

SEPTEMBER 21 KCA MEETING TO FOCUS ON CRIME WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER 3RD DISTRICT MPD COMMANDER JAMES BOTELER

ALSO, DDOT'S KEVIN HARRISON IS INVITED TO DISCUSS AND HEAR FROM RESIDENTS ON THE AGENCY'S BUS PRIORITY PLAN FOR COLUMBIA ROAD

Please join us to hear the latest on crime in Patrol Service Area 303, which mirrors the boundaries of Adams Morgan, with 3rd District Commander Boteler. Since our February meeting, the type of crime we're experiencing has switched from attacks and break-ins mostly directed towards businesses, to many late night robberies, often with gun. And of course, there were four homicides within little more than a week from July 26 to August 5th.

We've invited Kevin Harrison, the point man for the DC Department of Transportation's Bus Priority Program to explain why it's necessary to make such dramatic changes to the transportation system in Adams Morgan.

The Columbia Road Rapid Bus project will increase the distance between bus stops, do away with two stops on each side of Columbia, moving stops to inappropriate and inadequate locations, force pedestrians to cross bike lanes to board buses, eliminate much parking, both paid and RPP, risk putting some small business out of business by removing much parking upon which they depend, and install bike lanes in both directions on Columbia, taking far more of the roadway capacity than can be justified.

As of this writing, Mr. Harrison has not confirmed his attendance.

Additional items may be added to the agenda.

-Denis James

CITY MOVES FORWARD TO COMMEMORATE THE WALTER PIERCE PARK CEMETERIES

Descendants of the people buried in the African American and Quaker cemeteries at Walter Pierce Park are working with the DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to create an "Ancestors Pavilion," which will feature signage that names the 8,428 people buried at the park.

The signs, which are in the final design stage, will span the wall that separates the upper, Adams Mill Road side of the park from the ball field and basketball court. Once the descendants approve the signs, they'll go into production and could be installed by the end of this year.

The names of the buried will be interspersed with photos and images telling the story of Mt. Pleasant Plains Cemetery and the Friends Burying Ground. Mt. Pleasant Plains was in operation from 1870 to 1890, and the Quaker cemetery from 1807 to 1890.



This early mock-up of the Ancestors Pavilion, proposed by descendants in 2018, has been revised, but the idea remains the same. Photo: Mary Belcher

Descendants and their allies, including Kalorama Citizens Association members, proposed the plan for the commemorative space in August 2018. Budget

constraints and the pandemic put a halt to the project until this year. KCA member Mary Belcher and historian Mara Cherkasky now are writing and guiding the design of the signs, with the support of the descendants.

KCA members might already know about the four Underground Railroad signs that were installed at the Calvert Street entrance to Walter Pierce Park late in 2021.



Descendants of the founders of Mt. Pleasant Plains Cemetery dedicate the National Underground Railroad signs at Walter Pierce Park in December 2021.

Photo: Mary Belcher

KCA obtained funding for the signs from the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, a program of the National Park Service (NPS). Belcher, Cherkasky, and the descendants group worked with Rock Creek Park to create the signs, which sit on a sliver of Walter Pierce Park land owned by NPS. The rest of the park is owned by the city.

Although descendants and allies, with support from KCA, have worked to raise awareness of the cemeteries at Walter Pierce Park since 2005, there were no official markers at the site until the Underground Railroad signs were installed in late 2021. The creation of the Ancestors Pavilion will complete the memorialization effort, which is likely to set a precedent for similar Black cemetery-protection projects around the nation.

To see the descendants' proposal for the Ancestors Pavilion, go to:
walterpierceparkcemeteries.org

—Mary Belcher

THE DC ALCOHOL BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS BOARD MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE IN ITS DECISION ON THE ADAMS MORGAN MORATORIUM

The Adams Morgan ABC License Moratorium was essentially renewed by the “ABCA” Board on August 16, 2023. The Board found that petitioners KCA and 171 individual Adams Morgan residents presented evidence sufficient to justify continuing the basic rules of the moratorium for another 3 year period. It is required to prove that two of the “appropriate standards” in the Code are invoked. The Board found that the petitioners proved that there was: 1. Disturbance of the peace, order and quiet, including noise and litter concerns and 2. That Vehicular and pedestrian safety, including residential parking needs were a problem in the moratorium zone.

