

# **Bridging Neighborhoods and Government**

## **Annual Report 2024**



# **ANC 4B**



# ANC 4B

## **Congratulations to the winners of ANC 4B's Student Art Competition!**

### **2024 ANC 4B Student Art Competition**

ANC 4B is excited to announce the winners of the Commission's 2024 Student Art Competition! This year's competition celebrates the incredible talent of our local youth, and the Commission is proud to showcase their creativity, community spirit, and pride in our neighborhoods.

The winning artwork is featured throughout ANC 4B's 2024 Annual Report. A heartfelt thank you to the students who participated! Their work not only enhances the Commission's Annual Report but also highlights the creativity, pride, and love that make our neighborhoods truly special.



### **First Place Winner:**

Lauren Mitchell  
South Manor Neighborhood

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# Annual Report

# 2024

*Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B (Commission), at a duly noticed public meeting held on November 25, 2024, at which a quorum of Commissioners was present, voted with 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions to file this Annual Report with the Mayor, the DC Council, and the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, as well as publish this Report on the [Commission's website](#) and on the [Advisory Neighborhood Commission Resolution Portal](#).*

*This Report covers Commission and Commissioner activities between November 2023 and November 2024. This Report satisfies the Commission's statutory reporting obligations. See [DC Code § 1-309.10\(j\)\(1\)](#) (providing that each Commission may file an annual report with the Council and the Mayor for the preceding fiscal year); *id.* at [\(n-1\)](#) (providing that each Commission shall publish an annual report summarizing its activities over the preceding 12 months). The Commission's regular public meeting agendas and minutes for November 2023 through November 2024, Fiscal Year 2024 Quarterly Financial Reports, and Fiscal Year 2025 Budget are attached as appendices to this Report.*

# Building Stronger Connections: A Message of Community and Care from the Chair

## ALISON BROOKS, CHAIR

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B



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Neighbors,

I am privileged to address you as the Chair of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B (ANC 4B).

As I reflect on the Commission's service over the last year, I am proud of the accomplishments we have made on behalf of our neighbors in ANC 4B, Ward 4, and across the District of Columbia. Working as a Commissioner is a labor of love: love for our neighbors, love for our community, and love for the District of Columbia. And this Report is the summary of that love. ANC 4B has worked diligently over the past year to positively impact the lives of our neighbors, but we do not do this work alone. ANC 4B wants to express our deepest gratitude to our neighbors and community partners for your advocacy, input, and involvement. I also extend my deepest gratitude to all the Commissioners, whose hard work and passion are the driving forces behind our success.

As we conclude another year, I proudly present **Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B's 2024 Annual Report: Bridging Neighborhoods and Government**. This Report reflects a year of important milestones, steadfast dedication by our Commissioners, and a collective effort to inspire change in our community. Throughout this Report, you'll find a comprehensive review of ANC 4B's goals, key achievements, and strategic priorities. While we've made great strides, there is still work ahead. ANC 4B remains committed to collaborating with residents to address our community's needs. We encourage everyone to stay engaged with the Commission, neighborhood groups, and one another to help find solutions and continue to strengthen our collective future. We hope that this Report inspires all of us to contribute to the betterment of DC.

Thank you for your trust and confidence in each of us. We remain committed to transparency, accountability, and excellence in everything we do. **"We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right."** - Martin Luther King Jr.

Sincerely,

*Alison Brooks*



# Introduction

## Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B

An Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) is a non-partisan neighborhood body made up of locally elected representatives called Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners. ANCs serve as a unique feature of the District's Home Rule Charter, providing a direct link between neighbors and local government. ANCs hold public meetings to address neighborhood issues and provide recommendations to the District government on policies that affect the community.

ANC 4B has ten Commissioners, each representing a distinct geographic area known as a Single Member District. Commissioners, who serve two-year terms without pay, are elected during DC elections held in November of even-numbered years. ANC 4B covers a broad area, extending from Georgia Avenue to the West, Eastern Avenue to the East, and Missouri Avenue, Riggs Road, South Dakota Avenue, and Kennedy Street to the South.

## Understanding ANC 4B's Annual Report

This is the Annual Report for Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B for the year 2024. The purpose of this Report is to share the Commission's activities, actions, and financial status with the public, the Mayor, the DC Council, and other key government offices. It also fulfills the Commission's legal requirement to provide a summary of its work over the past year, as outlined in DC law ([DC Code § 1-309.10](#)).

This Report covers the activities of the Commission and its Commissioners from November 2023 to November 2024. It includes the following:

- 1. Summary of the Commission's work:** This section includes information about the Commission's officers, regular public meetings, and the activities of individual Commissioners in their respective districts.
- 2. Key Issues & Actions:** This section highlights the important issues the Commission addressed and recommendations made through resolutions or other official measures.
- 3. Operational Insights:** This section details on the Commission's day-to-day operations, including how it managed its resources and worked to ensure accessibility and transparency.
- 4. Financial Overview:** This section provides a snapshot of the Commission's finances, including its financial reports for Fiscal Year 2024 and its budget for Fiscal Year 2025.

This Report also shows the Commission’s ongoing commitment to working in the best interest of the community, making progress on neighborhood-level issues such as **traffic safety, affordable housing, youth engagement, climate resilience, and community safety**. The Commission’s successes are due to the hard work of volunteer Commissioners and engaged neighbors that further the goal of [“bring\[ing\] government closer to the people, and ... bring\[ing\] the people closer to government.”](#)

Overall, the goal of this Report is to keep neighbors and others informed about the work of the Commission and to maintain transparency in how it serves the neighborhood.



*Alia, Third Grade, Capital City Public Charter School*



# ANC 4B

## by the numbers

**2024**

(Nov 2023 - Nov 2024)

Takoma Metro Mural, Art All Around, Flickr



**10** ANC 4B Monthly Meetings  
**31** Committee Meetings



**4** Committees

Housing Justice (est. 2020)

Vision Zero (est. 2020)

Youth Advisory (est. 2023)

Community Safety and Support (est. 2024)

**47** Resolutions  
+ other formal action



**13** ANC 4B Events  
(hosted or sponsored)

**10** Commissioners

representing

**+20,000**

Constituents



**\$12,000**

in  
community grants  
to

**3 organizations**



(Takoma Elementary PTO,  
Coolidge High School Alumni Association,  
and Ward 4 Mutual Aid)



Heritage Wall , Lillian J. Huff Community Library



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B's Activities

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B has ten Commissioners. Nine Commissioners served from November 2023 to November 2024:

- Commissioner T. Michelle Colson (4B01)
- Commissioner Erin Palmer (4B02)
- Commissioner Zurick T. Smith (4B03)
- Commissioner Evan Yeats (4B04)
- Commissioner Kevin Gilligan (4B05)
- Commissioner Tiffani Nichole Johnson (4B06)
- Commissioner Michael Cohen (4B07)
- Commissioner Alison Brooks (4B08)
- Commissioner Derrick Thompson (4B09)

Jinin Berry filled the vacancy in Single Member District 4B10 on January 18, 2024, and was sworn in shortly thereafter. She has served since that time.

At its January 22, 2024 meeting, the Commission unanimously elected the following Executive Committee officers:

- **Alison Brooks**, Chair (ANC 4B08)
- **Zurick T. Smith**, Vice Chair (ANC 4B03)
- **Evan Yeats**, Treasurer (ANC 4B04)
- **Erin Palmer**, Secretary (ANC 4B02)

The Commission also appointed Commissioner Colson (4B01) as its representative to the Walter Reed Community Advisory Committee during the January 22, 2024 meeting, as required by [DC Code § 10 1906\(b\)\(1\)\(G\)](#).

From November 2023 through November 2024, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B held **ten regular public meetings and ten planning meetings**. These meetings took place in November 2023, and then in January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October, and November 2024, with a recess in July, August, and December 2024. Each regular public meeting included administrative presentations, such as updates from the Treasurer on the Commission's finances, Commissioner updates on their Single Member Districts, and committee activity reports. Representatives from the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services, the Office of the Ward 4 Councilmember, and the Ward 4 Representative to the State Board of Education presented at each Commission

meeting. While the Commission invited the Metropolitan Police Department to attend, the Department typically opted to engage the community through its own meetings and events.

Over the course of the year, the Commission hosted **23 presentations from DC government agencies, community groups, and other organizations**. Notable presentations included the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Affairs, who discussed the mission and work of his office (June 24, 2024), and the Director of the District Department of General Services, who presented Mayor Bowser’s Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Proposal (May 28, 2024). In addition, the Commission’s four Committees hosted dozens of presentations specifically related to housing justice, vision aéro, youth engagement and education, and community safety and support.

Each regular public meeting also included time dedicated to community concerns, in accordance with [DC Code § 1-309.11\(b\)\(3\)](#). This time allowed neighbors to raise issues or voice concerns about problems affecting the neighborhood or proposed District government actions. Virtual meetings increased public participation, enabling neighbors to “raise hands” to speak (either on camera or by voice) or submit questions and comments via chat, which were read aloud and addressed during the meeting.

Throughout the year, Commissioners worked collaboratively and constructively. The Commission approved **47 resolutions and other formal actions** between November 2023 and November 2024, as discussed in greater detail below. In addition, the Commission hosted or sponsored 13 events designed to engage and educate the local community, including (but not limited to) a **Crime Prevention Training & Resource Fair**, an **Earth Day Fair**, a **Tenant Resource Fair**, and a **Voter Registration Party**.

Commissioners regularly collaborated across Single Member Districts on resolutions, official actions, committee meetings, and community events. In addition, Commissioners engaged in numerous activities within their Single Member Districts to inform and educate neighbors, including the following:

**T. Michelle Colson, ANC 4B01 Commissioner:** T. Michelle Colson served as the Commissioner for Single Member District 4B01 and the Commission’s representative to the Walter Reed Community Advisory Committee.

