

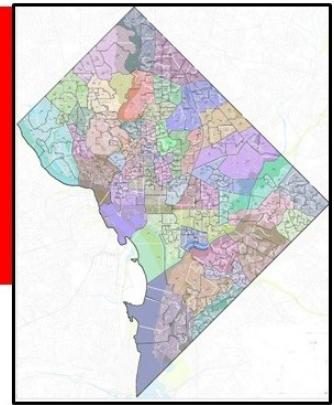
ANC Digest

A compilation of
District-wide ANC Resolutions

Neighborhood Democracy at Work

Special Edition:

RECENT TESTIMONIES



February 23, 2026

ANC Commissioners have recently been testifying at many of the Council's Performance Oversight hearings. This edition of the Digest contains a list of ANC Testimonies from a selected¹ set of hearings. 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 regarding its development and how to unsubscribe.

Hearings in this edition:

- [January 28, 2026 – District Department of Transportation \(DDOT\)](#)
- [January 29, 2026 – Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions \(OANC\)](#)
- [January 29, 2026 – Department of General Services \(DGS\)](#)
- [February 10, 2026 – Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration \(ABCA\)](#)
- [February 12, 2026 – Department of Parks and Recreation \(DPR\)](#)
- [February 12, 2026 – Department of Public Works \(DPW\)](#)
- [February 12, 2026 – Department of Buildings \(DOB\)](#)
- [February 18, 2026 – DC Public Schools \(DCPS\) / DC Public Charter School Board \(PCSB\)](#)
- [February 19, 2026 – Fire and Emergency Medical Services \(FEMS\)](#)
- [February 19, 2026 – Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement \(ONSE\)](#)

JANUARY 28, 2026

District Department of Transportation (DDOT)

8 Commissioners testified · Chair: CM Charles Allen

Adam Prinzo 3C02

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Reno Road is a dangerous commuter cut-through with two child pedestrian strikes in recent months
- › ANC 3C first requested traffic calming in Oct. 2023 with no formal DDOT response after 2+ years
- › Requests status update, crash data review, and timeline for interventions including no-turn-on-red at Reno/Porter and crosswalk upgrades

¹ If you know of testimony by ANC Commissioners at these or other recent hearings that are not listed, but you would like to have listed in the next edition, please email me at 3D01@anc.dc.gov giving me the date of the hearing, the name of the Committee, and the subject of the hearing (agency).

Karen Hughes 6B09[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Commends DDOT for 50% drop in traffic fatalities in 2025 and well-managed Pennsylvania/Potomac Ave SE traffic circle construction
- › Urges completion of remaining SE Pennsylvania Ave bus priority and protected bike lane segments
- › Requests proactive alley traffic calming for cut-through speeding
- › Urges Vision Zero hardening at Kentucky/Potomac/15th St SE six-way intersection; supports protected cycle track on 11th St SE; calls for bollards at Eastern Market
- › Eager to engage on RFK campus traffic planning

Paula Edwards 4A01[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Commends Ward 4 DDOT outreach specialist and sidewalk gap program for responsiveness
- › New sidewalks crumbling within one year of installation — DDOT blamed salt use but gave residents no maintenance guidance
- › 311 requests closed without resolution erodes community trust
- › Urges all agencies to explain closures rather than leaving residents to perceive it as manipulating performance numbers

Huma Imtiaz 5E04[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › DDOT unresponsive to multiple written requests and resolutions — residents get under 30 seconds to cross 6+ lanes
- › Rhode Island Ave bus priority corridor urgently needed; North Capitol St project has no funding despite being on the High Injury Network
- › DDOT rejects speed bumps and bump-outs citing vehicle needs over people
- › Wards 4 and 5 share one DDOT rep, causing severe response delays
- › ANC had to pass a resolution just to get responses to other resolutions

Joe Bishop-Henchman 5F06[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Two cars entered the Metropolitan Branch Trail in January — requests hardened bollards at key intersections, not just signage
- › DDOT has promised hardened barriers at R St intersection after snowstorm recovery
- › FY26 funds repair of flood-prone spot under New York Ave on MBT but no action yet on this shovel-ready project
- › Seeks update on east-west MBT connections, NoMa third Metro entrance, congestion pricing study, and Rhode Island Ave safety