The existing rules had been set to expire in early February, 2023. Both ANC 1C and the KCA sought an extension of time to provide for a community discussion. The Board extended the rules to allow for a hearing on July 13, additional time for interested parties to make comments after the hearing, and then decision-making by the Board.

The change that the Board made involved the Cap of 10 Tavern and All-Purpose licenses that had been in place since 2005. The Board adjusted that number upward to 15. The net effect of this action is to simply have the Cap reflect the facts on the ground – that by the Board’s count there are 15 CT (Tavern) licenses within the Adams Morgan Moratorium Zone, an 1800 foot radius circle whose center point is 2459 18th Street. ANC 1C had approved a resolution that would have allowed the number of CT Tavern licenses to increase to 25 over the next 3 years. The Board did not approve that action.

The Board gave notice of intent to approve the new rules on 8-6-23. They will go to the DC Council for a review period. After that, there will be a 30 day period of Congressional Review. By the time the rules are published in the DC Register, it is likely to be almost a year after the prior rules would have expired. Once published there, the full 3 year term the Board approved will run.

Thank you to all the KCA members and many other residents who supported our petition. The result may have been different without your help.

—Denis James

PLAZA CASE BACK AT DC SUPERIOR COURT AFTER POSITIVE OUTCOME AT DC COURT OF APPEALS

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In late December, 2022, the DC Court of Appeals remanded our plaza case back to DC Superior Court, and we hope for a long-awaited Trial.

Previously, Superior Court Judge Puig-Lugo dismissed our case and lifted the preliminary injunction that had been in place since 2017. We appealed his decision to the DC Court of Appeals.

For those new to the case or perhaps you've forgotten after more than 6 years, the KCA and Adams Morgan for Reasonable Development, plaintiffs, claim that there is a public easement on the plaza portion of the property at 1800 Columbia Road.

Before we could even attend a much-needed Status hearing, defendant Truist (formerly SunTrust) filed a Motion For Summary Judgment, which is set for oral arguments on September 14.

Just to add some confusion to the situation, our longtime pro-bono attorney Paul Zukerberg retired in June. Many thanks to Paul for all his work on the case and best wishes to him in this new stage of his life.

At this point we were very fortunate to reconnect with an old friend to take over representation of both neighborhood groups. Amanda Fox Perry and the Fay Law Group have agreed to work on a pro-bono basis. Amanda is a former ANC1C-08 commissioner. We greatly appreciate their generosity.

We are in a position of seeking financial support to carry on the case. Should we move towards a trial, we will need to pay for expenses with regard to our witnesses. If the Motion for Summary Judgment argument goes against us, we will need to appeal and be back at the DC Court of Appeals again. We are responsible for expenses incurred in the conduct of the case. We hope that you will be generous in your donation to assist in this matter. Thank you!

-Denis James

**PLEASE USE THE COUPON BELOW TO PAY YOUR KCA DUES, JUST \$25.00,
(\$40.00 for couples) OR CONTRIBUTE TO A KCA PROJECT**

Annual dues are now due. If your address label states "Please pay 2023 Dues" we ask that you renew as soon as possible. For your convenience, a return envelope is included inside this newsletter. Payments can also be made by credit card through Paypal at: <http://www.kaloramacitizens.org/join> Or use this convenient form and send your check to KCA, PO Box 21311, Washington DC 20009. KCA is a 501(c)(3) organization. All dues and contributions are fully tax deductible to the extent provided by law

Here's my \$25 dues for 2023 (single membership). Here's my \$40.00 dues for 2023 (couple residing at the same address).

Here's my contribution to the Plaza Court Case to prove the existence of a public easement _____

Here's my contribution to the Biltmore Triangle Garden _____

Here's my contribution to support the Walter Pierce Park Archaeology Project _____

Here's my contribution to the KCA General Fund.

My e-mail address: _____

Second email address for couples residing at the same address: _____

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THE NEXT KCA MEETING IS:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST 7PM

**MEETING TOPICS: MPD 3D
COMMANDER BOTELER ON CRIME**

BUS PRIORITY PROGRAM FROM DDOT

**GOOD WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
1862 KALORAMA ROAD**