**Erin Palmer, ANC 4B02 Commissioner:** As the Commission’s Secretary, Commissioner Palmer drafted Commission agendas and minutes, organized presentations for Commission meetings, noticed Commission meetings in accordance with all legal requirements, drafted minutes for Commission meetings, and prepared the Commission’s Annual Report, among other duties. She chaired the Housing Justice Committee and co-chaired the Youth Advisory Committee. She led multiple Commission and committee events, including the Commission’s Crime Prevention Training and Resource Fair, Earth Day Resource Fair, Tenant Resource Fair, Voter Registration Party, and Spring Cleanup Week. She regularly organized neighborhood-level events and maintained communication with neighbors through a monthly newsletter, office hours, and neighborhood walks.

**Zurick T. Smith, ANC 4B03 Commissioner:** As the Commission’s Vice Chair, Commissioner Smith supported the Chair and helped manage the Commission’s Executive Committee. He played an active role in supporting swing space for Whittier Elementary School during its modernization and the ongoing addition and renovation project at Coolidge High

School. Commissioner Smith regularly collaborated across the Commission, including with his fellow Executive Committee members. He engaged with neighbors through regular Single Member District meetings.

**Evan Yeats, ANC 4B04 Commissioner:** As the Commission's Treasurer, Commissioner Yeats managed the Commission's budget, prepared financial reports, and oversaw grantmaking. He also built the Commission's website and formats and styles the Commission's Annual Reports. Commissioner Yeats co-chaired the Vision Zero Committee to promote safer streets. In addition, he supported the Housing Justice Committee's feedback for the Takoma Metro and other developments and worked to improve the District's Office of Unified Communications. Commissioner Yeats co-hosted Adopt-a-Block cleanups with Commissioner Palmer and kept neighbors informed through a newsletter.

**Kevin Gilligan, ANC 4B05 Commissioner:** Commissioner Gilligan distributed a periodic newsletter that highlighted specific items of interest and activities, as well as hosted a routine community cleanup at various locations in his Single Member District. Commissioner Gilligan fielded calls and emails from constituents in Single Member District 4B05, helping to resolve concerns and questions as they arose.

**Tiffani Nichole Johnson, ANC 4B06 Commissioner:** Commissioner Johnson held nine Single Member District meetings and organized a special meeting with Councilmember Lewis George and the Metropolitan Police Department. She worked on various local issues, including advocating for additional traffic calming measures, improving the residential parking permit process, and enhancing the upkeep of the District's tree canopy. Commissioner Johnson also engaged with the Board of Zoning Adjustment in support of a zoning exception for a neighborhood daycare. She regularly engaged with neighbors and local agencies to address key concerns for neighbors in her Single Member District.

**Michael Cohen, ANC 4B07 Commissioner:** Michael Cohen served as the Commissioner for Single Member District 4B07.

**Alison Brooks, ANC 4B08 Commissioner:** As Chair for four years, Commissioner Brooks led Commission meetings, managed the Executive Committee, and represented the Commission. She co-chaired the Commission's Vision Zero Committee and the Commission's Youth Advisory Committee. Within her Single Member District, she addressed blighted properties, development along Kennedy Street, and worked on community safety and community cleanup efforts, including quarterly Adopt-a-Block cleanups. Commissioner Brooks regularly met with neighbors, collaborated with the District Department of Transportation on traffic safety, and conducted neighborhood walk-throughs to tackle issues like safety, rodent control, and abandoned properties.

• **Derrick Thompson, ANC 4B09 Commissioner:** Derrick Thompson served as the Commissioner for Single Member District 4B09.

**Jinin Berry, ANC 4B10 Commissioner:** Jinin Berry served as the Commissioner for Single Member District 4B10.



# ANC 4B

## Events



### Crime Prevention Training & Resource Fair

ANC 4B Executive Committee | February 10, 2024

Neighbors gained valuable skills in self-defense, bystander intervention, CPR, and Narcan administration, while accessing government agency and community organization resources.



### March Madness

ANC 4B Executive Committee | March 29, 2024

Neighbors enjoyed a fun-filled evening with a kids' basketball game, followed by a DC Fire Department vs. Metropolitan Police Department match, along with free food, drinks, a live DJ, and job opportunities.



### Spring Cleanup Week

ANC 4B Executive Committee | April 13 - 21, 2024

ANC 4B hosted 9 community cleanups and collected 212 bags of litter with support from local schools, small businesses, and community groups. Over 100 volunteers participated, including 23 students.



### 2nd Annual Earth Day Fair

ANC 4B Executive Committee, Vision Zero Committee | May 18, 2024

ANC 4B brought together over 20 organizations and community groups, offering hands-on activities, environmental resources, and volunteer opportunities, while engaging neighbors in sustainability efforts.



## Defend Yourself Bystander Training

ANC 4B | June 15, 2024

ANC 4B hosted a bystander intervention training, with 17 participants (including 2 youth) where they learned valuable skills to safely intervene in situations of harassment or violence.



## 2nd Annual Tenant Resource Fair

ANC 4B Housing Justice Committee | July 14, 2024

The Fair brought together nearly 30 organizations to empower 100+ tenants with vital resources, practical workshops, and panel discussions on housing rights, affordable housing, and building tenant power.



## 2nd Annual Backpack Giveaway

ANC 4B | August 9, 2024

ANC 4B donated school supply materials for 500 backpacks filled with supplies as part of a drive hosted by Symone's Style Spot, The Parks Main Street, Riggs Liquor, Chick-fil-A, and Walmart.



## Voter Registration Party!

ANC 4B Executive Committee, Youth Committee | September 17, 2024

ANC 4B hosted helped register 71 students and community members to vote in partnership with Legal Aid DC, League of Women Voters DC, and Headcount, with support from local businesses and community groups.



## DC State Fair

ANC 4B | September 7, 2024

## Takoma Park Street Festival

ANC 4B | October 6, 2024

ANC 4B hosted tables with activities and engaged hundreds of residents re ANC 4B.



ANC 4B also sponsored **The Parks Main Street's Art All Night** on September 28, 2024, and the **Takoma Main Street Holiday Market** on December 8, 2024. The Commission's Youth Advisory Committee will be hosting an event making **trail mix for Martha's Table** in December.



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B's Key Issues & Recommended District Government Action

The Commission has addressed many important neighborhood-level and citywide issues, primarily via Resolution or other formal Commission action. From November 2023 through November 2024, the Commission approved 47 Resolutions or other formal actions and welcomed 23 presentations from DC government agencies, community groups, and others, as well as dozens of presentations at Committee meetings. These Resolutions, other official actions, and presentations can be grouped into five general subject matter areas:

- 1. Reimagining Streets for Safety:** Vision Zero and Traffic Calming
- 2. Building Safe, Stable, and Secure Housing for All:** Housing Justice and Affordable Housing Advocacy
- 3. Empowering Youth & Enhancing Public Spaces:** Supporting Youth Engagement, Public Spaces, and Community Well-Being
- 4. Fighting for a Sustainable Future:** Climate Resiliency and Accountability for Utility Companies
- 5. Promoting Community Safety & Support:** Strengthening Neighborhood Safety and Community Resources

In addition to these subject matter areas, in its continual efforts for government policies and procedures that are fair and equitable, the Commission approved a [Letter](#), Requesting Audit of Settlement Agreements Approved by the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (formerly Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration) to Ensure Enforceability and Racial Equity (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks) at the Commission's September 23, 2024, meeting.

Through these actions, the Commission remains dedicated to supporting the community, addressing key issues, and demanding government accountability.

# Reimagining Streets for Safety: Vision Zero & Traffic Calming

ANC 4B is dedicated to improving traffic safety and ensuring access to safe, affordable, and accessible transportation for everyone in the District. This year, the Commission has focused on expanding Vision Zero efforts to reduce fatalities and injuries and advocating for targeted traffic safety measures.

While the Commission has seen successes, challenges remain with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), including inconsistent procedures, lack of transparency, and delays in project implementation. The Commission continues to call for better coordination between DDOT and other District agencies, as well as clearer standards for transitioning temporary infrastructure into permanent safety measures.

The [Vision Zero Committee](#), established in 2020, was the **first ANC committee citywide focused on supporting Vision Zero efforts** to ensure zero fatalities and serious injuries to users of the District's transportation systems. The Vision Zero Committee:

1. considers and recommends strategies for increasing community safety in accordance with Vision Zero goals within the Commission area;
2. analyzes and provides feedback on relevant proposed plans and projects, as well as legislation and agency decisions that impact community safety in line with these goals; and
3. works with neighborhood groups representing vulnerable road users to receive feedback on Commission efforts toward Vision Zero goals.

This year, the Committee, co-chaired by Commissioners Brooks (4B08) and Commissioner Yeats (4B04), along with members Dani Baronofsky, Dave Cooke, Tony Giancola, and Charon P.W. Hines, as well as Jeff Speir (who transitioned off the Committee during the year), held nine meetings and continued its efforts to push for safer streets, with a particular focus on reducing traffic-related deaths and injuries. Key actions and initiatives of the Commission and the Vision Zero Committee include:

- **Georgia Avenue Bus Priority Project:** Supporting DDOT's initiative to prioritize buses along Georgia Avenue to improve safety and efficiency for commuters.
- **Sidewalk Gap Improvements:** Providing recommendations to DDOT on how to prioritize sidewalk gaps to improve pedestrian safety.
- **Traffic Calming at Targeted Locations:** Advocating for additional traffic calming measures, particularly at high-risk locations such as Underwood Street, Piney Branch Road, and the intersection of South Dakota Avenue and Riggs Road.
- **Metropolitan Branch Trail:** Supporting infrastructure improvements along the trail to enhance safety for pedestrians and cyclists.



The Committee's work of reframing efforts for street safety has had a tangible impact on ANC 4B with substantial traffic calming, expanded low-stress routes for vulnerable road users, and better conditions for children near schools, parks, and playgrounds.

