

**ANC5C Monthly Meeting**  
**New Hope Baptist Church**  
**Tuesday May 19, 2009**  
**7 pm**

*From the desk of Michael J. Henderson*  
*For information purposes only*

**Call to Order** – Commissioner Bonds began at 7:17 pm there was a public safety emergency in the southern part of our area which prevented some traffic from moving; she said welcome we are happy to have you;

**Roll Call** – Commissioner Daneker

All Commissioners present except Commissioner Farmer (she did arrive later in the meeting)

**Approval of Minutes** – Commissioner Pinkney; Commissioners Edwards motion and Daneker 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve minutes; passed unanimously; (with any necessary type of corrections)

Committee moved Treasurer's Report to later in the agenda because Commissioner Farmer was not present (due to the heated discussion later in the meeting, the Treasurer's Report was never given); they also moved the Councilmember's spot to later because no one from his office was present either

**Community Concerns** – please limit your comments to one minute; Debbie Smith said Commissioner Daneker read answers about things that she had not even mentioned and that he had been very disrespectful to her; his tone was very negative and she wants it written down in the record; Commissioner Bonds said it will be so recorded;



*Commissioner Timothy Day*

Kathy Henderson said hello and please join us at Court Watch – you can follow any crimes that occur

Dance Place mentioned their work and you can donate and/or buy things;

Resident asked about 2000 block of 3<sup>rd</sup> street NE; Commissioner Wright said she should be getting some feedback on that by next week; if not she will take the necessary action

Ted McGinn representing Emory campus – it was chosen as one school that is a good reason to go to DCPS

John Tyler representing self-storage; will be doing show for kids on June 4<sup>th</sup>; proceeds go to burn foundation for DC fire department;

Michael Henderson spoke about the EdgewoodDC website; it has links to city services and also a new item – crime data – you can type in an address or intersection and it can tell you what types of crimes have occurred there and when, etc. address is [www.edgewooddc.org](http://www.edgewooddc.org)

Rehab of the John Cook School was mentioned by a presenter; Commissioner Bonds said that she should reach out to Commissioner Pinkney; presenter said she spoke to Commissioner Salatti and will contact Commissioner Wright later this week

Resident said he is opposed to a project and the Zoning laws have ignored the ANC input on this

Richard Hanks of Renaissance Development – corner lot across the street from the church and they are moving forward with that; (303 Seaton Place NE)

**Outstanding Business** – Commissioner Day

Kick boxing interim status report – had decent turnout; they will return any unused portions of the funds

Commissioner Salatti moved they approve the grant Dance Place – approved

Commissioner Wright motion to approve Good Life grant – approved  
(13,508.00)

Commissioner Day said they sent the Help Foundation a list of questions and is she prepared to answer them; yes; requesting a summer mentoring and such in public health – called enhancing youth employability and success; students assigned to a computer with someone who has a masters level degree in computers; students will develop a live interactive web site for the help foundation and a community newsletter; will train 6-10 students, mentoring; provide academic support – 6 weeks in the summer and then during school every other Saturday; they have secured an accounting service that will handle all the funds; students will learn the many ways a computer can be used; they have 4 computers now and they need to add two that will offer the memory; kids will work in groups of two to three; looking for immediate funding for the equipment and instructors salaries; Commissioner Salatti asked about the background of the instructor; presenter said he has worked at quality control, has BS in electrical engineering; did undergrad work at U of Pittsburg; Commissioner Grant asked if kids will be from immediate area; she said yes; Commissioner Day asked if they have proof that they can have the site; she said Mr. Shabaz (sp?) has that (he was not in attendance); Commissioner Day said they need to provide the ANC with what they need now, and then a future payment schedule; presenter said yes she has written down a schedule of payments needed and when; Commissioner Day said he needs a copy of the site inspection; and a letter from the school that they can use the building; and a certificate of good standing from the organization; program starts on June 20<sup>th</sup>

Commissioner Phillips asked where are the kids coming from in that area and what age; presenter said age focus is 12-18; trying to show long term relationships – research has shown that truancy goes down when have strong relationships with the kids; Commissioner Grant said Commissioner Phillips said they know a few kids they would like to participate; Commissioner Phillips asked if they have contacts at Beacon House; 5 thousand dollars and change is the amount to the HELP Foundation; need paperwork within 7 days of the grant approval; motion by Commissioner Day vote contingent upon receipt of letters and revised payout that

is compliant with grant guidelines – some funds could be allotted immediately, remainder paid out from May to end of instruction; Commissioner Salatti 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion passed unanimously;

Commissioner Day said he encourages folks to come to ANC5C and apply for grant money; they give grants to non-profit organizations that benefit Ward 5C; Debbie Smith asked if they have a grant committee; yes; Debbie Smith asked if they have residents on the committee (by-laws say you have to); Commissioner Day said they are just forming the committee and it will have residents on it