Chuck Elkins 3D01[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Testifying on behalf of the district-wide sidewalk safety team
- › DDOT's two-track approach (capital paving vs. small rapid repairs) leaves tripping hazards unaddressed for months and years — telling DDOT to try harder will not fix this
- › DDOT ignores 311 reports of tripping hazards, violating nuisance law norms by knowingly

refusing to fix a documented public danger

- › ADA compliance gap — DDOT builds ramps at intersections but ignores hazardous deviations on the sidewalk between them
- › 263 falls documented on Capitol Hill over two years, with 114 requiring medical care
- › Committee should legislatively require DDOT to create a 60-day SLA category for serious tripping hazards
- › In Q&A: sample validation of injury reports would be sufficient; urged a firmer hand from the committee on SLA reform

Charquinta McCray 5D06

 [Watch testimony](#)

- › Snow storm exposed serious sidewalk safety gaps — watched three people fall the previous day due to uncleared sidewalks
- › New commercial developments failed to shovel sidewalks or alleys, requiring clear enforcement of shoveling responsibilities
- › 17th St NE redesign reduced traffic but RFK development will fundamentally change traffic patterns on 17th St and Bladensburg Rd — proactive study and community engagement needed now
- › Requests CM Allen walk the 17th St corridor during school rush hour to see conditions firsthand
- › Urges formal post-implementation review of safety changes and broader resident engagement on RFK traffic impacts

Trupti Patel 2A03

 [Watch testimony](#)

- › DDOT has failed to maintain transportation infrastructure in ANC 2A — specifically the Snows Court corridor
- › Three requests to council: formally recognize Snows Court as a residential alley; accept Snows Court Task Force recommendations with a public project timeline; prioritize all outstanding ANC 2A service requests with urgency
- › Personally shattered her left elbow falling on a broken sidewalk brick — could not work for three months and underwent a year of rehab
- › Urges DDOT to collect hospital injury data to understand the full scale of sidewalk fall injuries
- › In Q&A: described ORM as tone-deaf and unresponsive to injured residents; recounted DDOT attorney's insensitivity during deposition; flagged DDOT refusing to patch historic brick sidewalks while leaving documented trip hazards in place

JANUARY 29, 2026

Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC)

4 Commissioners testified · Chair: CM Robert C. White, Jr.

Trupti Patel 2A03

 [Watch testimony](#)

- › OANC should expand beyond compliance to actively support commissioners with training, tools, and technical assistance

- › Needs better outreach to new commissioners
- › Should help ANCs navigate complex processes like licensing and zoning

Chuck Elkins 3D01

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › OANC focused too narrowly on administrative compliance while ignoring commissioners' substantive needs
- › ANCs lack adequate legal and policy support
- › OANC should be a resource hub, not just a compliance monitor

Joe Bishop-Henchman 5F06

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › ANCs do have Open Meetings Act obligations despite OANC suggesting otherwise — specific statutory language applies
- › OANC guidance on this issue has been incorrect and should be corrected
- › Clearer legal guidance needed across the board

Dionne Brown 8D01

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Ten specific recommendations for OANC reform including better onboarding, stipends for commissioners, improved IT infrastructure, and expanded training
- › ANC system underresourced relative to its statutory role
- › Returning commissioner perspective after a decade away shows limited progress

JANUARY 29, 2026

Department of General Services (DGS)

2 Commissioners testified · Chair: CM Janeese Lewis George

Sebrena Rhodes 5D02

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Cornell Community Recreation Center plans passed Historic Preservation Review Board Jan. 22; demands transparency from DGS and DPR on timelines
- › Specific asks include covered outdoor seating, Wi-Fi for full site, laminated glass windows, furniture in budget, full ADA compliance, and reliable security
- › Q&A confirmed net zero building, natural grass, \$35.5M budget

Melissa Wyers 1D04

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Commends DGS professionalism on Amigos Park renovation in Mount Pleasant after years of neglect
- › Disappointment that adjacent private parcel was not secured for the project
- › Q&A confirmed DGS was unable to negotiate lease but leaseholder committed to keeping it green space

FEBRUARY 10, 2026

Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (ABCA)