In furtherance of the Commission's commitment to Vision Zero and ensuring safer, more equitable transportation infrastructure, the Commission has focused on both transforming streets through long-term safety measures and advocating for targeted interventions to address specific community needs. These actions aim to improve traffic safety, enhance mobility for all users, and ensure that improvements are implemented transparently and effectively. The Commission has acted in the following ways:

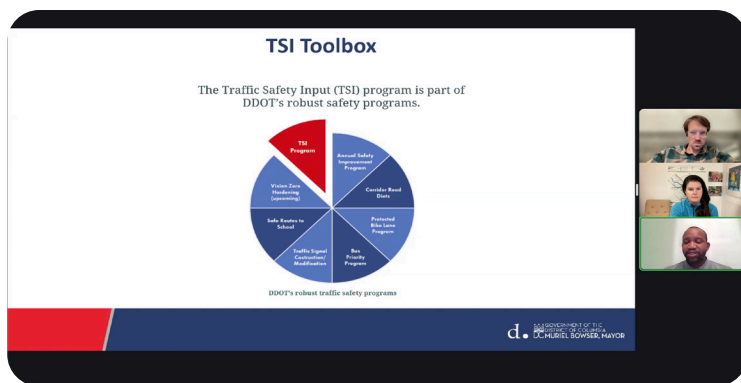
## Transforming Infrastructure for Vision Zero

**Resolution 4B-24-1102:** Supporting Georgia Avenue Bus Priority Project (Nov. 25, 2024) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Gilligan, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks)

**Vision Zero Committee Presentation:** District Department of Transportation, Georgia Avenue Bus Priority Project (Nov. 20, 2024)

**Resolution 4B-24-0603:** Noting History of Requests and Calling for Installation of Speed Humps for East-West Roads (June 24, 2024) (Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Smith)

**Resolution 4B-24-0402:** Providing Recommendations to the District Department of Transportation on Scoring System to Prioritize Addressing Sidewalk Gaps (Apr. 29, 2024) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Smith)



**Vision Zero Committee Presentation:** District Department of Transportation, Sidewalk Gap Branch, Sidewalk Gaps (Sept. 18, 2024)

**Commission Presentation:** District Department of Transportation, Traffic Engineering & Safety Division, Corridor Safety Projects Team, South Dakota Avenue Corridor Safety Project from Riggs Road, NE, to Bladensburg Road, NE (June

24, 2024)

**Commission Presentation:** Department of Transportation, Planning and Sustainability Division, Active Transportation Branch, District Riggs Road, NE, Protected Bike Lanes (NOI 24-150 PSD) (June 24, 2024)

**Commission Presentation:** District Department of Transportation and Mid-Atlantic Construction Services, Metropolitan Branch Trail Fort Totten to Takoma Construction Project (May 28, 2024)

## Advocating for Targeted Traffic Safety Measures

**Resolution 4B-24-0901:** Recommending Removal of “Rush Hour No Parking” Restriction on the 400 and 500 Blocks of Cedar Street, NW (Sept. 23, 2024) (Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Smith)

**Resolution 4B-24-0902:** Requesting Comprehensive Street Redesign for the 200 and 300 Blocks of Vine Street, NW (Sept. 23, 2024) (Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Smith)

**Resolution 4B-24-0903:** Reiterating Requests for Beautification and Art Along Aspen Street, NW, Underpass of the Metropolitan Subdivision as Part of Construction of Metropolitan Branch Trail (Sept. 23, 2024) (Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Smith)



**Letter:** Detailing Pedestrian Access and Pedestrian Safety Challenges and Requests for Improvements at Safeway (6500 Piney Branch Road, NW) (Sept. 23, 2024) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Smith)

**Resolution 4B-24-0604:** Noting Lengthy History of Requests and Calling for Additional Traffic Calming and Safety Infrastructure at the Intersection of Piney Branch Road, NW, and Dahlia Street, NW, and Around Takoma Elementary School (June 24, 2024) (Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Smith)

**Resolution 4B-24-0605:** Calling for Traffic Calming and Safety Infrastructure on the 800 Block of Underwood Street, NW, and at the Intersection of Underwood Street, NW, and Piney Branch Road, NW (June 24, 2024) (Commissioner Palmer)

**Resolution 4B-24-0501:** Noting History of Requests and Calling for Installation of Meaningful Traffic Safety Infrastructure at the Intersection of South Dakota Avenue, NE, and Riggs Road, NE, and the Intersection of Missouri Avenue, NW, and New Hampshire Avenue, NW (May 28, 2024) (Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Smith)

**Resolution 4B-24-0404:** Providing Feedback on District Department of Transportation Proposal for Intersection of Georgia Avenue, Alaska Avenue, and Kalmia Road, NW (NOI 24-821-TESD) (Apr. 29, 2024) (Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Colson, Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Smith)

**Vision Zero Committee Presentation:** District Department of Transportation, Proposed Traffic Safety Infrastructure at Intersection of Georgia Avenue, Alaska Avenue, and Kalmia Road, NW (NOI 24-82-TESD) (Apr. 17, 2024)

**Resolution 4B-24-0102:** Noting History of Requests and Calling for Installation of Meaningful Traffic Calming at the Intersection of 5th Street, NW and Underwood Street, NW (Jan. 22, 2024) (Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Yeats)

**Letter:** Noting Challenges with Community Engagement Process for Charter School Relocation and Need for Coordination and Oversight for Siting of Public Charter Schools (Jan. 22, 2024) (Commissioner Palmer and Commissioner Yeats) (advocating for traffic safety planning for siting of public charters schools)

**Commission Presentation:** Mary McLeod Bethune Day Academy Public Charter School, Petition to Public Charter School Board to Amend Charter Agreement to Relocate from Sixth Presbyterian Church at 5413 16th Street, NW, to Takoma Park Baptist Church at 635 Aspen Street, NW (Feb. 26, 2024)

**Vision Zero Committee Presentation:** District Department of Transportation, Traffic Engineering and Safety Division (TESD), Traffic Safety Inputs and Available Interventions (Oct. 16, 2024)

## Budget Priorities

**Vision Zero Committee Presentation:** Washington Area Bicyclist Association, Budget Advocacy Overview and Discussion re Fiscal Year 2025 Vision Zero Priorities (Feb. 21, 2024)



*Moe Jaffe, Pre-K, Takoma Neighborhood*

# Building Safe, Stable, and Secure Housing: Housing Justice & Affordable Housing Advocacy

ANC 4B is committed to ensuring safe, stable, and secure housing for everyone in the District. This year, the Commission has focused on advocating for policies and projects that promote deeply affordable housing, efforts to end homelessness, and supporting tenants. The Commission remains dedicated to working with the District government to ensure housing is accessible, equitable, and secure for everyone, particularly those most vulnerable to displacement and housing insecurity.

While the Commission has seen progress in advocating for affordable housing funding, preservation, and development within the Commission area, challenges persist as homelessness grows and protections and supports are continually scaled back. The Commission continues to call for increased funding to end chronic homelessness and for housing assistance programs, more robust protections for tenants, and zoning reforms and leadership changes that will facilitate the preservation and construction of high-quality and amenity rich affordable housing.

The [Housing Justice Committee](#), established in 2020, was the **first ANC committee citywide focused on housing as a right** and efforts to specifically advance affordable housing initiatives within the Commission's boundaries. The Housing Justice Committee:

1. considers and provides feedback on proposed housing developments, particularly in relation to affordable housing opportunities;
2. advocates for policies and budget priorities that address homelessness, increase affordable housing, and ensure housing equity; and
3. engages with local stakeholders, including tenants and housing advocates, to elevate community voices in housing decision-making processes.

Since the Committee's inception, the Commission has weighed in on projects that should bring or preserve approximately 1,000 units of affordable housing and approximately 1,725 new market-rate homes over the next few years, making significant progress toward the District's goal of producing 36,000 new housing units and 12,000 affordable housing units by 2025, including 1,500 new affordable units in the Rock Creek East planning area.

This year, the Committee, chaired by Commissioner Palmer (4B02), along with members Zoila Hinson, Julia Moran Morton, Brenda Parks, and Leighann Smith Rosenberg, as well as Alison Horn (who transitioned off the Committee during the year), held **12 meetings** and worked diligently to advance housing justice in the District. Key actions and initiatives of the Commission and the Housing Justice Committee include:



- **Affordable Housing Development:** The Committee supported zoning adjustments at 7709-7723 Georgia Avenue, NW, 71 Kennedy Street, NW, and 5924 9th Street, NW, as well as continued to offer support for 7050 Eastern Avenue NW, and the Takoma Metro Development to maximize affordable housing opportunities in new developments.
- **Housing Justice Budget Advocacy:** The Committee provided detailed feedback on the District’s Fiscal Year 2025 budget, pushing for funding to end chronic homelessness, expand public housing, and support emergency rental assistance programs.
- **Emergency Rental Assistance:** The Committee raised concerns about proposed reforms to the Emergency Rental Assistance program, advocating for greater tenant engagement in policy changes and highlighting the need for more robust protections for renters.

- **Tenant Protection & Education:** The Committee supported the Do Right by DC Tenants Amendment Act, which aims to strengthen tenant protections, as well as offered significant tenant rights education programming for neighbors.



A highlight of the Housing Justice Committee’s work this year was co-hosting the **Second Annual Tenant Resource Fair** on July 14, 2024, at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. In partnership with Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A, the fair brought together over thirty local organizations, offering over one

hundred tenants access to critical resources and information. Attendees participated in educational sessions on tenant rights, forming tenant associations, and addressing building code violations, as well as panel discussions on topics like affordable housing innovation and tenant empowerment. With support from organizations such as the District Office of the Tenant Advocate and Legal Aid DC, the fair provided vital tools for tenants to advocate for their rights and navigate housing challenges. Bilingual services in Spanish and Amharic ensured broad accessibility for all participants.