**Neighborhood Residential Identification Project** – provide up to 10 thousand dollars for a program that provides residents with a refund up to 40 dollars for the purchase of parts and labor to have their street address affixed to the rear of their home; fire department determined that all homes should have address on back; must be at least 4 feet above the ground; Commission would like us all to participate in this program; Debbie Smith asked if she can take a picture because she did not save her receipt; Commissioner Bonds said that's fine  
Kathy Henderson asked if she could be on agenda next month for 12 minutes; Commissioner Bonds said they would love to have her; Commissioner Ransom asked about contracting that work with someone local; Commissioner Bonds said we could treat them as a consultant; one person could for example do all the houses in one block

### **New Business**

Commissioner Grant - **Art Space PUD Application** 3200 block of H Street NE; this is their initial application; 700 Monroe Street NE community meeting tomorrow; Dance Place presenter said they are very cramped for space; DHC was their first investor (gave them a loan to get building); looking at Brookland Studios for expansion for space; Brookland Studios owner does want to sell his prop-

erty; whatever the case they will need a PUD  
because of the elevation factor; Heidi from  
ArtSpace – they develop space all over the country;  
first project in DC; have been working with Dance  
Place for 3 years; will have a series of community  
meetings this summer and look forward to receiving  
your input; if the new building happens will



*ArtSpace Presentation*

have 41 units of affordable housing; ArtSpace is committed to partnering with  
Dance Place; not just a housing project; hoping to close Kearney Street; can't build on  
one section because of infrastructure; they had large color displays; new ArtSpace  
building would go where current Brookland Art Studio is; there are artist  
lofts/residences; simple 4-story structure; hopefully will enliven Kearney Street;  
Commissioner Grant asked them about their web site: it is [www.artspace.org](http://www.artspace.org)  
Commissioner Ransom asked about connection with ABDO and small area plan; pre-  
senter said it is supported by small area plan and hoping to create an arts  
corridor but no formal relationship with ABDO; Jerry P (resident) said these  
folks have been a wonderful neighbor and he supports it (unlike the ABDO); Commis-  
sioner Grant asked them to elaborate on what it means to be an artist; presenter  
said they have a selection process to get a variety of artists in the building;  
resident asked what has their success been with other local projects; and are there le-  
gal protections for us; presenter said projects can take 2-5 years to complete  
because they have so much fund raising to do (7 or 8 sources); her email  
address is Heidi.kurtze@artspace.org

They are 100% occupied all across the country

**Alice Thompson from the Mayor's Office** – the new law says you cannot have 5 bill-  
boards (but you can have 4) so they only removed one, the 4 will stay; there was a re-  
port from 1961; her suggestion is that we contact the owner of the property and see if

they will remove the billboards; 4<sup>th</sup> and New Jersey and P Street NW; resident asked if the permits conveyed; Alice said probably and they probably never expire; she said we should just go to the owner; Alice said we should have a meeting with the owners and let them know how you feel; resident said she has a petition and Commissioner Bonds said she could pass it out at the meeting right now; Owners are Rollins Outdoor but they said they sold it to Clear Channel but tax records do not reflect it; Alice said the owner is out of town but he would get back to her; Alice will do some research as to ownership and then we will meet with owners; we began this process about 22 years ago; Alice said there will also be a walk through in Commissioner Grants SMD 2512 4<sup>th</sup> Street NE they are infringing on DC government property; almost resolved; 23 Randolph NW minivan was dumped and a neighbor called it in – thanks to the neighbor; Commissioner Grant thanked Alice for her swift responses (*applause*); Commissioner Wright thanked her as well; Justin Bellow (sp?) is Alice's partner in the Mayor's Office (he introduced himself); Commissioner Bonds said there is finally a stop sign on Bates Street and 3<sup>rd</sup>; thank you so much

### **SMD Reports**

Commissioner Phillips – Greater Mount Calvary needed a fire escape which is now under construction; (needed a variance)

Commissioner Wright – DASH project at 3<sup>rd</sup> and T (shelter for woman victims of domestic violence) – needed a clear outline of their programs; renovations are on schedule; they will connect with other programs locally that have experience with developing activities, etc; she will continue to monitor that; Robert Boyer said for the residents that seem to have been side-swiped by DASH that live right across the street they have had no information presented to them; Commissioner Wright took exception to this, saying she spoke with lots of folks in the neighborhood; Commissioner Wright said she has had meetings and walk throughs in the community and her door is always open;

