

ANC Digest

District-wide ANC Resolutions

“DC Neighborhood Democracy at Work”



SPECIAL EDITION: FY2027 BUDGET TESTIMONIES

May 2026

ANC Commissioners testified at many of the DC Council’s FY2027 Budget Oversight hearings during April and May 2026. This special edition of the Digest covers 39 testimonies from 20 budget hearings.¹ Brief summaries are given so readers can decide to listen to the actual testimony by clicking on the link, which takes them to the approximate start of each testimony. See Editor’s Notes at the end of this document.

All of these testimonies are archived on our website at [ANCDigest.org](https://ancdigest.org), together with ANC resolutions, all of which are highly searchable. You are welcome to visit our site.

¹ If you know of ANC Commissioner testimony at these or other recent hearings that is not listed, please email 3D01@anc.dc.gov giving the date of the hearing, the name of the Committee, and the subject of the hearing (agency).

Hearings in this edition:

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APRIL 20, 2026

Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH)

1 Commissioner testified · Chair: CM Brianne K. Nadeau

Chuck Elkins 3D01

▶ Watch testimony

- › OAH should not be treated as an independent agency for budget purposes — it has no control over its incoming caseload
- › DOB and OAH function as a single system, and increasing DOB enforcement while holding OAH's budget flat causes the entire system to back up
- › slow adjudication creates perverse incentives, allowing landlords to appeal and gain 6–12 months before fixing violations, making enforcement largely ineffective
- › since DOB opened, 54,744 notices of infraction remain unabated
- › approximately 9,000 housing enforcement cases worth \$24 million are pending at OAH with no judgment, roughly 2,500 dating to FY2024
- › recommended the Council treat OAH and DOB budgets as a unit and fund them in sync
- › in response to CM Nadeau's question about DOB's practice of waiting six months after judgment before referring fines for collection, said he read this in DOB's annual report but was unsure of the statutory basis, and noted that clearing OAH's backlog would reduce frivolous appeals by eliminating landlords' incentive to delay

APRIL 22, 2026

DC Public Library (DCPL)

1 Commissioner testified · Chair: CM Matt Freeman

Brandon Scott 7C08

▶ Watch testimony

- › testified both as an elected official and as someone personally shaped by public libraries
- › Capitol view neighborhood library and MLK Public Library are essential community spaces
- › praised Cheryl Simkins (adult services librarian, book club leader) and TaMorrow McKinney (children's librarian) at Capitol view

- › son is visually impaired—DC Public Library's Center for Accessibility has been life-changing through Braille club, materials and family community
- › praised supporting network of educators and accessibility specialists including DCPS teachers of the visually impaired, orientation/mobility specialist, and OSSE early investment specialist
- › urged continued investment in Center for Accessibility (not publicly broken out, at risk under general cuts)
- › requested Employee Assistance Housing Program funding to retain library talent in DC
- › urged resource allocation to ensure community libraries are properly staffed
- › requested Comprehensive Literacy State Development Act grant (\$49.8M) include programming and tutoring for the visually impaired

APRIL 23, 2026

Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC)

4 Commissioners testified · Chair: CM Robert White

Trupti Patel **2A03**

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › testified on both OTA and OANC — on OTA: urged increased funding for direct legal services, tenant education and emergency assistance
- › demand outpacing capacity
- › Rental Act (late 2025) increased complexity for tenants without legal representation
- › urged staffing expansion and sustained emergency tenant assistance funding
- › on OANC: requested COLA for all OANC staff within personal services budget
- › maintain authorized FTE levels
- › growing commissioner workload averaging 25–30 hours/week contributes to burnout and deters recruitment
- › recommended mandatory commissioner training (funded through NPS) covering onboarding, ANC authority and limitations, ethics, open meeting requirements and procedures, plus refresher trainings
- › training should not be optional but a condition of effective service
- › OANC should track compliance and report it as a FY27 performance measure
- › described own experience of intra-commission conflict caused by new commissioners unfamiliar with rules

- › in response to CM White's question, said mixed feelings about immediate penalties—suggested making mandatory training a requirement for the next incoming class rather than imposing penalties retroactively

Chuck Elkins 3D01

► [Watch testimony](#)