In line with the Commission’s ongoing goals to expand affordable housing, reduce homelessness, and ensure housing equity, the Commission has continued to advocate for comprehensive housing policies, support affordable housing development, and fund essential tenant support programs. The Commission has acted in the following ways:

## Budget Priorities & Legislative Advocacy

**Letter:** Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B Fiscal Year 2025 Housing Justice Budget Priorities (Feb. 26, 2024) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Smith)

**Housing Justice Committee Presentation:** DC Fiscal Policy Institute, Budget Advocacy Overview and Discussion re Fiscal Year 2025 Housing Justice Priorities (Feb. 7, 2024)

**Housing Justice Committee Presentation:** Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, Budget Advocacy Overview and Discussion re Fiscal Year 2025 Housing Justice Priorities (Feb. 7, 2024)

**Letter:** Expressing Concerns regarding the Emergency Rental Assistance Reform Emergency Amendment Act of 2024 and Calling for Engagement with Tenant Lawyers and the Tenant Community in Modifying Emergency Rental Assistance (Oct. 28, 2024) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Smith)

**Resolution 4B-24-0904:** Calling for the Office of Tax and Revenue to Advocate for Statutory Changes to Allow for a Spend Down Process for the Adjusted Gross Income of Property Owners Over 65 and those with Disabilities (Sept. 23, 2024) (Commissioner Johnson)

**Resolution 4B-24-0101:** Supporting and Providing Feedback on B25-0574, the Do Right by DC Tenants Amendment Act of 2023 (Jan. 22, 2024) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Smith)

**Housing Justice Committee Presentation:** Office of Councilmember Janeese Lewis George, B25-0574, Do Right by DC Tenants Amendment Act of 2023 (Jan. 3, 2024)

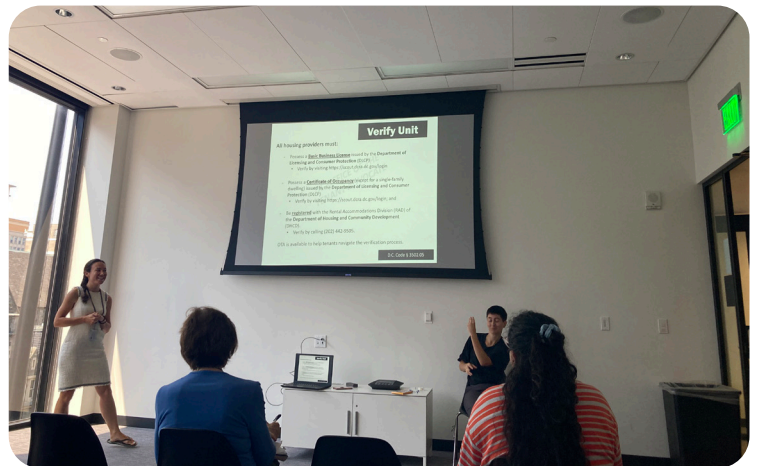
**Housing Justice Committee Presentation:** Department of Housing and Community Development, Rental Accommodations Division, Overview of the Rent Stabilization Program – Rental Housing Act of 1985 (Sept. 4, 2024)

## Maximizing Affordable Housing in Developments

**Letter:** Detailing Procedural History of Proposed Development at 6928 Maple Street, NW, and Highlighting Continued Concerns re Petra Development (May 28, 2024) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Smith)

**Resolution 4B-24-0405:** Providing Clerical Correction and Reiterating Support for Proposal for 71 Kennedy Street, NW and Application for Zoning Special Exceptions (BZA 21103) (Apr. 29, 2024) (Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Smith)

**Resolution 4B-24-0301:** Supporting Special Exceptions for Five Additional Dwelling Units at 5924 9th Street, NW (BZA Case #21106) (Mar. 25, 2024) (Commissioner Gilligan)



**Commission Presentation:** Sullivan & Barros, LLP, Application for Zoning Modification at 5924 9th Street, NW for Five Additional Dwelling Units (BZA Case #21106) (Mar. 25, 2024)

**Housing Justice Committee Presentation:** Sullivan & Barros, LLP, Application for Zoning Modification at 5924 9th Street, NW for Five Additional Dwelling Units (BZA Case #21106) (Mar. 6, 2024)



**Letter:** Supporting and Providing Feedback on Proposed Map Amendment from MU-4 to MU-10 for 7709-7723 Georgia Avenue, NW (Case No. 23-11) (Jan. 22, 2024) (Commissioner Colson, Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Yeats)

**Commission Presentation:** Gragg, Cardona, and Souadi, Affordable Assisted Living Facility, 7709 Georgia Ave, NW (Sq. 2961, Lot 810), Map Amendment from MU-4 to MU-10 (Case No. 23-11) (Jan. 22, 2024)

**Housing Justice Committee Presentation:** Gragg, Cardona, and Souadi, Affordable Assisted Living Facility, 7709 Georgia Ave, NW (Sq. 2961, Lot 810), Map Amendment from MU-4 to MU-10 (Case No. 23-11) (Jan. 3, 2024)

**Housing Justice Committee Presentation:** Principal Square 134 Architects PC, Proposed Development at 300 Vine Street, NW (July 3, 2024)

**Housing Justice Committee Presentation:** District Department of Housing and Community Development, Request for Proposals: Potential Assignment of DOPA Right (801-811 R Street NW) (Feb. 7, 2024)

## Reducing Administrative Burdens for Simple Home Improvements

**Resolution 4B-24-0602:** Supporting Application for Special Exceptions at 6629 Piney Branch Road, NW, for Rear Addition (BZA 21176) (June 24, 2024) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Smith)

**Resolution 4B-24-0401:** Supporting Application for Special Exception at 902 Butternut Street, NW (BZA 21126) and Noting Presumption of Support for Personal Use Cases with No Articulate Impact on Neighbors (Apr. 29, 2024) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Smith)

# Advancing Tenant Rights

## Housing Justice Committee Presentations:

- District Office of Human Rights, Work of the Office and Housing Discrimination Issues & Remedies (Nov. 6, 2024)
- Legal Counsel for the Elderly, Housing Discrimination Issues & Remedies (Nov. 6, 2024)
- Equal Rights Center, Housing Discrimination Issues & Remedies (Nov. 6, 2024)
- District Office of the Tenant Advocate, Tenant Rights and Housing Assistance (May 1, 2024)

## Tenant Resource Fair Sessions (July 14, 2024):

- **Panel:** [Empowering Renters – Building Tenant Power](#)
- **Panel:** [Breaking Barriers – Affordable Housing Innovation Across the DMV](#)
- **Panel:** [Keeping the Faith – Religious Institutions and Affordable Housing](#)
- **Education Session:** Know Your Tenant Rights 101, District Office of the Tenant Advocate
- **Education Session:** Forming a Tenant Association, Housing Counseling Services
- **Education Session:** Addressing Building Code Violations, District Department of Buildings

# Fighting to End Chronic Homelessness

**Housing Justice Committee Presentation:** Streetsense Media, Reporting on Homelessness in the District (including 2024 Point in Time Count) (Apr. 3, 2024)

**Housing Justice Committee Presentation:** Miriam’s Kitchen, DC’s Fiscal Year 2025 Budget and Efforts to End Chronic Homelessness (Apr. 3, 2024)

# Empowering Homeownership

**Housing Justice Committee Presentation:** DC Housing Finance Agency re Work of the Agency and Home Purchase Assistance Programs (October 2, 2024)

# Empowering Youth, Enhancing Public Spaces, and Supporting Community Well-Being

ANC 4B is committed to amplifying youth voices and advocating for public spaces that support the well-being and development of young people and the entire community. In 2024, the Commission focused on enhancing youth engagement, strengthening schools, ensuring the accessibility of key community spaces, and advancing public health. ANC 4B is dedicated to collaborating with District agencies and local organizations to foster an inclusive, equitable environment for all.



In furtherance of the Commission’s dedication to engaging and educating youth, ANC 4B established the [Youth Advisory Committee](#) in 2023—the **first citywide ANC committee elevating youth voice through youth members**. The Youth Advisory Committee:

1. educates youth within the Commission’s boundaries and/or attending schools within the Commission’s boundaries about key actors and the policy process in DC, including the history, mission, and work of the Commission itself;
2. seeks feedback on proposed legislation and policy affecting youth and families in the District, as well as

developing proposals for government action, with a goal of amplifying youth voice; and

3. engages local schools about Commission activities, including meetings, public service, and other opportunities for youth participation.

This year, the Committee, co-chaired by Commissioner Brooks (4B08) and Commissioner Palmer (4B02), along with members Samantha Brooks, Novella Heffernan, Neil Hogan, Grant Powell, and Ruby Terrell, held 6 meetings and made significant strides in youth engagement through community service and hands-on learning. Notable activities included:

- **Local Politics Exhibit at MLK:**

Exploring DC’s political history and advocacy efforts at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library.

- **Volunteerism:** Supporting food access and local food systems by volunteering at Lederer Gardens in Ward 7 and making trail mix for Martha’s Table.

- **Civic Engagement with Representative Oye Owolewa:** Learning about DC’s unique political status and legislative processes.



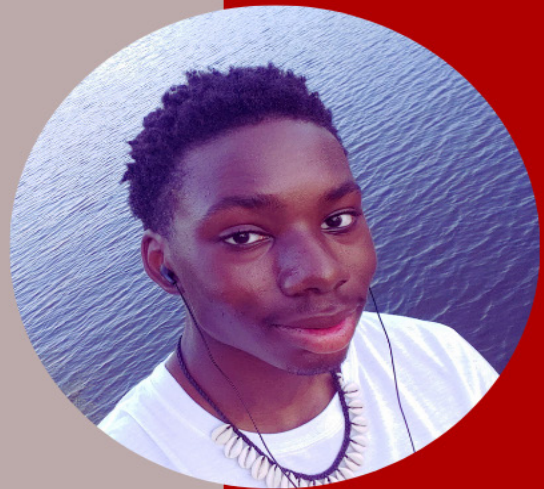
The Commission also supported youth through several key initiatives:

- **Youth Art Competition:** Local students submitted original artwork for inclusion in the Annual Report, celebrating neighborhood diversity and showcasing their talents.
- **Voter Registration Party:** In partnership with Legal Aid DC, the League of Women Voters DC, and Headcount, the Commission hosted a Voter Registration Party at Coolidge High School, helping 71 students and community members register to vote and empowering youth to engage in the political process. Local businesses and community groups also supported the event.
- **Advanced Internship Program:** The Commission participated in the Office of Industry Engagement's 2024-25 Advanced Internship Program, welcoming its first student intern, Denzel Robinson, a 12th grader from Phelps Architecture High School. This paid, credit-bearing internship provided hands-on experience in local government, with Denzel supporting the Commission's IT, website, and communications efforts.



