

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1C
Adams Morgan

Minutes of April 3, 2002 Meeting

A scheduled business meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C was held on April 3, 2002, at the 3rd District Police Station. A quorum being present, Chair Miscuk called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm.

Attending were Commissioners Roth, Wright, Miscuk, Jovanka, Johnson, and Gibson. Approximately 10 members of the public were present.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Gibson reported that the ANC's bank balance as of today is \$46,977.80.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Miscuk informed the ANC that he had heard unofficially that Commissioner Peter Schott had resigned from the Commission after nearly four years of admirable service to the community, but that no official notice of this had been received yet from the Board of Elections and Ethics.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Works and Quality of Life Committee - Commissioner Johnson announced that the Committee will meet on Monday, April 8, 2002 at 7:00 pm, at the King Emmanuel Baptist Church, to receive presentations from the developers of the Colortone Building and 2319 Champlain Street (the Brass Knob warehouse), both of whom are seeking zoning variances for their proposed projects. The Committee will also discuss pedestrian safety and methods to deter auto break-ins.

Communications and Grants Committee - Commissioner Gibson announced that the Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 9, 2002, at 7:30 am, at The Diner. Commissioner Wright also announced that he was expecting shortly to receive a grant application from the Fund for Kalorama Park, which he hopes can be processed by the Committee in time for consideration at the ANC's April forum meeting.

ABC and Public Safety Committee - Commissioner Roth (for Commissioner Brody) announced that the Committee will meet on Monday, April 8, 2002, at 7:00 pm, at the Kalorama Park Recreation Center, to address numerous ABC license renewal applications that are currently placarded.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

The Commission heard a presentation from Carolyn W. Colvin, Director of the District's Department of Human Services, outlining Mayor Williams' proposed budget for FY 2003. The Commissioners were each recognized to ask questions of Director Colvin. Issues covered included housing and housing code enforcement; new funding for Fire/EMS services; the need for additional rehabilitation services to serve the Columbia Road area (1600 and 1700 blocks); lack of agency responsiveness to ANC and SMD requests; specifics regarding the \$140 million in cost reductions mentioned above; and the status of the Child and Family Services agency.

POLICE REPORT

Lt. Robert Fulton of PSA 301 reported that March was "not a bad month overall" from the standpoint of crime statistics, but that there was an upswing toward the end of the month in robberies. For the month, there was 1 less crime committed in March 2002 than in March 2001.

Several robbery cases have been closed out, and several burglary arrests have been made, with lots of property recovered. While this has made a significant dent in the burglary problem, Lt. Fulton acknowledged that we still have a problem.

Commissioners discussed with Lt. Fulton the 3D "open house" last Saturday for recovered property and urged that the community be given better notice of future open houses. Concern was also expressed regarding the MPD answering system for emergency calls.

NEW BUSINESS

Real Estate Taxes -- Commissioner Roth offered a resolution calling for reform of the District's property tax assessment system. The resolution was seconded and debated.

Commissioner Johnson moved to amend the resolution by inserting in the fourth bullet of the first "Whereas" clause the words "including commercial multi-family residential assessments" before the word "skyrocket". The amendment was seconded, debated, and defeated on the following roll call vote:

YEA Jovanka, Johnson
NAY Gibson, Wright, Roth, Miscuk

Chairperson Miscuk moved to amend the fourth bullet by inserting the word "non-residential" after "commercial." The amendment was accepted by consent.

After further discussion, Commissioner Wright moved to call the question, which was agreed to by consent. The resolution, as amended, was approved on the following roll call vote:

YEA Gibson, Wright, Roth, Miscuk

NAY Johnson

ABST Jovanka

The resolution as approved reads as follows:

***ANC IC Resolution for Reform of
D.C.'s Real Property Tax System***

WHEREAS, the proposed real property tax assessments for tax year 2003 in Adams Morgan and elsewhere in the District of Columbia are highly variable and inconsistent within individual classes of property, as well as across different classes of property, and suffer specifically from the following problems among others:

- different and discriminatory methods used to assess certain classes of properties as compared to others;*
- the use of uniform across-the-board percentage increases in whole neighborhoods to assess owner-occupied and other small residential properties;*
- inordinate discretion given to assessors of commercial property to decide whether and how much to increase assessments on such property, resulting in inconsistent treatment across different neighborhoods based not on market factors but on the personal approach used by an individual assessor; and*
- reductions in major commercial non-residential property assessments while residential assessments in the same neighborhood skyrocket; and*

WHEREAS, these systemic problems in the assessment process are compounded by inaccurate data and poor recordkeeping with respect to particular properties, so that owners not entitled to receive the lower tax rate applicable to Class 1 properties receive such treatment nonetheless, resulting in a revenue loss to the District paid for by others; and

WHEREAS, the Council's failure to adjust the tax rates applicable to class 1 and class 2 properties to compensate for changes in aggregate District-wide assessments within those classes further distorts the inequitable distribution of tax burdens among all property owners and results in "stealth" revenue increases for the District Government, without any accountability to the voters on the part of elected officials;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Advisory Neighborhood Commission IC finds the District of Columbia's current real property tax system to be arbitrary, capricious, unfair and discriminatory, and calls upon the Mayor and Council of the District of Columbia to undertake a complete

restructuring of that system to eliminate these inequities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent by ANC 1C to the Mayor, Ward One Councilmember Jim Graham, Council Chairperson Linda Cropp, and Finance and Revenue Committee members Jack Evans (chairperson), Harold Brazil, David Catania, Kevin Chavous, and Kathy Patterson.