- › identified two halves of the ANC system—the recommendations process (commissions creating and sending resolutions) and the response process (agencies considering and replying)—arguing the response half is failing quietly and without accountability
- › recommendations process working well (monthly digest, searchable website since March)
- › response process broken: agencies receive resolutions and ignore them, no one at OANC tracks whether agencies read or respond
- › no OANC staff focused on response process
- › requested budget include either a new OANC position or redirect an existing staff member to work exclusively on the agency response process—not to force agencies but to collaborate with them on developing manageable systems for handling the volume of ANC input
- › submitted draft OANC strategic plan chapter with implementation suggestions
- › noted OANC director's proposed mayor's portal would be redundant (commissions already have the digest and website)
- › what is missing is the agency responses, not another resolution repository
- › in response to CM White's question about why this would work, described a cooperative approach—working with agencies to set up practical intake and response systems, noting one agency head feels overwhelmed by ANC volume
- › offered to continue discussion outside the hearing

Paula Edwards 4A01

► [Watch testimony](#)

- › testified on both OTA and OANC — on OTA: praised OTA training and direct assistance to tenant groups
- › attended OTA commissioner training and a tenant meeting guided by OTA
- › urged full funding and increase if possible
- › on OANC: extremely impressed with OANC staff (Director Bayes, Wichert, Dickerson)—twice nominated the team for the Calvin K Award for Distinguished Government Employees
- › credited OANC with upgrading services and training for unpaid commissioners and reducing administrative burden

- › praised migration of ANC 4A website to Opto platform and introduction of financial controls
- › urged stable OANC funding
- › urged legislative change to DC code: current prohibition bars ANC grantees (not just ANCs) from making payments to individuals, making it impossible to compensate musicians, artists and other individual vendors—this is confusing and unworkable
- › requested council amend the relevant code section
- › in response to CM White's question, clarified the issue is about grantees being unable to pay individual service providers (e.g., musicians), which is distinct from the electronic payment situation
- › urged that if commissions do hire people, it be through contractor/1099 process only due to complex HR and tax issues

Jamila White

8A05

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › grateful for OANC support especially for commission chairs
- › Ward 8 context: four shootings in five days resulting in three deaths, plus compounded housing, utility, caregiving, burial, and education needs—residents turn to ANC when other agencies haven't responded
- › commissioners in disinvested communities face an overwhelming volume of complex issues on top of administrative burdens
- › requested OANC hire additional staff, specifically one staff person per ward to handle financial management, annual reporting, record keeping, website maintenance, and minutes for commissions that need it
- › noted significant unused ANC allotments across the city that could be redirected to overburdened commissions or pooled into the OAC Technical Assistance Fund
- › requested at least two additional OANC positions
- › in response to CM White's question about priority positions, identified financial management and treasurer support as the single biggest need—especially for grant-giving commissions (ANC 8A gives grants regularly due to community need)—and consistent records management as a close second
- › argued more OANC administrative support would free commissioners to attend budget oversight and other council hearings, fulfilling their representational role

APRIL 24, 2026

Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED)

Ashley Ruff 7F02

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › criticized FY27 DMPED budget for failing to meaningfully invest east of the river
- › argued the conversation about land banks, large-scale development, and economic growth has largely excluded east-of-the-river communities spanning Wards 5, 6, 7, and 8
- › called for equitable investment in food access including funding for the DC Food Policy Council, support for community-based food models like Rosie's, and grocery stores east of the river
- › noted that SNAP benefit reductions starting June 2026 combined with high food prices and lack of full-service grocery stores will disproportionately harm east-of-the-river residents
- › asked how land banks can be directed to create grocery stores, fresh food markets, and community-serving businesses east of the river
- › called for tax abatements to incentivize healthy food retailers to locate east of the river
- › argued corridor investment is needed for Minnesota Ave and 8th Street to become real economic engines
- › expressed concern about sports betting being placed east of the river without clear community benefit

Jeremy Sherman 1A04

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › testified on behalf of Columbia Heights, a major commercial hub with a top-10 busiest Metro station yet economically declining for 20+ years due to disengaged property owners and lack of city investment
- › highlighted large vacant retail footprints at the DC USA corridor (former Five Below, Petco, DSW, Wawa, CVS) sitting empty with little active landlord recruitment
- › noted the FY27 budget targets downtown, Friendship Heights, Fort Totten, and Deanwood for investment but omits Columbia Heights
- › urged DMPED to leverage DC's ownership of the DC USA parking garage to pressure landlords to fill vacancies
- › requested a small appropriation for corridor marketing and activation along 14th and 11th Streets, mirroring FY26 allocations for 8th Street NW/NE
- › proposed a Columbia Heights Lease Incentive Pilot modeled on the Chinatown Long-Term Lease Grant Program

- › urged the committee to schedule a hearing on the Columbia Heights Neighborhood Management Authority legislation introduced by CM Nadeau, offering a community-governed alternative to traditional BIDs where uncooperative property owners have blocked prior efforts

Shira Davidson 1A08

► [Watch testimony](#)