# Welcome, Denzel!

**Denzel Robinson** joins ANC 4B as part of the Office of Industry Engagement's 2024-25 Advanced Internship Program. He is a 12th grader at Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering High School. Denzel has impressive experience in IT, having worked as a game programmer and designer, and he is also involved in extracurriculars such as Color Guard, football, and track.



ANC 4B has also focused on strengthening schools and public spaces, addressing food insecurity, and advancing public health. The Commission advocated for full-time nurses in schools and better school facilities to support student well-being, while also pushing for improvements to public spaces, including better maintenance and accessibility. To combat food insecurity, ANC 4B partnered with local organizations to share resources and engage



the community in service. The Commission also advanced public health initiatives through presentations on HIV prevention and cancer care, as well as a \$4,000 grant to the Calvin Coolidge Alumni Association in collaboration with the NAF Academy of Health Sciences at Coolidge High School to support the **Health 4 All Community Health Fair**. These efforts reflect the Commission's commitment to improving community health, education, and resources across the District.

The Commission remains committed to:

- **Centering youth voice** in local policy decisions and Commission work.
- **Advocating for educational and community resources** that support youth development.
- **Improving the safety, accessibility, and inclusivity** of public spaces such as schools, parks, and libraries.
- **Advancing public health** through community education, youth engagement, and partnerships with local organizations to improve well-being.

In furtherance of these goals, the Commission has acted to ensure policies that prioritize youth engagement, enhance student and community well-being, and ensure that public spaces are safe, accessible, and inclusive. The Commission has acted in the following ways:

## **Strengthening Schools and Educational Infrastructure**

**Resolution 4B-24-1006:** Calling for a Full-Time Nurse in Every Public School and Efforts to Enhance Staffing (Oct. 28, 2024) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Smith)

**Resolution 4B-24-0906:** Supporting Request for Special Exception at 245 Peabody Street, NW (BZA Case No. 21101) for a Child Development Center (Sept. 23, 2024) (Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Brooks)

**Commission Presentation:** Sullivan & Barros, Application to Board of Zoning Adjustment for Special Exception to Construct Child Development Center at 245 Peabody Street, NW (BZA 21101) (Sept. 23, 2024)

**Letter:** Noting Challenges with Community Engagement Process for Charter School Relocation and Need for Coordination and Oversight for Siting of Public Charter Schools (Jan. 22, 2024) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats)

**Commission Presentation:** Mary McLeod Bethune Day Academy Public Charter School, Petition to Public Charter School Board to Amend Charter Agreement to Relocate from Sixth Presbyterian Church at 5413 16th Street, NW, to Takoma Park Baptist Church at 635 Aspen Street, NW (Feb. 26, 2024)

**Resolution 4B-23-1102:** Calling for Parity in Response to Rodent Infestations Across Private Residences, Schools and Parks (Nov. 27, 2023) (Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Smith)

**Resolution 4B-23-1104:** Reiterating Calls for Conveniently Located Swing Space for Whittier Elementary School (Nov. 27, 2023) (Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Palmer)

## Preserving and Enhancing Community-Serving Public Spaces

**Letter:** Raising Concerns regarding Takoma Aquatic Center Management and Maintenance (Nov. 25, 2024) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks)

**Resolution 4B-24-0403:** Noting History of Neglect and Calling for Dedicated Maintenance of District Land at the Intersection of North Capitol Street, Kennedy Street, and New Hampshire Avenue, NW (Apr. 29, 2024) (Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Smith)

**Resolution 4B-23-1103:** Supporting ANC 4D re: Kennedy Street Library (Nov. 27, 2023) (Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Palmer)

**Commission Presentation:** Department of Parks and Recreation, Update on Spring and Summer Programs and Activities (Jan 22, 2024)

**Community Safety & Support Committee Presentation:** National Park Service, Use and Enjoyment of Park Land (Oct. 17, 2024)

## Addressing Food Insecurity

**Commission Presentation:** Food & Friends, Mission and Efforts to Address Food Insecurity (Nov. 25, 2024)

**Commission Presentation:** Faith United Church of Christ, Mobile Market, Mission and Efforts to Address Food Insecurity (Nov. 25, 2024)

**Commission Presentation:** Emory Beacon of Light, Inc. regarding, Mission and Efforts to Address Food Insecurity (Nov. 25, 2024)

**Youth Advisory Committee Presentation:** Rev. Wendy Hamilton, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Single Member District 8D06, Role & Work on Food Deserts and Food Insecurity Issues (Sept. 15, 2024)

**Youth Advisory Committee Presentation:** District Department of Parks and Recreation, Community Garden Specialist, Role & Work on Food Deserts and Food Insecurity Issues (Sept. 15, 2024)

## **Supporting Public Health & Well-Being**

**Commission Presentation:** District Department of Health, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD and TB Administration (HAHSTA), Mission of the Administration and Available Resources (June 24, 2024)

**Commission Presentation:** DC Health, Cancer and Chronic Disease Prevention Bureau, Community Health Administration, Project WISH (Nov. 27, 2023)



*Roma, Third Grade, Capital City Public Charter School*

# Fighting for a Sustainable Future: Climate Resiliency & Holding Utilities Accountable

ANC 4B is committed to promoting climate resiliency and environmental sustainability as core considerations for District services, infrastructure projects, and developments. A healthy, resilient city is one where environmental sustainability and access to quality government services are not determined by wealth or geographic location.

This year, the Commission focused on advancing key policies to promote sustainability and equity:

- **Modern Container Deposit-Return Law:** Advocating to reduce litter and improve recycling, urging the DC Council to consider equitable implementation of such a program.
- **The Environmental Justice Amendment Act:** Calling for stronger protections for overburdened neighborhoods and more transparent environmental review processes.
- **Improvements to the District’s Transportation Online Permitting System (TOPS):** Advocating for coordination across large infrastructure projects to minimize disruptions, reduce costs, and protect the environment by decreasing waste and the health and noise impacts of construction.



The Commission’s Vision Zero efforts, including advocating for bus priority lanes and enhancing pedestrian safety and accessibility, also contribute to climate resiliency by reducing car dependence, lowering emissions, and creating more sustainable, walkable communities.

In furtherance of this work, the Commission’s Executive Committee and the Vision Zero Committee hosted the **Second Annual Earth Day Resource Fair** on April 22, 2024, at the Takoma Community Center.

The event brought together over 20 local environmental organizations, District agencies, and community members with the goal of promoting sustainable practices and providing neighbors with resources for climate action. Neighbors had the opportunity to learn about green infrastructure solutions and explore ways to reduce their carbon footprints. With support from community partners, the Fair connected neighbors to tools and knowledge for sustainable living, highlighting the importance of local action to address climate change.

In addition to regular efforts by Commissioners hosting and attending community cleanups, in April, the Commission hosted **Spring Clean Up Week**, a week of **nine community cleanups** across the Commission’s neighborhoods. These efforts engaged neighbors, community associations, schools, local businesses, and Commissioners, resulting in **212 bags of litter**

collected and **over 100 volunteers** helping clean up. This effort strengthened connections across the community and provided a hands-on opportunity for neighbors to work together in maintaining a cleaner, more sustainable neighborhood.

In furtherance of its goals to address climate change, keep communities clean, and ensure equitable access to green spaces and resources, the Commission has continued to advocate for policies and practices that support sustainability and resiliency across the District. The Commission has acted in the following ways:

## Advancing Environmental Justice and Sustainability Initiatives

**Resolution 4B-24-1005:** Calling for a Modern Container Deposit-Return Law to Reduce Litter and Improve Recycling Rates (Oct. 28, 2024) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Smith)

**Resolution 4B-23-1105:** Supporting and Providing Feedback on B25-0564, the Environmental Justice Amendment Act of 2023 (Nov. 27, 2023) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Smith)



**Commission Presentation:** DC Water, DC Clean Rivers Project, Rock Creek Green Infrastructure Project C Permeable Alley Installations (Apr. 29, 2024)

**Commission Presentation:** District Department of Transportation, Urban Forestry Division, Mission and Work of the Division (Apr. 29, 2024)

**Commission Presentation:** District Department of Energy and Environment, RiverSmart Homes Eligibility and Program Details (Apr. 29, 2024)

## Holding Utilities Accountable

**Resolution 4B-24-0302:** Calling for Greater Transparency and Coordination in Permitting Neighborhood Utility Work and Improvements to DC Transportation Online Permitting System (Mar. 25, 2024) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Smith)

**Vision Zero Committee Presentation:** District Department of Transportation, Follow Up to Resolution 4B-24-0302, Calling for Greater Transparency and Coordination in Permitting Neighborhood Utility Work and Improvements to DC Transportation Online Permitting System (May 15, 2024)

**Commission Presentation:** DC Office of the People’s Counsel, Mission and Work of the Office and Action on Project Pipes (Washington Gas) (Sept. 23, 2024)

**Commission Presentation:** Alphatec, Removal and Replacement of Communications Towers at Metropolitan Police Department 4th District Station (6001 Georgia Avenue, NW) (May 28, 2024)

**Commission Presentation:** Pepco, Climate Ready Pathways Multi-Rate Plan (Feb. 26, 2024)



*Andrina, Second Grade, Capital City Public Charter School*

# Promoting Community Safety and Support

ANC 4B is dedicated to enhancing community safety and support through a focus on equitable safety policies, alternatives to traditional policing, and community engagement. This year, the Commission has worked to promote practices that prioritize the well-being of all neighbors, particularly those from historically marginalized communities.

In furtherance of these goals, the Commission's Executive Committee hosted a **Crime Prevention Training and Resource Fair** in February 2024. This event provided neighbors with practical skills in self-defense, bystander intervention, CPR, Narcan administration, and Stop the Bleed techniques, along with valuable resources from the Metropolitan Police Department's Office of Victims Services, the Attorney General's Office, and other key agencies. In addition, in March 2024, the Commission's Executive Committee sponsored a successful **March Madness** event at Riggs LaSalle Recreation Center, featuring a kids' basketball game, a DC Fire Department vs. Metropolitan Police Department game, free food and drinks, a live DJ, and job opportunities, bringing the community together in a fun and engaging way.