9 Commissioners testified · Chair: CM Brianne K. Nadeau

Joe Bishop-Henchman 5F06

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › ABCA excels at notifications and ANC outreach
- › Cannabis protest grounds are narrower than alcohol with no parity — group-of-five protests not allowed, density controls absent
- › ABCA requires a formal protest to exercise any great weight input despite law allowing it separately
- › New FOIA requirement for applicant contact info impedes settlement negotiations
- › Evidence-at-filing requirement and conflated hearing stages create procedural traps
- › ANC protest de facto dismissed when board forced ANC and group-of-five to choose one to proceed

Trupti Patel 2A03

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › ANC 2A's cannabis settlement process derailed when both designated representatives were unavailable at the June 25 hearing and the second rep was never notified — leading to improper dismissal that had to be reversed
- › Recommends ABCA notify all designated reps, confirm attendance in advance, and not dismiss without reviewing communications
- › Cannabis protest grounds changed without notifying ANCs — ANC 2A's initial protest filed on now-impermissible grounds

Jamila White 8A05

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Ward 8 ANCs are structurally set up to fail — never won a protest; board members praise applicants before ANC testimony and lack knowledge of Ward 8 conditions
- › Mediation pushes ANCs toward settlement regardless of community opposition
- › ANCs lost great weight in cannabis cultivation licensing as of November changes
- › Liquor stores near Boone Elementary create unsafe conditions for students
- › Calls for formal investigation of ABCA board's structural bias; requests calendar invites for hearing notifications

Stephen Hanrahan 1B09

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › ANC 1B has 127+ licensed establishments — one of the densest in the city without a Business Improvement District
- › Supports Noise Balance Amendment Act for objective decibel-based enforcement that does not require inspectors to enter residences
- › ABCA website outdated and records search limited to 10 years — urges council to ensure planned Salesforce upgrade happens this year
- › Noise complaints should be publicly accessible without FOIA; requests staggered renewal

timeline and extension of review period from 45 to 60 days

- › ANCs should be able to submit great weight input outside of a formal protest

Stephen Kolb 6A07

 [Watch testimony](#)

- › Alcohol and cannabis protest standing and appropriateness standards (Sec. 25-313 and 25-314) should be harmonized
- › Proximity protections should extend to hospitals, addiction recovery clinics, and other medical facilities
- › Requests a cannabis moratorium process parallel to alcohol moratorium under Sec. 25-352
- › Testimony based on ANC 6A resolution passed September 2025

Sue Guzman 3F02

 [Watch testimony](#)

- › Ambiguous protest eligibility rules disenfranchise communities — board made undisclosed interpretation of "directly across the street" without clear guidance
- › Proximity standards fail to account for real-world child safety context (proposed dispensary steps from safe-routes crosswalk and children's businesses)
- › Protest process requires legal representation ANCs cannot sustainably afford — commissioners devoted 200+ volunteer hours
- › Inspector's report contained factual errors including school observations in August when school was not in session
- › ABCA's 2026 initiatives contain no specific cannabis oversight reforms

Courtney Carlson 3F06

 [Watch testimony](#)

- › ABCA published an incorrect email address for protest submissions; community members told that emailed submissions were invalid unless converted to PDF — a requirement not clearly published
- › FOIA responses incomplete, returning the commissioner's own emails rather than enforcement records; enforcement fines and records withheld, preventing meaningful ANC participation
- › Burden of investigation and legal precision shifted onto unpaid volunteers while the agency withholds the information needed to participate

Karla M. Lewis 5E02

 [Watch testimony](#)

- › Credits ABCA for shutting down illegal cannabis operation (Lifted Lounge) that subsequently failed to obtain a license
- › Smoking Tanks cannabis operation licensed at 25 Florida Ave NW despite being within 400 feet of Petite Scholars daycare — residents had no recourse
- › Establishment operated without required air filtration equipment but was still permitted to open
- › Calls for stronger enforcement and board scrutiny of impacts on children; noise enforcement needed for daytime complaints

Zachary Adams 2B08

 [Watch testimony](#)

- › Settlement agreements have become a polarizing wedge — ABCA should publish a list of enforceable terms and offer a modular template rather than requiring non-lawyers to draft from scratch
- › Late-night noise complaints unenforceable because DOB inspectors won't go out at night
- › ABCA failed to flag non-allowable location for strip club (Cielo's Angels) until ANC raised it in protest
- › Hearing notifications sent only ~1 day in advance and often to wrong parties
- › Settlement agreements must be indexed and searchable by business name, LLC, address, and ANC
- › Urges full harmonization of alcohol and cannabis protest processes