- › testified on the economic decline of Columbia Heights through the story of Carlos, a Salvadoran-born small business owner in her SMD forced to close due to administrative red tape, rising costs, and federal immigration enforcement threatening his immigrant workforce
- › noted the FY27 DMPED economic development budget has been cut 60% since 2024
- › called for a Columbia Heights Long-Term Lease Incentive Pilot, one-time corridor activation funds, and property owner incentives for competitive lease terms and low-barrier technical assistance
- › requested that the Great Streets program separate Columbia Heights, Adams Morgan, and Mount Pleasant — currently lumped into a single corridor — into three distinct neighborhoods
- › urged removal of administrative burdens from the Great Streets grant process that make it inaccessible to small business owners without dedicated grant writers
- › called for cross-agency coordination on streetscape improvements, pedestrian infrastructure, neighborhood branding, and public realm investments

APRIL 27, 2026

Department of General Services and Department of Parks and Recreation (DGS/DPR)

1 Commissioner testified · Chair: CM Janeese Lewis George

Shira Davidson 1A08

► [Watch testimony](#)

- › expressed gratitude for the proposed budget allocation to the Columbia Heights–Mount Pleasant cluster of community parks and plazas
- › Columbia Heights is one of DC's densest neighborhoods — a major commercial corridor with DC USA and a top-10 most-trafficked Metro station (up to 11,400 riders/day) — but has been chronically overlooked in budget and policy

- › the Columbia Heights–Mount Pleasant Vision Framework for Public Design calls for major reinvestment in streets, plazas, and parks to shift the neighborhood from a pass-through to a place where people gather and thrive
- › capital funding needed to increase seating, maintain waste infrastructure, upgrade public amenities, expand green space and tree canopy, and improve safety
- › key spaces in need include the civic plaza, Metro-surrounding areas, and the 14th and Girard St. Park
- › urged that future investment reflect Columbia Heights as a distinct, vibrant neighborhood without splitting resources with Mount Pleasant

APRIL 27, 2026

District Department of Transportation (DDOT)

5 Commissioners testified · Chair: CM Charles Allen

Trupti Patel **2A03**

► **Watch testimony**

- › DDOT has failed to adequately maintain transportation infrastructure in ANC 2A over five years despite coordinated 311 submissions through ANC-organized 'Sidewalk Palooza' events
- › Snow's Court corridor, which functions as a residential alley, is denied routine maintenance services given to street-facing blocks — including street sweeping, leaf collection, and snow/ice treatment — creating public safety risks and jeopardizing housing stock viability
- › personally suffered a shattered elbow from a sidewalk fall
- › while CM Pinto's Snow's Court Task Force was a meaningful step, residents still lack clear project scopes, timelines, and accountability
- › ANC 2A has passed multiple performance/budget oversight resolutions documenting persistent cross-agency service delivery failures
- › requested that DC Council formally recognize Snow's Court as a residential alley, adopt Snow's Court Task Force recommendations including transparent timelines and public reporting, and require DDOT to prioritize all outstanding 311 requests in ANC 2A
- › also expressed personal support for increasing the adult learner transit subsidy and urged automatic enrollment in Metro Lift, noting she spends \$80–\$100/month on transit

- › transportation investment has been deeply inequitable — east of the river has received far less DDOT funding than other DC wards despite comparable or greater need
- › specific Ward 7 deficiencies include cracked and wheelchair-inaccessible sidewalks on Ridge Road/East Capitol, dead trees near the Minnesota Ave McDonald's that DDOT has failed to repair for over three years, and a complete absence of bus shelters leaving seniors and riders exposed
- › lost the promised DC Streetcar expansion on Minnesota Ave despite ANC approval, with funds reportedly redirected to K Street
- › long bus wait times and limited Metro access force Ward 7 residents to walk long distances to reach transit
- › called for DDOT budget allocations to prioritize long-neglected east-of-the-river neighborhoods, and for WMATA to install bus shelters east of the river before adding them elsewhere

- › WMATA bus route consolidations (C20x, C30x, W2/W6/W8 series) eliminated service for Anacostia families needing to reach DC Prep's single consolidated campus in 8B, causing declining student attendance
- › sent letter with the Ward 8 SBOE representative to CM Allen requesting restored routes or district-provided transportation
- › bus stops along MLK Ave lack shelters and seating, forcing seniors and people with disabilities to sit on the ground or lean on buildings, undermining DC's goal of promoting transit
- › current bus shelter ads (e.g., Virginia pet adoption) are culturally irrelevant and should be replaced with Anacostia Arts and Culture District content
- › Morris Road is used as a dangerous cut-through from Suitland Parkway — speed cameras and 4-way stops have not reduced speeding or incidents
- › no sidewalk on the east side of Morris Road forces pedestrians to cross mid-block to reach bus stops
- › requested additional DDOT traffic-calming interventions and construction of an east-side sidewalk on Morris Road
- › the Pennsylvania Ave/Minnesota Ave safety plan includes Ward 8A changes (mandatory right turns on Minnesota Ave, eliminating 25th St. right turn near Boone Elementary) without adequate Ward 8 community engagement