Building on this success, the Commission hosted a **Bystander Intervention Training** in June 2024, which further equipped attendees with the skills to safely intervene in situations of harassment or violence. This iterative approach allowed the Commission to deepen its commitment to community safety by continually providing neighbors with the tools and confidence to take action and make a positive impact in their neighborhoods.

In alignment with its core values of equity and justice, the Commission established the [Community Safety and Support Committee](#) in 2024. The Community Safety and Support Committee:

1. makes strategic recommendations that address community safety and support that are in alignment with the Commission's core values;
2. promotes best practices in policing and police reforms, while also advocating for viable alternatives to traditional policing methods, including a commitment to enhancing the effectiveness of various safety initiatives, programs, and entities;
3. monitors, analyzes, and provides feedback on proposed legislation and policy affecting community safety and support;
4. engages the community on community safety and support issues by creating, hosting, and supporting educational events; and
5. liaises with various groups, agencies, and individuals who seek to foster improved community safety and support in the District of Columbia.



This year, the Committee, chaired by Commissioner Johnson (4B06), along with members Ro Brooks and Charles Linton, held **six meetings**, including presentations on community safety and support issues, including the following:

- **Vacant & Blighted Properties:**

Engaged with the District Department of Buildings and the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia regarding vacant and blighted properties, ensuring better neighborhood safety and maintenance.

- **Environmental & Nuisance Issues:**

Hosted a presentation from the District Department of Public Works on strategies for addressing environmental and nuisance issues in the community.

- **Unsafe Driving:**

Worked with the Metropolitan Police Department to discuss strategies for mitigating unsafe driving and the illegal use of vehicles on public land.



In furtherance of the Commission’s goals to enhance community safety and support, the Commission has focused on advocating for equitable safety policies, promoting alternatives to traditional policing, and engaging the community in safety initiatives. The Commission has acted in the following ways:

**[Resolution 4B-24-0202](#):** Establishing Community Safety and Support Committee (Feb. 26, 2024) (Commissioner Johnson)

**Commission Presentation:** District Department of Behavioral Health; Alternative 911 Responses and Community Response Team (Nov. 27, 2023)

**Community Safety & Support Committee Presentation:** District Department of Buildings, Vacant and Blighted Properties, Current Laws and Regulations (Aug. 22, 2024; July 18, 2024)

**Community Safety & Support Committee Presentation:** Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, Vacant and Blighted Properties, Current Laws and Regulations (Aug. 22, 2024; July 18, 2024)

**Community Safety & Support Committee Presentation:** Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, Secure Apartments For Everyone (SAFE) Regulation Amendment Act (Nov. 21, 2024; Sept. 26, 2024)

**Community Safety & Support Committee Presentation:** District Department of Public Works, Environmental and Nuisance Issues (June 20, 2024)

**Community Safety & Support Committee Presentation:** Metropolitan Police Department, Unsafe Driving and Use of Vehicles on Public Land (June 20, 2024)

ANC 4B's regular public meeting agendas and minutes for November 2023 through November 2024, reflecting any clerical corrections and constituting final approved materials, are attached to this Report as Appendix 1. These materials reference all formal Commission actions.



*Vinai, Second Grade, Capital City Public Charter School*



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B's Operations

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B strives to amplify the voices of neighbors and foster strong, effective local governance. As an independent branch of DC government, ANCs serve as the closest elected representatives to the community, playing a crucial role in shaping policy and advocating for neighborhood needs. Since 2019, ANC 4B has made significant strides in improving its internal operations, focusing on enhancing transparency, accessibility, and engagement with the community. Below are key successes and challenges that the Commission has encountered in this ongoing effort, including challenges related to support provided by the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.

## What is OANC, and Why Does it Matter?

The DC Council established the **Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC)** to provide technical, administrative, and financial assistance to the District's 46 Advisory Neighborhood Commissions. This includes reviewing quarterly financial reports and approving the release of funding (sometimes referred to as allotments) for ANCs, as outlined in [DC Code § 1-309.15](#). In addition to these duties, OANC offers resources such as training and guidance on operational procedures.

OANC plays an important role in supporting the work of ANC 4B and other neighborhood Commissions across DC. As the central body tasked with supporting the work of ANCs, OANC should ensure that Commissions have the resources, guidance, and tools necessary to function effectively. This support is particularly crucial given the high volume of Commissioners across DC (345) and the challenges of retaining institutional knowledge due to high turnover. While there have been some improvements, such as more consistent training and the centralization of Zoom licenses for virtual meetings, many challenges persist. ANC 4B has consistently raised concerns about the lack of centralized administrative support, which creates disparities among Commissions. Unfortunately, OANC's approach often appears more focused on limiting Commission autonomy and imposing excessive oversight, rather than empowering Commissions with the operational resources needed to serve their communities effectively.

# Successes & Improvements

## Expanding Youth Engagement & Administrative Support

ANC 4B has the honor of participating in the **Office of Industry Engagement's 2024-25 Advanced Internship Program**, welcoming its first student intern, Denzel Robinson, a 12th grader from Phelps Architecture High School. This paid, credit-bearing internship will provide Denzel with hands-on experience in local government and community service, supporting the Commission's IT, website, and communications efforts. The successful partnership involved navigating virtual and in-person interviews, an employer orientation, and onboarding, and it marks an important milestone in efforts to bring youth engagement into local government work. This internship has the potential to set a model for other ANCs, and the Commission hopes OANC will take a lead role in providing centralized support to facilitate similar opportunities for Commissions across the city.

## Enhanced Transparency & Access to Information

ANC 4B is committed to transparency and provides timely notice of its regular public meetings, in accordance with [DC Code § 1-309.11\(c\)](#). Meeting details, including date, time, log-in information, and a complete draft agenda are posted at least seven days in advance on the Commission's website, via email subscriptions, neighborhood blogs, individual Commissioner outreach, and yard signs directing neighbors to the website. The draft agenda clearly outlines all items for discussion and a vote at the relevant meeting, as well as the Commission's proposed positions on voting matters, ensuring that neighbors are fully informed before meetings. In addition, drafts of resolutions or letters that will be voted on are shared with the public at least two days prior to the meeting (or read in their entirety at the meeting if they are not posted in advance).

The Commission's website, maintained by Commissioner Yeats (4B04), serves as a central hub for sharing information and improving transparency. Significant enhancements have been made to the website, which includes:

- A [list of Commissioners](#), officers, and contact information
- [Meeting agendas](#) (posted one week prior to meetings)
- [Draft meeting materials](#), including resolutions and official actions
- [Meeting minutes](#)
- Links to meeting recordings on [YouTube](#)
- Access to the [Advisory Neighborhood Commission Resolution Portal](#) (containing all approved resolutions and actions)
- The Commission's [governing documents](#) (Bylaws, Rules of Procedure)
- [Annual Reports](#) (beginning 2019)
- [Financial documents](#) (Budgets, Quarterly Financial Reports)
- [Community grant instructions and application](#), as well as past grant awards
- [Materials from Commission committees](#)

These resources significantly enhance the Commission's transparency and **allow neighbors to understand proposed positions and actions clearly**. The addition of the Resolution Portal further facilitates knowledge-sharing and collaboration across Commissions. The Commission encourages OANC to support all ANCs with consistent website functionality.

## Increased Language Accessibility

ANC 4B is dedicated to improving accessibility and ensuring that all neighbors can engage with Commission activities, regardless of language barriers. In furtherance of this goal, the Commission allocated budget funds for and had its website professionally translated into Spanish and Amharic, which is currently being integrated into the Commission's website. While the Commission reached out to the OANC for clarification on whether such translations are reimbursable under [DC Code § 1-309.12\(d\)\(3\)\(c-i\)](#), the Office provided no definitive guidance. As a result, the Commission opted to fund the translations through its own budget to avoid delays or complications. See [Resolution 4B-24-0201](#), Authorizing Translation of the Commission's Website and Related Expenditures (Feb. 26, 2024) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Yeats).



Una Comisión Asesora de Vecindarios (ANC) es un organismo local no partidista compuesto de representantes elegidos localmente. Los ANC organizan reuniones públicas y tratan problemas afectando al vecindario y el Distrito.



English and professionally translated Spanish text, ensuring broader accessibility for the community. The Commission encourages OANC to employ a centralized approach to website and other translations across all ANCs to enhance inclusivity, meet the needs of diverse neighbors, and ensure compliance with the spirit of the DC Human Rights Act.

## Maximizing Technology for Virtual Meetings

In March 2019, ANC 4B swiftly transitioned to virtual meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to increased community participation and engagement. Virtual meetings have allowed neighbors, agency representatives, presenters, and Commissioners to connect more easily, creating a more inclusive environment for all. This format has been particularly beneficial for caregivers (primarily women), people with disabilities, and those facing economic or housing challenges, as it enables flexible participation without geographic or logistical barriers. The virtual option has helped retain a diverse group of Commissioners, fostering greater inclusivity, especially for people of color.

Initially, the Commission used its own Zoom subscription for virtual meetings due to the lack of a centralized option from OANC and the discontinuation of WebEx licenses by the Office of the Chief Technology Officer. In 2024, OANC began offering a **centralized Zoom Enterprise license** for all Commissions. While the transition was initially complicated by unnecessary requirements to link the centralized account to an existing account, the Commission is grateful for this new support, which streamlines logistics and ensures reliable access for neighbors.

Following years of citywide Commission advocacy, the **DC Council made the authorization for remote and hybrid meetings permanent** under the Budget Support Act and the Emergency Budget Support Act in June 2024. This legislative change ensures that virtual meetings will continue to be an option for ANCs, providing increased flexibility and accessibility for neighbors to participate in local government. ANC 4B expressed strong support for this shift to ensure accessibility and inclusivity in ANC meetings, as reflected in [Resolution 4B-23-0501](#), Supporting & Providing Recommendations on B25-0257, Hybrid Meeting Accessibility Act of 2023, to Ensure Accessibility & Inclusivity (May 22, 2023) (Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Gilligan, Commissioner Yeats). While OANC offers technology kits for hybrid Commission meetings, it remains unclear if they are consistently used or helpful, as they need to be transported back and forth between meetings. In practice, the lack of clear guidance and communication from OANC has led to inconsistent hybrid meeting setups across Commissions, with varying infrastructure and venues that may not always be suitable for hybrid formats.

