

# Transcript of ANC 3B Meeting of July 11, 2024

Edited for Clarity and Readability

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## Call to Order [0:00:00]

**Blumenthal:** Good evening, everybody. Welcome to the July meeting of ANC 3B. Just as a caution, please mute your audio. Please turn off your video till we call on you. And when it's your turn to speak, we will make sure that you can then turn on your video and your audio. Thank you. Tonight we have five commissioners here. Commissioner Howie is absent tonight. We have a quorum. Commissioner Lane, Commissioner Bergmann, Commissioner Carroll,

Commissioner Lavezzo, and myself are all present.

## **Approval of Agenda [0:01:03]**

**Blumenthal:** Our first order of business is to approve our agenda. And I would like to make an addition to the agenda. We need to discuss an application for a liquor license for the new Maharaja House of Biryani restaurant, which just opened in Glover Park. And their application has a deadline of responding by August 26th. So I would like to add that to the agenda. Can I have--

**Carroll:** So moved.

**Blumenthal:** Thank you. Thank you. All in favor of adding it to the agenda? Thank you. Now can we approve the agenda?

**Bergmann:** I think, Chair Blumenthal, I think we need to add the letter that I sent around on the bus.

**Blumenthal:** Oh, yeah, it's under--

**Bergmann:** Further comments on the bus.

**Blumenthal:** It's under old business. I was just going to put it in there.

**Bergmann:** Okay.

**Blumenthal:** Okay. That was just going to be part of old business.

**Bergmann:** That's perfect. Okay.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, all right. Now we need to approve the agenda. So I move we approve the agenda.

**Lane:** Second.

**Blumenthal:** Thank you, Commissioner Bergmann. All in favor of approving the agenda? Okay, the motion carries.

# Police Report [0:02:22]

**Blumenthal:** I see, Lieutenant Johnson, you're here. Please take the floor. Welcome.

**Johnson:** Hey, thank you. Good evening, everyone. Good evening. It's Lieutenant Paul Johnson from the Second District PSA 204, which includes Glover Park. I'm going to give a brief crime report. The crime report for the last 30 days, it looks pretty good. We have no serious assaults, no robberies. There were no burglaries, no break-ins. No serious assaults, no sex abuses. It looks like we had one theft from auto. 11 thefts reported from stores like the CVS. And a couple of stolen bikes from yards. And we had four theft from autos. So we had 17 crimes in all to report, but all just property crimes. Do we have any questions from anyone online with any traffic complaints, any concerns going on in Glover Park right now, to bring to our attention?

**Blumenthal:** Any comments, and questions from commissioners? Could everybody please mute their mics? Mute your mics. And don't put your video on unless you're being called on, please. Commissioner Carroll, you have a question for Lieutenant Johnson.

**Carroll:** Just to note that one of my neighbors said that there was some kind of a window smashed in a car here along Fulton Street. Is that included in the statistics? Or would that be in July?

**Johnson:** What's the date of this?

**Carroll:** I honestly don't know. I have been away. I was down with my mom in Florida, so in the last week or so.

**Johnson:** There was a theft from auto on the 3900 block of Fulton Street, so that is included. There was one theft from auto reported, and the airbag was stolen. It was a Honda Accord. Yes, sir. I do have that one.

**Carroll:** Okay, thank you.

**Blumenthal:** Thank you. Are there any questions or concerns from--

**Lane:** I've got one.

**Blumenthal:** Oh, okay. Commissioner Lane, please.

**Lane:** Lieutenant Johnson, could you explain what the current enforcement is for the moped laws? We have mopeds weaving in and out of cars, and going through red lights, and things like that. And last month you talked about the new laws require licensing and registration. And could you just explain the current enforcement efforts that you're undertaking?

**Johnson:** Well, there was a big, there is a big enforcement effort on the mopeds. The chief offered overtime for that, and that was going on before, you know, the Fourth of July, before these NATO conferences. So it's slowed down a little bit. I'm sure it will pick back up when these things come to an end. But there is officers going out enforcing these, the moped laws. The mopeds, you have to have insurance, registration, and a driver's license. And if it's over 51cc you need to have a helmet. So they all have to be licensed, insured, and registered in DC now. And they're taking these, if they're not registered, they're taking them and towing them to the DC lots. You can't get them back unless you registered your moped.

**Blumenthal:** Is that good, Commissioner Lane?

**Lane:** Carol Vilsack has a question about if you can focus on Glover Park. Or what the efforts are in Glover Park.

**Johnson:** For mopeds?

**Lane:** Yes.

**Johnson:** Oh, yes. Yes, ma'am. Glover Park was included in that enforcement plan, and it will be in the future.

**Blumenthal:** Any other questions from participants for the lieutenant? No? Well, thank you very much, Lieutenant Johnson. We are not here next month, so we'll see you in September.

**Johnson:** Oh, okay. All right. Everyone be safe.

**Blumenthal:** Yep. Thank you. You, too.

**Johnson:** All right.

## **Old Business [0:06:39]**

### **WMATA Better Bus Network Comment Period Open Until July 15 [0:06:39]**

**Blumenthal:** Our next order of business is old business to a continued discussion of the bus changes. The final day for anyone to comment on the proposed bus changes is Monday by 5:00 p.m. We have posted everywhere, where you go to see the bus changes, and where you go to post your comment. Commissioner Bergmann started a letter from us that reinforces, and actually changes some of our points of view on the bus line. Maybe you want to talk a bit about it, Commissioner Bergmann? And I could pick up for the D2 end if you want.