- › DDOT declared community engagement closed — ANC requested the Council require proper engagement before design proceeds
- › MLK Ave and Historic Anacostia transportation improvement plans have remained unimplemented after 3–4 years of extensive community engagement

Tricia Duncan

3D

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › testified in support of retaining the budgeted funding for the Arizona Avenue pedestrian bridge replacement and trolley trail improvement project
- › ANC 3D unanimously approved DDOT's 90% design plans, representing the elected community voice on this project
- › ANC found that making the pathway accessible to all residents — including those with disabilities — outweighs preserving the existing unimproved trail
- › rebutted the main community objections: denied that paving eliminates green space (ANC 3D has more green space and nature trails than any other ANC)
- › confirmed that DDOT's plan includes major drainage improvements, not worsening of drainage
- › rejected the claim that the trail will be overcrowded like the Capital Crescent Trail
- › noted only ~120 of ~8,700 Palisades residents submitted comments and many supported the improvements
- › in response to CM Allen's question, confirmed the project is already funded in the proposed budget
- › in response to CM Allen's question about ANC's position, confirmed the ANC voted unanimously in support

Chuck Elkins

3D01

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › DDOT marks 311 tripping hazard requests as 'on schedule' and closes them without an inspector visit whenever the location appears anywhere in the pave DC schedule, even if repairs are 2+ years away
- › DDOT inspectors do not measure the gap between sidewalk surfaces during inspections—the most basic measure of hazard severity—and Director Kirschbaum's claim that DDOT's sidewalk program is best in the country is unsupported; DC's 270-business-day standard far exceeds comparable cities (NYC: 75 days)
- › over 70% of 311 requests have been pushed beyond 60 days each year for the past 3 years

- › ER data obtained with DC Health’s help shows 215–350 DC residents fall outdoors annually requiring ER visits; 1,000+ are hospitalized each year for fall injuries including fractures and head trauma
- › average repair cost is \$1,350 per hazard—with ~3,800 requests in FY2025 and only 1,000 addressed quickly, an additional \$5M in operating funds would allow DDOT to handle all 311 requests on a rapid basis without waiting for the slow pave DC program
- › proposed trading \$10M in capital road-paving funds (arguing roads are largely in good condition) to another committee in exchange for \$5M in operating funds for rapid hazard response
- › requested quarterly reporting on 60-day resolution rates, gap measurement published in the public database, data-sharing with DC Health on fall injuries, and creation of a senior pedestrian safety position at DDOT
- › in response to CM Allen’s question about the \$5M figure, explained that the testimony includes a chart showing benefits at each funding increment: \$5M = full coverage of all FY2025-level 311 requests; \$3M ≈ 60% of unhandled requests; argued that \$11.5M in capital sidewalk funds is in the wrong account since it routes through the slow pave DC program

APRIL 27, 2026

Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF)

2 Commissioners testified · Chair: CM Christina Henderson

Jamila White

8A05

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Described a 20-year public health and substance use crisis along the Marion Barry/ Minnesota Ave corridor, including overdoses, open drug activity, and hazards for students traveling to school
- › reported that approximately 10 organizations provide addiction services in the area but lack funding to conduct outreach to people directly outside their doors
- › requested the District support relocation of the BHG methadone clinic (estimated ~\$5M) to a medical campus setting, fund an integrated 18-24 month public health plan involving DHS, DHHS, and DBH, and establish a sobering station
- › stated that four years of ANC advocacy for coordinated agency action has produced no results
- › in response to CM Henderson's question, said no integrated task force has been established and that ANC 8A has been coordinating agencies on its own

Trupti Patel 2A03

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Argued that clearing encampments without individualized housing plans constitutes displacement rather than Housing First and wastes taxpayer resources
- › cited a colleague's ANC resolution about the East Street encampment clearing as illustrating core Housing First principles being violated
- › praised the Ashton facility in Ward 2 as a successful outcome-based bridge housing model that met benchmarks and built community trust through a community advisory team process
- › requested that DHS encampment spending be conditioned on measurable housing outcomes such as verified placements and voucher utilization, that the Ashton cap be lifted to allow full utilization, and that the community advisory team model be institutionalized citywide as a standard accountability tool