FEBRUARY 12, 2026

Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

3 Commissioners testified · Chair: CM Janeese Lewis George

Trupti Patel 2A03

 [Watch testimony](#)

- › DPR failed to deliver promised 26th & K St NW park expansion after announcing a \$1M project in 2023
- › No public accounting of funds spent after contractor bankruptcy
- › Requests full spending report and FY27 budget commitment to complete the project

Sebrena Rhodes 5D02

 [Watch testimony](#)

- › Cornell Community Recreation Center renovation underway in Ivy City
- › Community needs clarity on DPR's plans and timeline for Lewis Crow Park
- › Community meeting scheduled March 17 to discuss

Kishan Putta 2E01

 [Watch testimony](#)

- › Jelliffe Rec Center renovation funded since FY22 at \$28M but still not started after 8 years of community advocacy
- › Duke Ellington Field will be offline approximately one year during renovation
- › Hardy Middle School cafeteria work has begun

FEBRUARY 12, 2026

Department of Public Works (DPW)

9 Commissioners testified · Chair: CM Brianne K. Nadeau

Abel Amene 4D02

 [Watch testimony](#)

- › DPW suspends alley cleaning Oct 1–Mar 31, turning alleys into rat feeding grounds all winter
- › Ward 4 SMD alone has 1.25 miles of alleys; 311 does not accept alley cleaning requests during

the suspension period

- › Requests year-round 311 access and limiting the suspension to declared snow emergencies only

Bruce Sherman 3G02

 [Watch testimony](#)

- › Jan. 25 storm left many local streets impassable for days with uneven service across blocks
- › GPS tracking showed streets as cleared when they were not
- › Elderly residents (33% of area is 65+) could not reach medical appointments
- › Five recommendations including equitable baseline plowing, GPS system overhaul, clearer pedestrian infrastructure responsibility, and a dedicated 311 snow category
- › Survey results from 150+ residents submitted

Kyle Gardiner 5E01

 [Watch testimony](#)

- › DPW has been under a hiring freeze through much of FY25, preventing backfilling of attritioned positions — requests accountability on whether systemic pickup failures stem from workforce depletion
- › DPW has no waste bin inventory and refuses to deploy additional public bins despite policy allowing it — a fundamental leadership failure
- › Dead-end block on N St NE has become a dump site due to ~12 residential bins left out permanently with no sweep team response despite repeated tickets

Josh Jacobson 1E06

 [Watch testimony](#)

- › Residents on his block had no trash or recycling pickup since Jan. 22 while nearby blocks received service four times — routes must be rotated to ensure equity during emergencies
- › DPW publicly communicated alleys were cleared when they were not, and never corrected this despite repeated notifications
- › Sidewalks and crosswalks impassable for over a week; snow berms blocked crosswalk entries
- › DPW still accepting bulk pickup requests while not performing any pickups or communicating the suspension
- › In Q&A: noted repeated mismatched responses from DPW on when service would arrive

Sebrena Rhodes 5D02

 [Watch testimony](#)

- › Requests direct answer on status and timeline for relocating DPW maintenance yard from Okie Street in Ivy City
- › Ivy City residents bear disproportionate environmental burden from constant diesel emissions, noise, vibrations, and truck traffic
- › Relocation is explicitly recommended in the Ivy City Small Area Plan and the district's own community resiliency guidelines — policy framework exists but implementation is missing
- › In Q&A: noted DPW trucks are housed in the neighboring community and the area has a serious rat problem

Huma Imtiaz 5E04[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › DPW communications were misleading — residents told services had resumed and alleys were cleared when they had not been
- › As of hearing day, multiple Bloomingdale streets still had no trash or recycling pickup since the storm
- › DPW cleared arterials while pushing snow onto sidewalk ramps, making crosswalks impassable
- › Requests took 10+ days to be addressed even after emailing DPW leadership directly; 311 tickets are not a workable solution
- › In Q&A: noted that emailing the DPW director should not be required to get basic trash pickup

Charquinta McCray 5D06[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Residents in Trinidad/Carver-Langston had no trash pickup since Jan. 20 across multiple blocks; 311 requests are unresponsive and submitting multiples does not help
- › DPW communications are not always factual; requests formal policy review and after-action report on the storm with a feedback loop
- › Alley responsibility unclear to many residents — needs better public education
- › Questions why seasonal DPW employees were not deployed until nearly three weeks into the storm — pre-activation or surge capacity plan needed for future events
- › In Q&A: flagged 1300 block of Staples St NE and 1500 block of Queen St NE as urgent rat/trash priorities