ABC Licensing Issues -- Chairperson Miscuk passed the gavel to Vice Chairperson Wright and offered the following resolution concerning the ABC license renewal application of Mama Ayesha's, 1967 Calvert Street, NW:

Resolution to Protest the CR Liquor License of Mama Ayesha's

WHEREAS, Mama Ayesha's located at 1967 Calvert Street, NW, holds a CR liquor license, which is up for renewal;

WHEREAS, said establishment falls in the jurisdiction of the Adams Morgan ANC (1C);

WHEREAS, neighborhood concern has been voiced regarding the certain aspects of the operation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Adams Morgan ANC (1C) protest the re-issuance of this license on the grounds of the adverse effects on the peace, order and quiet, until such time as the parties agree to a voluntary agreement, at which time the Adams Morgan ANC (1C) will withdraw its protest and request that the agreement be incorporated into the ABC Board's order granting the renewal.

The resolution was seconded, debated, and approved on the following roll call vote:

YEA Gibson, Roth, Miscuk, Wright
NAY Johnson, Jovanka

Commissioner Miscuk offered the following resolution concerning the ABC license renewal application of The Grill from Ipanema, 1858 Columbia Road, NW:

***Resolution to Protest the CR Liquor License of
The Grill From Ipanema***

WHEREAS, The Grill From Ipanema, located at 1858 Columbia Road, NW, holds a CR liquor license, which is up for renewal;

WHEREAS, said establishment falls in the jurisdiction of the Adams Morgan ANC (1C);

WHEREAS, neighborhood concern has been voiced regarding the certain aspects of the operation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Adams Morgan ANC (IC) protest the re-issuance of this license on the grounds of the adverse effects on the peace, order and quiet, until such time as the parties agree to a voluntary agreement, at which time the Adams Morgan ANC (IC) will withdraw its protest and request that the agreement be incorporated into the ABC Board's order granting the renewal.

The resolution was seconded, debated, and approved on the following roll call vote:

YEA Gibson, Roth, Miscuk, Wright

NAY Johnson, Jovanka

Commissioner Miscuk offered the following resolution concerning Timehri International Cafe, 2439 18th Street, NW:

***Resolution to Petition the ABC Board to Hold a Show Cause Hearing
In Order to Revoke the Liquor License of
Timehri International Cafe***

WHEREAS, the establishment known as Timehri International Cafe located at 2439 18th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009 has received a 5-day summary suspension from the ABC Board for various infractions, many of them involving violence;

WHEREAS, said establishment falls in the jurisdiction of the Adams Morgan ANC (IC);

WHEREAS, Timehri International Cafe has failed to respond to concerns and pleas of neighbors;

WHEREAS, Timehri International Cafe has failed to remedy or present any plan to resolve these issues;

WHEREAS, Timehri International Cafe has a history of being an establishment counter to the interests of this neighborhood;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Adams Morgan ANC (IC) supports and encourages the actions of the ABC Board to hold a Show Cause Hearing in order to revoke the liquor license of Timehri International Café;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Adams Morgan ANC (IC) supports

the revocation of the liquor license of Timehri International Cafe: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the officers of Adams Morgan ANC (1C) are authorized to take appropriate actions necessary to secure the support of Councilmember Jim Graham, other Councilmembers, and the support and actions of any relevant city agencies to further this goal.

The resolution was seconded, debated, and approved on the following roll call vote:

YEA Gibson, Roth, Wright, Miscuk

NAY Johnson

ABST Jovanka

Mr. Eben Block, the owner of the parcel at 1718 Seaton Street, was recognized to make a presentation to the Commission concerning his plans for the erection of a house on that parcel. Because the parcel is located within the Strivers Section Historic District, his plans require approval by the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB). He requested the Commission's support for his HPRB application. Following discussion, Commissioner Jovanka moved to approve Mr. Block's request. The motion was seconded. Commissioner Roth then moved to postpone consideration of the matter until the next meeting of the ANC. The motion to postpone was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Chairperson Miscuk recognized himself and the other Commissioners for a discussion of ABC and related noise, crime, rowdiness, and enforcement issues along 18th Street during recent weekends.

Commissioner Wright moved to reaffirm that the ANC's April forum meeting would occur on Tuesday, April 16, 2002, rather than on the usual third Monday of the month. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Johnson moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan Roth
Commissioner, SMD 1C01

Peter L. Klempay
Secretary ANC 1C