APRIL 28, 2026

Department of Health (DOH)

3 Commissioners testified · Chair: CM Christina Henderson

Shira Davidson 1A08

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Testified on behalf of ANC 1A's February 2026 resolution urging comprehensive rodent mitigation reform
- › noted that DOH's rodent and vector control division has only 20 inspectors covering the entire district and operates as a reactive, complaint-driven system
- › raised equity concerns that lower-income communities with fewer 311 requests receive less service despite equal need, since 311 requests are a blunt proxy that do not reflect actual infestation levels
- › requested expanded DOH rodent division staffing and funding for data collection, enforcement, and public education
- › urged complete trash containerization, more reliable garbage collection routes, and enforcement funding for the Clean Act
- › strongly opposed the proposed removal of one FTE from the rodent division
- › recommended holding hearings on the Rat Act and RATS Act

Jeremy Sherman 1A04

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Testified on the rodent crisis in Columbia Heights, citing an October 2025 report of a nearly 13-fold increase in DC rat activity between 2014 and 2024
- › supported ANC 1A's February 2026 resolution calling for expanded staffing of the rodent and vector control division
- › stated the proposed FY27 budget removal of one FTE moves in the wrong direction
- › expressed cautious optimism about the Adams Morgan fertility control pilot combining liquid contraceptives, targeted baiting, and improved trash practices, and advocated for Columbia Heights as a natural next candidate for expansion
- › urged the council to hold a hearing on the Rat Act (B26-492) and to coordinate with CM Nadeau on related legislation, noting that better trash infrastructure reduces food sources and ultimately strain on DOH's rodent division

Paula Edwards 4A01

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Urged the council to expand DOH rodent and vector control funding with emphasis on fertility-based population controls
- › described a successful multi-pronged intervention in her SMD that combined DOH burrow treatment, sealing a private rat breeding site, coordinating with the property owner's pest control company, and eliminating food sources—resulting in nearly three years with no rats reported
- › argued this model can be replicated using fewer chemical interventions
- › urged the council not to reduce funding for DC Animal Shelters or investigator positions, noting pet abandonment has increased due to economic pressures
- › called for legislation to crack down on backyard breeders contributing to the pet population explosion

APRIL 29, 2026

Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL)

1 Commissioner testified · Chair: CM Anita Bonds

Chuck Elkins 3D01

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Ward 3 is the only ward in DC without an operating or budgeted senior wellness center

- › approximately 6,000 Ward 3 residents live below the poverty line, many of them seniors on fixed incomes
- › Ward 3 has the most seniors of any ward (~16,000 residents, nearly 20% of the ward's population) yet receives no dedicated wellness center funding
- › surgeon general research links senior isolation to health risks equivalent to 15 cigarettes/day — greater than obesity or physical inactivity
- › served on CM Freeman's Senior Wellness Center Feasibility Study Task Force and found new bus routes now provide improved access to Tenleytown, where promising properties exist for conversion
- › estimated construction cost ~\$30 million, but leasing and renovating an existing building may be faster and less expensive
- › urged committee to include a Senior Wellness Center in the FY27 budget as a matter of equity and senior public health

APRIL 29, 2026

Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)

1 Commissioner testified · Chair: CM Brooke Pinto

Trupti Patel 2A03

► [Watch testimony](#)

- › Stated that effective policing depends on public trust, data integrity, and accountability, and that all three have been seriously tested over the past year
- › opposed the proposed \$688.5M MPD budget increase, arguing that communities do not feel safer with increased police presence and that enforcement without accountability is harmful
- › called for a reallocation of funds toward the Office of the Attorney General's worker rights and consumer protection divisions
- › urged the committee to demand independent verification of crime data, clear accountability for misconduct, full transparency in complaint handling and discipline, and measurable budget-linked progress toward rebuilding public trust

APRIL 29, 2026

Office of Unified Communications (OUC)

1 Commissioner testified · Chair: CM Brooke Pinto

Paula Edwards 4A01

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Testified in opposition to any cuts to the OUC budget based on constituent feedback
- › noted that constituents are generally satisfied with the 311 system but frustrated by agency responses, specifically the routine closure of service requests without action or explanation
- › described tracking a single alley repair request in her SMD from 2016 through 2025 with repeated closures and no resolution until this spring
- › raised similar concerns about DPW requests being closed without correction at chronic problem addresses
- › urged investment in improving agency responsiveness and transparency within the 311 system

APRIL 30, 2026

Department of Human Services (DHS)