Katherine Swanson-Palmer 1C09[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Serious illegal dumping problem on Euclid and 17th Streets — DPW removed two public litter cans due to "abuse," causing trash to migrate directly to sidewalks
- › Requests DPW follow the Clean Collections Act of 2024, which mandates litter can installation in residential zones when requested — DPW has flatly refused despite the legal requirement
- › One constituent had 23 consecutive missed trash collections, resolved only when the commissioner called DPW at 5:30am
- › 311 requests for illegal dumping go unaddressed for over 8 days
- › In Q&A: confirmed the 23 missed collections are from a single household on a block otherwise dominated by apartment buildings

Topher Mathews 2E02[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › Parking enforcement in Georgetown is down 50% overall and 70% for two-hour limit violations since pre-COVID, based on city ticket data analysis
- › Fines too low to deter routine violators — \$30 for all-day parking vs. garage costs; 100 automated license plate readers authorized but not yet purchased
- › Supports Strategic Parking Enforcement Enhancement Act which would allow organizations like Georgetown University to fund DPW reimbursable details for targeted enforcement
- › In Q&A: confirmed analysis compared January 2019/2020 vs. January 2025 ticket data; noted booting/towing is effectively nonexistent

FEBRUARY 12, 2026

Department of Buildings (DOB)

2 Commissioners testified · Chair: Chairman Phil Mendelson

Chuck Elkins 3D01

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › DOB conducted 6,000+ illegal construction inspections last year — an average of 17 complaints per day, representing only visible/reported violations
- › 2,600 active stop work orders remain unresolved and 2,200 unabated violations dating back to FY21 — more than 1/3 involving property damage or unsafe conditions remain unabated
- › DOB's Strategic Enforcement Office (Keith Parsons) is overburdened with day-to-day management, leaving no capacity for the strategic analysis the council intended
- › Urges chairman to press director to acknowledge the non-compliance problem rather than celebrate flawed statistics
- › Recommends freeing or hiring a dedicated strategic enforcement officer

Peter Wood 1C03

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › DOB needs to do better at Dorchester House (2480 16th St NW, Adams Morgan) where an elevator malfunction caused a resident to lose a limb
- › City must be more proactive in ensuring old residential buildings in Adams Morgan are safe — many are large, aging, and in a historic preservation district
- › Residents don't know where to turn and DOB responses have not led to substantive change; urges greater trust between DOB and building residents

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

DC Public Schools (DCPS) and DC Public Charter School Board (PCSB)

1 Commissioner testified · Chair: Chairman Phil Mendelson

Trupti Patel 2A03

[▶ Watch testimony](#)

- › DCPS is structurally understaffed — educators routinely lose planning periods to cover classrooms due to substitute shortages, accelerating attrition; council must fund one permanent substitute per 250 students with transparent reporting
- › Council must ensure DCPS fully implements and enforces protections for LGBTQ+ students and educators, including access to facilities, athletics, and mental health supports aligned with gender identity
- › DCPS must be resourced to establish clear protocols protecting students and families from federal immigration enforcement, including know-your-rights education and staff training

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS)

1 Commissioner testified · Chair: CM Brooke Pinto

- › Ward 7 experiences disproportionately high EMS call volume due to elevated rates of trauma, chronic illness, shootings, overdoses, and mental health crises
- › Residents continue to raise concerns about response times, unit availability, and personnel strain east of the river
- › EMS staffing and deployment must be equitable — based on call volume and community need, not equal distribution
- › Demands trauma-informed training and mental health support for first responders serving high-need areas

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE)

1 Commissioner testified · Chair: CM Brooke Pinto

- › ONSE resides in her SMD and is vital to Ward 7 — she has watched it grow and built relationships with its staff over years
- › Federal cutbacks have significantly reduced ONSE's presence in the community
- › Urges increased funding for ONSE to continue violence prevention work
- › Personal testimony connecting the work to her own background — family of returning citizens, 13-year-old son walking streets where a child was recently killed
- › Preventive services addressing mental health, addiction, and homelessness are essential to Ward 7 thriving

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, of course, want to send these to only those people who would like to receive it.