The Commission remains committed to leveraging technology to enhance public engagement and accessibility, and is optimistic that centralized Zoom support, alongside the permanent hybrid meeting authorization, will further improve the Commission's ability to serve the community effectively. The Commission encourages OANC to provide clearer guidance and standardized resources for hybrid meetings, ensuring consistency across all Commissions and supporting the seamless integration of virtual participation in local government processes.

## Challenges

### Lack of Office & Meeting Space

ANC 4B has not had physical office space since December 2018 due to budget constraints and the lack of adequate resources. The Commission's annual funding is insufficient to cover the cost of renting private office space, hiring administrative staff, and obtaining necessary technical support for meetings. While the Commission has sought District-owned office space or reprogrammed funds to support its operations—including physical recordkeeping and meeting venues—the District government has not met its obligations under [DC Code § 1-309.13\(q\)](#) to provide office space for ANCs. This continued lack of dedicated office space reinforces disparities across Commissions, limiting their ability to operate effectively and serve their communities.

Since March 2019, ANC 4B has held its meetings virtually. The Commission's previous meeting venue, the Metropolitan Police Department's Fourth District, is not suitable for hybrid or virtual meetings due to limited technological capabilities, accessibility issues, and its location being inconvenient for many Commissioners and neighbors. The Commission has explored other possible in-person meeting venues, but District government facilities, such as those operated by District of Columbia Public Schools, charge Commissions [higher for-profit business rates](#). The lack of suitable and affordable meeting spaces has made it challenging for ANC 4B to consider offering hybrid meetings. This ongoing issue underscores the need for clear, consistent support from the District to ensure Commissions have the infrastructure necessary to meet the needs of their communities, particularly as the lack of suitable meeting spaces may push Commissions back to in-person meetings only, losing the benefits of hybrid

or virtual options that have significantly improved accessibility, participation, and inclusivity for both Commissioners and neighbors.

The Commission urges OANC to prioritize addressing the persistent lack of office and meeting space, ensuring that each ANC has the resources and infrastructure necessary to operate efficiently and meet the needs of their communities. This includes advocating for appropriate, affordable office space and meeting venues, as well as exploring sustainable solutions that support hybrid and virtual meeting capabilities, which have proven critical in enhancing accessibility and community engagement.

## **Commissioner Turnover & Loss of Institutional Knowledge**

ANC 4B faces significant turnover, with seven out of ten current Commissioners preparing to leave at the end of their terms. This includes the departure of all Executive Committee Officers—Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. In addition, three of four of the Commission’s Committees (Housing Justice, Vision Zero, and Youth Advisory) will conclude their operations. Such high turnover presents a substantial risk to the Commission’s institutional knowledge, as the departing Commissioners take with them years of accumulated experience and understanding of the community’s needs. The common experience of more than half of an ANC’s Commissioners turning over is partly driven by the lack of centralized supports and resources, which has led to burnout among Commissioners who struggle to balance their volunteer responsibilities with personal and professional obligations. Despite repeated requests, the Commission has not received sufficient centralized administrative support, making it difficult to maintain continuity and effectively serve neighbors.

The Commission strongly recommends OANC track demographic data and conduct exit surveys to better understand the reasons behind Commissioner turnover and to develop more effective retention strategies. This data would help identify which communities are underrepresented, why individuals leave their positions, and how OANC can adjust its support to ensure that ANCs, particularly those serving diverse or marginalized populations, receive the resources and structural backing needed to effectively represent their communities. See [Letter](#), Providing Feedback on the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions’ Strategic Plan (Feb. 26, 2024); [Resolution 4B-23-0102](#), Highlighting History of Advocacy for and Requesting Stronger Centralized Resources for Successful Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (Jan. 23, 2023) (Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Gilligan, Commissioner Walker, Commissioner Yeats). Additionally, while ANC 4B Commissioners transitioning off the Commission are working to ensure the transfer of institutional knowledge, the Commission encourages OANC to develop guidance and resources for departing Commissioners to facilitate smooth transitions across terms.

## **Barriers to Effective Grantmaking**

Following advocacy from several Commissions, including ANC 4B’s [Resolution 4B-23-1101](#), Highlighting Administrative Challenges in Issuing ANC Grants and Requesting Procedural Improvements to Facilitate Commission Grantmaking (Nov. 27, 2023) (Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Gilligan, Commissioner Yeats), OANC pursued and the DC Council enacted important changes to the ANC grant process that make awarding grants easier and more flexible. Under the new requirements, grants

must have a “purpose that includes a significant benefit for the community,” replacing the previous, more restrictive standard that required grants to “benefit the community as a whole.” This change is particularly important because the previous requirement often created challenges on the basis that grants needed to serve the entire Commission area—no more, no less—thus limiting the scope of projects and collaborations that could be funded. These changes represent a positive step forward, enabling more inclusive and impactful grantmaking.

Despite these improvements, challenges persist. Over the years, ANC 4B has faced ongoing issues with inconsistent communication, delays, and confusing guidance from OANC, particularly in the grant review process. This has led to uncertainty about which grants will be approved, with OANC disallowing some grants months after Commission approval, as well as delayed and withheld ANC funding, despite repeated requests for clarification and significant efforts by the Commission to meet OANCs requirements. ANC 4B has consistently tried to follow OANC’s grant requirements but the Commission has needed to budget for potential disallowal of all grants and withholding of Commission funding given these inconsistencies and to ensure the Commission’s financial integrity.

To address these ongoing issues, ANC 4B recommends the following:

- 1. Creation of a Compendium of Grant Actions:** Develop a publicly accessible compendium detailing the relevant Commission, applicant, grant subject, and OANC’s disposition of each grant, which would provide transparency and clarity, helping all ANCs understand OANC’s grant decisions and ensuring consistent decisionmaking across the city.
- 2. Formal Process for Reviewing OANC Grant Decisions:** Establish a formal procedure for resolving disagreements when an ANC disagrees with a determination by OANC to disallow a grant or to withhold ANC funding, which would ensure a fair and transparent mechanism for resolving disputes.
- 3. Collaboration Across Stakeholders:** Ensure collaboration among the DC Council, ANCs, and OANC, as well as the Office of the Attorney General of the District of Columbia (OAG), to continue to address questions and concerns regarding the ANC grant process and needed reforms. This effort should include clarifying the eligibility of public charter versus traditional public schools to apply for grants; correcting out-of-date grant guidance; and addressing other inconsistencies or points of confusion that continue to create challenges in the grant process.

To ensure that ANC grantmaking functions smoothly and equitably, it is critical that OANC, in coordination with the DC Council and relevant stakeholders, addresses these concerns through a more transparent and consistent approach. The recommendations outlined above, including the creation of a comprehensive compendium of grant actions, the establishment of a formal dispute resolution process, and the continuation of reforms, are essential steps toward a more accountable and effective grant system. ANC 4B remains committed to collaborating with all parties to resolve these issues and ensure that the grant process fully supports the work of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions in serving their communities.

## OANCs Misaligned Priorities

Historically, ANC 4B has raised concerns about the lack of centralized administrative support from OANC. See ANC 4B, [2023 Annual Report](#) (Nov. 27, 2023). While the Commission recognizes certain improvements, including increased training and written guidance, challenges persist, in part due to an OANC that is intent on restricting the actions of Commissions and Commissioners—and characterizing actions OANC disagrees with as activism driven by outside groups—rather than supporting the work being done. OANC’s [Strategic Plan](#) demonstrates this misalignment that ultimately runs contrary the operational needs of ANCs. While the Plan laudably focuses on expanding training and technology solutions, such as shared virtual meeting platforms, it fails to address the challenges inherent in the position of Commissioner, particularly as a volunteer, unpaid position. The Plan overlooks critical needs such as office space, adequate staffing, and meaningful administrative support, which are essential for Commissioners to manage the substantial responsibilities of their role. Furthermore, it does not propose measures to assess and mitigate the barriers that volunteer Commissioners face, including high turnover rates, difficulties in balancing professional and personal obligations with public service, and the strain of serving without sufficient support structures.

Moreover, OANC’s Plan undermines its own effectiveness by labeling Commissioners in a negative light—calling them “angry,” “hostile,” and “driven by special interest groups.” This framing not only disregards the essential role of ANCs in local governance but also signals a shift in OANC’s role from support to enforcement. As ANC 4B has noted, OANC should focus on empowering ANCs by providing the tools, resources, and education needed for success rather than constraining their capacity and influence. See [Letter](#), Providing Feedback on the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions’ Strategic Plan (Feb. 26, 2024) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Yeats).

Of particular concern, OANC recently asked the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability (BEGA) for an ethics opinion with what appears to be the express goal of limiting Commissioners from signing on to letters on political and world issues. This effort—timed contemporaneously with a citywide Commission sign-on letter calling on the DC Council to support a ceasefire in Gaza—further highlights the Office’s overreach. This request improperly restricts the ability of Commissioners to take positions on political matters that ultimately impact them and their constituents, undermining their role as elected representatives. BEGA’s draft advisory opinion risks limiting the expression of viewpoints, which is essential to the work of Commissions and Commissioners.

OANC should maintain its focus on providing technical and administrative support to ANCs, not acting as an enforcement or legal authority. The role of legal advice and interpretation of the law governing ANCs is, as set by statute, the responsibility of OAG. See Letter from OAG to OANC Re: ANC 4B Resolution Concerning Grant Review (Jan. 9, 2024) (“[T]he primary authority for interpreting the law governing ANCs, within the boundaries set by judicial precedent, rests with the OAG.”) (responding to ANC 4B’s [Resolution 4B-23-1101](#), Highlighting Administrative Challenges in Issuing ANC Grants and Requesting Procedural Improvements to Facilitate Commission Grantmaking (Nov. 27, 2023) (on file with ANC 4B). ANC 4B strongly believes that a clear delineation of OANC’s responsibilities is necessary to prevent overlap and confusion, ensuring that OAG is the primary source for legal interpretation and defense in any legal challenges related to Commission actions. OANC legal advice does not come with either a legal “safe harbor” or provision of legal defense by the agency; following OANC

advice if it conflicts with OAG could place Commissioners, Commissions, and the District government at legal risk.