2 Commissioners testified · Chair: CM Matt Freeman

Trupti Patel 2A03

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Addressed DHS performance and the Ashton, a district-funded bridge housing facility in Ward 2, arguing that its indefinite capacity cap (now at 100 despite ~190-person physical capacity) lacks any publicly stated performance benchmark and represents a self-imposed policy ceiling without an accountability pathway
- › noted that DHS logged only three neighborhood complaints in the facility's first six months of operation, all resolved on-site
- › argued it is fiscally unsound to allocate \$25M in capital funds for a new bridge housing site while existing funded capacity sits idle
- › on behalf of ANC 2A, requested that the committee require DHS to publicly identify performance metrics governing the cap, provide a detailed first-year operations briefing, present a phased plan to expand capacity to 190 tied to performance outcomes, and clarify whether the current cap reflects operational reality or a static policy agreement

Nancy Groth 2C02

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › First-term commissioner who sought office to address a proposed 150-bed low-barrier men's shelter at an alley-locked site at 1339 Green Court NW
- › advocated for the proposed \$25M bridge housing budget line
- › reported that DGS was tasked with a feasibility study for Green Court following her advocacy but the study remains unfunded, effectively placing the project on indefinite hold
- › stated support for a 27-bed permanent supportive housing facility for unhoused older veterans in active development at Metropolitan AME Church in her own SMD
- › urged that the \$25M be deployed strategically and that expanding the Ashton from 100 to 190 residents—a facility the district already owns—should be prioritized before purchasing a new site

APRIL 30, 2026

Department of Public Works (DPW)

2 Commissioners testified · Chair: CM Brianne K. Nadeau

Joe Bishop-Henchman 5F

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Addressed three issues — public restrooms, rats, and responsibility
- › thanked the committee for championing the Throne restrooms pilot at Alethea Tanner Park and urged its continuation and expansion, noting the unit serves the Metropolitan Branch Trail
- › reported that rat complaints in Eckington and Edgewood run at 2.5 times the city average and cited a study ranking DC as the world's fastest-growing rat population city among 15 major cities, with 2 million rats estimated
- › urged the budget to include replacement of open-top litter cans with rodent-resistant alternatives and a citywide dashboard for tracking rat abatement
- › called for an ANC advance-notice requirement before litter can removals
- › requested a formal MOU clarifying jurisdictional responsibility for the Bryant Street pedestrian bridge
- › in response to CM Nadeau's question, discussed expected foot traffic increases at Alethea Tanner Park from a new business opening nearby

Jeremy Sherman 1A04

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Testified on the connection between trash infrastructure and the rat crisis
- › reported that ANC 1A passed a unanimous rodent mitigation resolution in February 2026 calling for mandatory containerization
- › criticized the removal of public trash bins without advance notice to ANCs and urged a formal notification requirement
- › urged the committee to schedule hearings on the Public Trash and Recycling Container Budgeting Act of 2026 and the Rodent Abatement Through Smart Solutions Act (RATS Act)
- › called for full funding and enforcement infrastructure for the Clean Collections Act
- › supported including pilot funding in the FY27 budget for rodent-resistant trash bins and cited New York City's measurable results from containerization
- › encouraged cross-committee collaboration to unify pending rat-related legislation into a comprehensive funded strategy
- › in response to CM Nadeau's question, said the council needs more data on hot spots and density comparisons between neighborhood clean team resources and trash generation

MAY 1, 2026

Board of Elections (BOE)

4 Commissioners testified · Chair: CM Anita Bonds

Salim Adofo 8C07

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › urged council to fully fund semi-open primary portion of Initiative 83 (\$1.1M total, 83% one-time first-year cost)
- › cost largely paper—ballots, voter notifications, registration cards
- › 73% of District voters (including Democratic majorities in all 8 wards) approved I-83, constituting a clear mandate
- › independent voters excluded despite paying taxes that fund primaries and fair-elections public matching dollars
- › many independents cannot affiliate for professional reasons (journalists, military, judges, some government employees)
- › DC should not replicate federal-level disenfranchisement locally

- › council and mayor must follow through—democracy does not end at the ballot box

Joe Bishop-Henchman **5F**

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › BOE should assume responsibility for running 3–4 ANC special elections per year—current statute places full burden (scheduling, scouting polling location, preparing ballots, serving as poll workers) on unpaid volunteer commissioners
- › DCBOE has 66 employees and a warehouse of equipment not used for this
- › requested BOE provide cost estimate for taking over ANC special elections and include in budget
- › alerted committee to statutory fix needed: petition challenge appeal law (10-day challenge window, 20-day BOE decision, 3-day appeal) is being violated this cycle by losing parties continuing meritless appeals after losing before both BOE and DC Court of Appeals
- › submitted draft amendment language adding costs provision for frivolous appeals
- › urged full implementation of semi-open primaries for 85,000 registered independents
- › in response to CM Bonds' question, discussed complexity of two-piece/four-sided Democratic ballots under RCV and challenges of changing a 50-year voting process

