreement by the ABC Board and applicant's continued compliance with the Agreement.

**Vote: (5-0) Unanimous**

### **Community Development Committee**

*Sidewalk café application located at 805 15th Street, NW.*

A public space permit is being sought to have sidewalk café at 805 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW. The outdoor café area would mirror what is already in place on the other side of the entry way (in front of Bobby Van's Steak House). No objections were noted from the committee or the community.

*CDC advise ANC 2F to write a letter to DDOT in support of the public space permit for a sidewalk café.*

*900 New York Avenue, NW - variance (This property is part of the old convention center redevelopment project.) Presentation by: Garrett M. Preis, Gould Property Company*

900 New York Avenue, NW will contain approximately 550,000 square feet of office space, up to 46,000 square feet of retail space and approximately 400 parking spaces. 900 New York Avenue, NW is envisioned to be a world-class building that will have an extensive garden-style atrium along with a mix of landscaped terraces throughout the building and on the roof. While 900 New York Avenue, NW is a stand-alone and independent project, it has been designed within the master plan guidelines for the larger City Center development.

- 1.) The developer is requesting a special exception from the rules pertaining to loading bays. Four loading bars are required. The developer would like for one of the loading bays to be a non-dedicated bay – one which could be considered as a “flex-zone” and serve as a loading bay when needed, but also serve as an auxiliary egress lane for the parking garage. The loading bay is required by code so the building design is not impacted by the request. Having a convertible space simply allows to optimize use of a particular space.
- 2.) The developer is requesting a special exception and a zoning variance relative to the height of the elevator penthouse. The special exception is needed as the elevator penthouses will not be uniform in height with other structures on the roof. The variance is needed because the height of the portion(s) of the penthouse dedicated for the two elevator core over-runs will exceed the current maximum allowable height of 18'6” above the roof. While the goal is to minimize the height, the applicant is seeking the ability to have the elevator related penthouse roof rise to a maximum of 22'0”. The request is driven by the practical difficulty associated with: (a) the desire to bring all of our elevators up to the roof terrace; (b) technological changes and trends in the design and manufacturing of elevators (i.e, the change from general traction elevators to machine room-less elevators “MRLs”); (c) the desire to not be limited to single manufacturer of elevators; (d) the design of the elevator cabs at 9'0” to match the ceiling

heights and; (e) the specific need for high speed elevators (500 fpm) which require a greater over-run.

The goal is to minimize the height impact and under all circumstances all penthouse portions will be set back as required (1:1) and our higher penthouse will have no (or minimal) impact upon surrounding buildings, especially when our extensive roof top terrace design is taken into account.

*CDC recommends that ANC 2F advise BZA to grant the two special exceptions (pursuant to 11 DCMR Sections 3104 and 777, and 411.11, the Applicant seeks a special exception to allow roof structures of varying heights and to provide a non-dedicated service and delivery space for loading) and variance relief from Sections 3103, 777, and 411 to permit two elevator penthouses with a maximum height of approximately 22 feet, which exceeds the maximum permitted height under Section 400.7(c) of 18 feet, six inches.*

*Parking issues at the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and R Street, NW; at the Car Wash located at Rhode Island Avenue and 11<sup>th</sup> Street, NW; and at 12<sup>th</sup> and O Streets & Vermont and R Streets, NW owned by Vermont Baptist Church.*

Each of the alleged parking violations was described in detail. While are being addressed in various ways, the CDC felt that ANC 2F should support resolution of these issues by writing letters to the appropriate DC agencies.

*CDC recommends that ANC 2F advise DDOT and DCRA and other appropriate agencies to take corrective action on the violations referred to the CDC.*

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

**RESOLVED**, That ANC 2F accepts the recommendations of the CDC and advise the respective agencies accordingly in accordance with D.C. Code §1-309.10.

**FUTHER RESOLVED**, That ANC2F advise the Mayor's Office that points out the lack of support DDOT has shown this ANC with respect to illegal parking spaces.

**Vote: (5-0) Unanimous**

*ANC 2F Arts Overlay Review Committee's Economic Development Recommendations –*

Andrea Dougherty, chair of the ANC 2F's Arts Overlay Review Committee, announced that the results and recommendations of Part 2 of their report, focusing on a set of economic development recommendations that are intended to enhance retail and arts activities on the 14th and U Streets corridors will be on the ANC website. The public is invited to visit the website and make comments. The committee will review the public comments and be incorporated in the committees' report. These recommendations complement the zoning recommendations made in Part 1 of the Committee's report. Among the economic development proposals are recommendations that the city consider adopting further property tax relief for the 12 Neighborhood Investment Fund areas (Logan and Shaw are NIF areas), improved use by

neighborhood based nonprofits of the NIF monies available, with a specific focus on economic development, and a request that the city assist community leaders in resolving the issues that are holding back the development on the Central Union Mission site. ARTS Committee's report is available on the website and the community is encouraged to give comments and feedback by Monday, October 26, 2009. Part 2 of the ART Committee Report can be found at <http://www.anc2f.org/arts/report2/>.

**New Business**

*Church Parking Bill*

A description of a recent bill introduced in the City Council was given. The bill would provide a moratorium on parking tickets issued to attendees of funeral services with visible placards. Public parking would be prohibited on streets adjacent to the funeral establishments which funerals are to be conducted for 5 hours during and after the funeral, within the area that is found necessary to park vehicles which are part of the funeral cortege.

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

**RESOLVED**, That ANC 2F advise the DC City Council not to adopt the bill as stated.

**Vote: (5-0) Unanimous**

*1618 14<sup>th</sup> Street- Illegal Club*

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

**RESOLVED**, That ANC 2F alert the relevant agencies that an illegal business at that location is being conducted and advise such agencies to take appropriate steps to cause the use of the property to comply with all legal requirements, and to close the illegal operation forthwith.

**Treasurer's Report (Dustin Cole, Treasurer)**

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

Cynthia Cota.....	\$938.45
Verizon .....	\$62.37
DC Treasurer.....	\$54.00
Internal Revenue Service.....	\$1,173.45
DOES.....	\$54.00

**Vote: (5-0) Unanimous**

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was duly adjourned at 9:04 PM.