Mr. Boyer and Commissioner Wright had a heated discussion about communication; Commissioner Bonds intervened, saying the project happened before Commissioner Wright was elected and sometimes projects come to our area without our consent and knowledge; the residents near DASH should reach out to the Commission  
Commissioner Grant spoke about St. Paul's – the PUD was approved; 7.2 acres will be developed

Commissioner Davenport spoke about the Bloomingdale Farmer's Market – it started this past weekend; it was a success; they are looking at ways to get the word out more; Dr. Perkins is looking at ways to fund another program that begins on June 22<sup>nd</sup>; Commissioner Davenport asked about voting on the grant proposal early so they could get the funds in time; Commissioner Bonds said they would vote at the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Commissioner Edwards said the Hotel at Michigan and Irving filed their PUD and their hearing will be in July; they are working on a community amenities plan in time for the hearing and is there something this commission should do to determine that package; Commissioner Bonds said you are in the driver's seat now; the package should be a benefit to the entire community

Genevieve from Common Good City Farms at the Former Gage Eckington School – they promote access to healthy food for people

Commissioner Phillips is now a minister of the Mt. Calvary Ministries (he has been ordained); Commissioner Phillips said ANC5C has had great leadership and individuals; others come just to see how we run things; we respect each other as a commission; there are those that have tried to attack this commission and we have even been accused of stealing but the auditor said we actually have more dollars than earlier thought; Commissioner Phillips is introducing the following resolution – to censure the Commissioner of ANC5C12 (Commissioner Gigi Ransom); the resolution said something about Commissioner Ransom ordering furniture for her own use and for cards that she didn't like and then returned; also the Commissioner obstructs the process of the Commission; the Commissioner is hereby condemned; also

something about racist and bigoted comments by the use of her language; constant outbursts as when the chair was forced to stop a meeting; the Commissioner displays disregard for the leadership for the ANC on almost every occasion; she contacted Catholic U directly without the consent of the executive committee or Committee of the Whole; the Commissioner has misrepresented herself as well; she has impaired the dignity of the Commission

Therefore Commissioner Wright read the resolution

*(For the complete text of the resolution for censorship go to the EdgewoodDC website, click on Documents/Flyers, then click on ANC5C Resolution: of Censuring and No Confidence Vote:*

[www.edgewooddc.org](http://www.edgewooddc.org)



*Commissioner Marshall Phillips*

Commissioner continued to read: ....the Commissioner is stripped of all standing committees; Commissioner Ransom has publically shamed this Commission; the Commissioner may be removed by the Sergeant at Arms if her behavior continues; there will be a special meeting called to address the issues; Commissioner Phillips said the Commissioner has the right to oppose the allegations is she chooses; the hate crimes that she did in public are abuse we cannot take..it is beyond understanding; the individual target of her language could file suit against the District of Columbia

Commissioner Ransom said this item was not even on the agenda; her experience in the past was that standards were in place and they are not in place with this ANC; there should also have been a process that included fact finding and the person would have been informed beforehand and not presented at a regularly scheduled monthly meeting and the item is not on the agenda; she asked who is the one that is not showing integrity; she has asked to access the federal surplus system to operate her home office for her SMD for which she was elected; State Board of Ed has an of-



*Commissioner Denise Wright*

fice but we don't have an office; each individual should have the right to go to the federal surplus system and get the funds they need; Commissioner Ransom said the document is a bunch of lies; she said Commissioner Daneker has been very disrespectful and devalues everything I say; the whole quote is not in the document; she has the documentation – the office of the attorney general said she had the right to obtain the information she was seeking; there was heated discussion between Commissioner Phillips and Commissioner Ransom; Commissioner Ransom said she had had enough; Commissioner Ransom said you being white and gay means got your rights on the backs of slaves and there is nothing racist about that; I am a strong black woman and I don't need anyone to validate me; I did not come back to serve to be subservient to anyone; but some folks have their own personal agendas; Commissioner Ransom said she was told she could not read, and she was called the "B" word by Commissioner Day in a church; Catholic U is in her SMD and she does not need permission to talk to Catholic U about it; Commissioner Ransom spoke at great length in defense of her integrity; Commissioner Bonds said everything being done here is being done according to the law; the debate became rather heated; Debbie Smith stood up and began shouting loudly .....at that point the meeting abruptly ended, at 9:50 pm.



*Commissioner Gigi Ransom*

[Clarification: The Commission did not formally censure Commissioner Ransom. Certain members of the Commission introduced a resolution to censure her. No vote was ever taken on the matter. According to the resolution, the ANC is supposed to convene a public meeting in the Commissioner Ransom's Single Member District within 30 days to discuss the matter and then take action.—MJH]

*From the desk of Michael J. Henderson  
These notes are intended solely for informational purposes only  
and are not the official minutes of the ANC.  
Please contact your ANC Commissioner for more information.*