Trupti Patel **2A03**

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › ANC 2A testimony on full funding of Initiative 83 BOE budget components
- › I-83 passed with 72.89% citywide and 75%+ in Ward 2—a clear mandate
- › urged FY27 BOE budget include: (1) election operations—RCV ballot design, tabulation, logic/accuracy testing
- › (2) multilingual voter education and outreach
- › (3) election systems and technology for RCV configuration, certification, and maintenance
- › (4) poll worker training curricula for new voting system
- › total implementation cost ~\$1.45M over four years, currently \$1.09M short (≈\$0.39 per resident)
- › FY27 is critical stabilization year following initial rollout
- › underfunding risks voter confusion, administrative strain, and diminished public trust in an overwhelmingly endorsed reform

Paula Edwards **4A01**

► [Watch testimony](#)

- › drew parallel between excluding independent voters from tax-funded primaries and the Jim Crow practice of taxing Black people for public services they could not access
- › DC Democratic primary is de facto general election—independents have no real opportunity to influence the most powerful positions
- › urged council not to perpetuate the same exclusion
- › urged reduction in fair-elections matching funds ratio from 5:1 to 3:1 (highest in the country, per submitted written testimony)
- › current funds generating excessive mailer/poster spending
- › called for enhanced oversight and unambiguous federal-style disclosure requirements for independent expenditure committees
- › urged scrutiny of possible coordination between candidates and IE committees
- › in response to CM Bonds' question, confirmed recommending 3:1 ratio and noted written testimony documents comparisons to other jurisdictions

MAY 1, 2026

Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)

1 Commissioner testified · Chair: CM Charles Allen

Abel Amene 4D02

► [Watch testimony](#)

- › testified on behalf of ANC 4D, which passed a resolution urging council to address utility affordability and endorsed four bills—Automatic Enrollment for Utility Affordability Act, DC Water Billing and Disconnection Modernization Act, Utility Disconnection and Protection Act, and the Grid Act
- › shared personal experience with duplicative income verification burdens across SNAP/Medicaid (DHS) and LIHEAP/UDP (DOEE), highlighting that automatic cross-enrollment—similar to e-bike incentive and Metro reduced fare programs—would eliminate unnecessary process while maximizing federal funding
- › urged support for BSA language directing PSC to regulate predatory door-to-door third-party energy suppliers targeting low-income residents and seniors in 4D
- › noted significant progress on lead pipe replacement in 4D02 (from red to green/blue on district map) and urged continued federal program utilization

MAY 6, 2026

Department of Buildings (DOB)

3 Commissioners testified · Chair: Chairman Phil Mendelson

Chuck Elkins **3D01**

[► Watch testimony](#)

- › drawing on 25 years at EPA writing regulations and designing enforcement programs, argued that an unenforced regulation is worse than no regulation—bad actors laugh while good actors comply
- › characterized DOB as a paper tiger well known to bad-actor contractors
- › requested: (1) hire a DOB structural engineer (50% reviewing permits, 50% inspecting structural operations at sites)
- › (2) require general contractors to take statutory responsibility for their construction sites
- › (3) hire more inspectors
- › (4) hire more OAH judges—OAH is the system bottleneck, backing up 12,500 housing code cases with \$42M in penalties at stake, plus another \$20M in uncollected judgments
- › total \$62M in uncollected housing fines
- › 53,000+ housing code violations remain unabated
- › 600 landlords with 25+ open violations each account for over half of 80,000 open violations in the DOB database
- › council faces a stark choice: fund robust enforcement or be honest that the current system incentivizes non-compliance and benefits those being regulated

Tom Donahue **8A01**

[► Watch testimony](#)

- › as a new commissioner, described navigating DOB as moving through dense fog without a compass—thrust into high-stakes crises without knowledge of agency structure
- › requested DOB budget include funding for ward-level introductory summits at the start of each ANC term so commissioners are not meeting ward DOB representatives for the first time during an emergency
- › illustrated need with crisis at 1507–1511 19th Street SE (structurally condemned building with active squatters who created interior wall pathways to occupy adjacent units) and 1502–1508 19th Street SE (abandoned row houses set ablaze twice in seven months)

- › 95-year-old neighbor extracted by firefighters twice, passed away one month after second fire never having returned home)
- › noted personal success came from direct engagement with property owners rather than portal submissions