Until OANC realigns its priorities to address these foundational needs and supports the work of ANCs, ANCs will continue to struggle in fulfilling their democratic function and serving the needs of District neighbors effectively. ANC 4B has expressed these challenges and concerns most recently via formal Commission action in a [Letter](#), Highlighting Continued Administrative Challenges and Lack of Support from the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (Nov. 25, 2024) (Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Smith).



*Matthew, Second Grade, Capital City*



*Cole Jaffe, Second Grade, Takoma Neighborhood*



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B's Financial Status

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B has built and maintained a strong financial foundation through disciplined budgeting, strategic investments, and a commitment to transparency. Over the past six years, the Commission has successfully aligned its expenditures with available resources, ensuring fiscal responsibility while supporting a range of community-driven initiatives. The Commission's financial management reflects a commitment to both responsible stewardship of government money and meaningful community engagement.

## Understanding ANC 4B's Budget & Expenditures

ANC 4B's budget and expenditures are guided by a fiscal year that runs from October 1 to September 30. Each year, the Commission receives funding from the District of Columbia, which is disbursed in quarterly allotments. The Commission's financial activities, including money received via allotments, expenditures, and grants are documented in Quarterly Financial Reports, required under [DC Code § 1-309.13\(j\)](#). ANC4B reviews and approves these reports, files them with the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC), and publishes them on the Commission's website for transparency. As required by [DC Code § 1-309.10\(n\)](#), the Commission also prepares a budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which is presented at a public meeting to allow for community input before it is formally adopted. This section outlines the Commission's financial standing, including its careful management of resources and strategic investments in community support efforts, including grants.

## Fiscal Year 2024

The Commission began Fiscal Year 2024 with strong finances, holding a balance of \$58,682.20 in its checking account as of October 2023. For Fiscal Year 2024, ANC 4B received \$14,486.49 in allotments plus \$387.40 in bank interest payments, bringing the Commission's total funds to \$73,556.09. By the end of Fiscal Year 2024, after expenditures totaling \$26,943.14, the Commission's net balance stands at \$46,612.95.

The Commission has filed all required Quarterly Financial Reports, providing a transparent record of funding received and Commission expenditures. These reports are shared publicly at meetings and posted on the Commission's website. In Fiscal Year 2024, the Commission approved:

- [Quarterly Financial Report for the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2024](#) (Feb. 26, 2024): including \$10,281.77 in expenditures for 2023 grants and website, Zoom, and bank charges;
- [Quarterly Financial Report for the Second Quarter of Fiscal Year 2024](#) (Apr. 29, 2024): including \$2,043.18 in expenditures for the Commission’s Crime Prevention Training and Resource Fair and Zoom, printing, and bank charges;
- [Quarterly Financial Report for the Third Quarter of Fiscal Year 2023](#) (Sept. 23, 2024): including \$1,359.36 in expenditures for a Commission P.O. Box, Commission checks, and Zoom and printing charges; and
- [Quarterly Financial Report for the Fourth Quarter of Fiscal Year 2024](#) (Oct. 28, 2024): including \$13,258.83 in expenditures for professional translation of ANC4B’s website, the Commission’s Tenant Resource Fair, the Commission’s Defend Yourself Bystander Training, purchase of school supplies for a community event, tabling at the Takoma Park Street Festival, ANC 4B tote bags, tablecloth, and banner, and printing.

In 2023, OANC began transitioning to a new system for submitting Quarterly Financial Reports. The Commission has adjusted to the new process throughout 2023 and 2024, following evolving guidance from the Office, and not without delays and complications—including bugs in the Quarterly Financial Report portal that the Office is still working with the vendor to resolve.

Throughout the year, the Commission was careful to manage its spending, which, as in previous years, included costs for virtual meeting technology, office supplies, printing, website maintenance, bank charges, the ANC Security Fund, and grants.

A key focus and shift in Fiscal Year 2024 was investing in community support and outreach activities. Thanks to its strong financial standing, the Commission was able to prioritize funding for community engagement, marking the first time it had done so at this scale. This included tabling at community events and providing direct support for initiatives that benefit neighbors and strengthen the community. For example, the Commission approved expenditures for branded materials—such as tote bags, printed Annual Reports, informational flyers, and a branded tablecloth and banner—for use at community events. See [Resolution 4B-24-1101](#), Authorizing Commission Printing Expenditures (Nov. 25, 2024) (Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Palmer); [Resolution 4B-24-1004](#), Authorizing Commission Community Support and Outreach Expenditures (Oct. 28, 2024) (Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Palmer); [Resolution 4B-24-0601](#), Authorizing Commission Community Support and Outreach Expenditures (June 24, 2024) (Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Palmer). These materials have been well-received, helping draw neighbors to ANC 4B tables at local events and sparking discussions about the Commission’s work .

In addition, the Commission’s expenditures included professionally translating the Commission’s website into Spanish and Amharic and obtaining a Post Office box. [Resolution 4B-24-0201](#), Authorizing Translation of the Commission’s Website and Related Expenditures (Feb. 26, 2024) (Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Palmer); [Resolution 4B-19-0509](#), Authorizing the Lease of a Post Office Box and Related Expenditures (May 20, 2019) (Commissioner Yeats). These investments in translation not only improve the accessibility of the Commission’s resources to a broader range of neighbors but also strengthen community engagement with non-English-speaking

neighbors by enhancing their ability to participate in the Commission's activities and access important information.

While the Commission has relatively modest expenditures, the Commission has nonetheless achieved cost savings in a couple of areas. As of July 2024, OANC's centralized Zoom Enterprise license eliminated the need for the Commission to pay for virtual meeting technology. Additionally, the Security Fund requirement has been eliminated for Fiscal Year 2025, further reducing financial obligations.

## **Fiscal Year 2025 Budget**

For Fiscal Year 2025, the DC government has allocated ANC 4B \$26,977.49, which will be disbursed quarterly by the government. In addition to this annual allotment, the Commission's budget also accounts for its available balance from the previous year. At the end of Fiscal Year 2024, ANC 4B has an account balance of \$46,612.95, which, when combined with the anticipated Fiscal Year 2025 allotments, as well as delayed Fiscal Year 2024 allotments (\$7,090.00), will provide a total of approximately \$80,680.44 in available funds for the upcoming fiscal year. The Commission is committed to managing these funds conservatively, with careful attention to anticipated expenditures and the need to maintain fiscal responsibility.

ANC 4B approved its [Fiscal Year 2025 Budget](#) at its September 23, 2024, meeting. The budget includes funding for a Commission employee to provide administrative assistance for 15 hours per week at \$25 per hour (\$20,000); website and website-related expenditures, consisting primarily of domain renewal (\$300); office needs, including printing (\$4,000); grants (\$20,000); bank charges (\$200); and other items (\$500).

The Commission allocated \$20,000 for grants to continue supporting community initiatives. As previously noted, OANC communications regarding grants have been inconsistent, often untimely, and sometimes incorrect in disallowing certain grants and withholding Commission funding. See [Resolution 4B-23-1101](#), Highlighting Administrative Challenges in Issuing ANC Grants and Requesting Procedural Improvements to Facilitate Commission Grantmaking (Nov. 27, 2023). When OANC rejects a grant approved and disbursed by the Commission, the funds are deducted from a future allotment, effectively doubling the financial impact. This uncertainty requires the Commission to budget extra funds to account for potential disallowals and ensure fiscal responsibility.

The Commission's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget is conservative and reflects a focused approach to spending. While it includes funding for an employee and grants, most other items are modest, given the availability of free printing at OANC and DC Public Libraries, as well as the OANC-provided centralized Zoom Enterprise license. Additionally, the Budget has been intentionally structured to require Commission approval via Resolution for future expenditures. This approach is particularly important in light of Commissioner turnover in 2025, with seven of ten Commissioners and all Executive Committee Officers not returning, ensuring that future Commissioners have an opportunity to reach consensus on expenditures.

## Fiscal Year 2025 Grant Awards

ANC 4B has been able to offer grants to support community initiatives since 2021. The Commission provides clear grant application instructions, including a timeline for submissions and awards, along with a template application provided by OANC. The Commission has awarded a variety of impactful grants to community organizations over the past few years, funding projects that serve the ANC 4B area.

This year, the Commission awarded grants to support a community festival, health fairs, and essential community services. These and other grants reflect the Commission's commitment to supporting community-driven initiatives that bring people together, promote wellness, and create a positive, lasting impact in the neighborhood. The Commission's 2024 grant awards include:

- **[Resolution 4B-24-1001](#)**: Grant Award for **Takoma Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization** (Oct. 28, 2024) (Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Palmer) (awarding \$3,000 to support community-facing and community-serving school festival that is outside on school grounds and open and advertised to the ANC 4B community);
- **[Resolution 4B-24-1002](#)**: Grant Award for **Calvin Coolidge Alumni Association Inc.** (Oct. 28, 2024) (Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Palmer) (awarding \$4,000 to support a community-facing and community-serving Health 4 All Community Health Fair with a variety of age appropriate activities for community members, including fitness demonstrations, nutrition and cooking demonstrations, and health screenings);
- **[Resolution 4B-24-1003](#)**: Grant Award for **Ward 4 Mutual Aid** (Oct. 28, 2024) (Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Yeats, Commissioner Palmer) (awarding \$6,000 for purchase and distribution of diapers, wipes, and hygiene items, as well as winter clothing to the local community).

By funding a range of projects, from school festivals to health fairs and essential community services, ANC 4B continues to play a vital role in serving all neighbors. These grants not only address immediate needs but also contribute to the long-term vitality and resilience of the community.

Since 2019, ANC 4B has posted its financial documents on the [Commission's website](#). In addition, ANC 4B's Fiscal Year 2024 Quarterly Financial Reports are attached to this Report as Appendix 2, and the Commission's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget is attached to this Report as Appendix 3.



*Sophia, Third Grade, Capital City Public Charter School*



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