Jeremy Sherman 1A04

► [Watch testimony](#)

- › testified on behalf of ANC 1A and its Columbia Heights cross-ANC working group formed in 2024 on vacant and blighted properties
- › Vacant to Vibrant Amendment Act passed but its tools remain unfunded and unused
- › urged funding for: (1) DOB-administered vacant building maintenance plan, registry, and review process
- › (2) vacant property receivership program
- › (3) OAG direct foreclosure authority for tax-delinquent class 3 and 4 properties
- › (4) OTR tiered escalating tax rates for class 3 and 4 vacant properties
- › argued these are the only interventions that can finally break cycles of speculative holding—without them, properties that have sat empty for 8–12 years will continue to do so
- › acknowledged the constrained budget and asked for at least partial implementation of the key legislative tools

MAY 6, 2026

Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG)

1 Commissioner testified · Chair: CM Brooke Pinto

Peter Wood 1C03

► [Watch testimony](#)

- › testified in individual capacity as ANC 1C03 Commissioner
- › urged council to at minimum maintain previous funding levels for domestic violence services—both restorative and preventative
- › argued cutting DV funding is expensive because avoidable costs balloon downstream
- › 2026 is a uniquely dire moment for DV survivors, and proposed measures by mayor and US Attorney should not substitute for funding the survivor services infrastructure
- › some budget cuts put lives at immediate risk and are not equivalent to other reductions

- › DV funding is a core moral issue—every constituent deserves to exist at home without fear
- › failure to fund DV services tells survivors they will remain trapped in the cycle of harm
- › called on council to restore proposed DV budget cuts

MAY 6, 2026

Office of Zoning (OZ)

1 Commissioner testified · Chair: CM Phil Mendelson

Chuck Elkins **3D01**

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › BZA faces chronic caseload delays even at full membership
- › proposes BZA adopt ABCA's pre-hearing mediation model, in which a staff mediator meets with parties before board consideration — 90% of the ABCA cases benefit from this mediation, dramatically reducing board workload without denying anyone access to the board
- › suggests starting with voluntary virtual mediation, potentially moving to mandatory mediation
- › notes that arriving with agreed-upon facts would shorten BZA hearings considerably
- › argues time savings would offset cost of a BZA lawyer serving as mediator
- › recommends Council consult ABCA director Moosally about adapting the program — a 'do more with less' reform well-suited to FY27 budget stringency

MAY 7, 2026

Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (ABCA)

1 Commissioner testified · Chair: CM Brianne K. Nadeau

Paula Edwards **4A01**

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › ABCA budget is well used
- › ANC 4A has settlement agreements with all restaurant licensees and has found ABCA consistently helpful, well-versed on law, and a trustworthy guide through complex situations

- › primary concern is cannabis licensing—regulatory restrictions are less clear than for alcohol, and the public misunderstands cannabis facilities' status (closer to medical than recreational in regulation)
- › one cannabis facility in 4A is ~500 feet from a school with the neighborhood opposed but no regulatory tools available to contest it
- › urged greater clarity on what community restrictions apply to cannabis facilities near schools
- › praised ABCA's professionalism as a check on corruption compared to other cities
- › in response to CM Nadeau's question, clarified that liquor stores face similar 400-foot school buffer but cannabis candies/edibles create distinct concerns
- › also noted ANC is the only entity with protest rights in cannabis licensing (no broader community petition option), making the commission the sole focal point for community pressure and blame

MAY 7, 2026

Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)

1 Commissioner testified · Chair: Chairman Phil Mendelson

Kishan Putta

2E01

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › testified on behalf of Ward 2 constituents who view early childhood education funding as a top budget priority
- › neighborhood lacks many DCPS pre-K options so the PK Keep program has been essential
- › Pay Equity Fund critical for bilingual centers like Communi Kids (walking distance, children become fluent by kindergarten)
- › Pay Equity also supports health insurance for educators through DC Health Link—essential to educator health and retention
- › constituents understand budget constraints but urge council to find a way to reverse proposed early childhood cuts
- › working families depend on these programs to continue working and contributing to the city's economy

Editor's Notes:

(1) This publication is the product of many hours of human effort but has been assisted by

Claude AI. While the summaries do not do justice to the actual testimonies, they should be sufficient to enable readers to determine whether to watch the actual testimony videos. They may also contain errors. While a human might have made fewer errors (this has not been determined), the development of a document of this depth and length would not be feasible without the use of AI.

(2) If you would prefer not to receive this periodic publication, please send an email to 3D01@anc.dc.gov with the word “Unsubscribe” in the subject line. I want to send these only to people who would like to receive them.