**Bergmann:** Sure. Yeah, and I can throw it maybe on the screen if I get screen sharing. So this letter, you know, reminds-- From what we've commented several times, as folks may know, on the Better Bus plan, the first iteration, second iteration. This letter is focused on the N2, N4, and D2 routes. And also sort of talks about the importance of those existing routes, and how the Better Bus plan falls short for people who are currently served by those routes. So looking at the N2 and N4 first. For folks who don't use it, the N2 and N4, part of the route are kind of run together simultaneously on Mass. Ave. Let me just share the letter. Okay, can you guys see the letter on the screen?

**Blumenthal:** Yeah.

**Bergmann:** Okay, so it's mostly the N2 and N4 ride together on Mass. Avenue as you're going downtown. They split on Mass. at Idaho. The N2 goes up Idaho, and goes up Cathedral, and then New Mexico, and then onto Tenleytown. The N4 continues on Mass. And then there's the N6 bus, which I'm going to put to the side for a second. The important thing that we've emphasized I think many times is that, and there was a forum recently that Councilmember Frumin hosted where similar concerns were raised, the topography of the area makes it so that it's very difficult for residents, many of whom are older, to get from Cathedral Avenue to Massachusetts Avenue to catch the bus. So the reason why there's an N2 and an N4 is clearly because there was recognition by WMATA, historically, that there needed to be a bus that runs along both Cathedral and Mass. after the Idaho split, given the density and given the topography. The buses that they have proposed, you know, one of the problems is that there's less, it's basically worse service to downtown. It's less frequent. The C85, which is the only bus that will run along Cathedral, comes less frequently than the current bus, doesn't go to Dupont. Goes in a kind of a very elongated path before ending at Foggy Bottom, going all the way over to Foxhall. And so that doesn't work for folks who want to use the N2 to get places, and use it now. So that's one of the important things we highlight. The other issue is the current D90 bus, which I think WMATA might have thought might have addressed some of these issues, goes down New Mexico, Tunlaw, and then connects to downtown, is similarly not that accessible for folks who live farther up on Cathedral Avenue. And also doesn't take folks exactly where they want to go, and as fast as they need to go. So that's the N2 and N4. I'll turn it back to Chairman Blumenthal to talk about the D2 and D6.

**Blumenthal:** So both Commissioner Bergmann and I participated in Councilmember Frumin's forum with WMATA, and there were about 130 people on. And they made every point that I've heard from all of the people around here, and every point we've made in our previous resolution, and in this letter. Except that nobody has talked about the fact that we should probably be advocating to keep the lines that work. Why change something that works in a neighborhood that has such poor service to start with? So I think that ANC 3D and ANC 3A are also putting comments to paper about retaining the routes that actually do work, and not further burdening our neighborhoods with lack of service. So while we argue that the proposals that replace the D2 completely take bus service away from almost all of the residents of Glover Park except anyone who lives close to Wisconsin Avenue or can make it out to Tunlaw without having to climb a hill. And the Tunlaw bus only runs every 30 minutes anyway, so it's not really useful. So

we decided we'd make those points, but we'd say that the best way that we believe to solve this problem is to keep the current D2 route. So we're going out there in favor of keeping the D2 route with our other arguments. We're also advocating to increase the frequency of the buses on Wisconsin which, because now they're stretched between Bethesda and I forget the bottom route downtown, but it's a long stretch. The reliability factor is going to be terrible on those if they aren't more frequent. So basically, that's what this letter does, is it changes our point of view and makes it even stronger in favor of the buses we already have that work for our neighbors. That said, do the commissioners, other commissioners want to add anything to this, or make their own comments? No. Ben, could you un-- Yes, thank you. Are there participants who would like to speak, ask a question, say anything?

**Lane:** There are a couple comments in the chat. Oh, Barbara Lyon wants to know about the Circulator, which of course is not part of WMATA. That's DDOT.

**Blumenthal:** Best we know about the Circulator is it's going to be canceled.

**Lane:** Yeah, that's all we know. And Carol Vilsack. Well, yeah. Her question is, "Can we know who thought these new routes were better?" Well, apparently WMATA did. I don't know who else did.

**Blumenthal:** Yeah, WMATA is doing a complete overhaul of all the bus routes in the city for the first time ever. And I think it is proving to have its shortcomings. I will say that the vice president, the senior vice president for Service and Planning at Tuesday's meeting admitted that they did not understand what they had done on Cathedral Avenue by cutting out those bus stops. So there's a lot of room to move, I think, on this revisiting of bus routes. Another good reason that we should stick to our guns and keep what we like, and what works for our residents. Any other questions? Nobody? All right.

**Pollinger:** This is Holly, Holly Pollinger. I just want to say that we also, Glover Park Village also wrote a letter to Matt Frumin. And Sierra Club is also extremely interested in this, all of these changes, and whether or not these bus routes are sustainable. And so they're keeping a close eye on all of what's going on, and are also in favor of exactly what you've been talking about here tonight. I just wanted to make sure that you knew that there was this other organization that certainly is right behind ANC 3B.

**Blumenthal:** Great. Holly, did the Village send its letter also to the WMATA comment section?

**Pollinger:** You know, I'm not totally sure. It was done by one of our board members.

**Blumenthal:** Could you check on that?

**Pollinger:** I certainly can.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, because it needs to go there. That's the only thing that counts right at this

moment.

**Pollinger:** Okay.

**Blumenthal:** Thank you. Carol Vilsack?

**Lane:** You're muted.

**Blumenthal:** Carol, we can't hear you.

**Vilsack:** I take the D2 frequently-- Okay, let's skip it then. I'll put it in the chat.

**Lane:** Okay, we can understand you now. Okay.

**Blumenthal:** All right. Who's the other person?

**Lane:** David White.

**Blumenthal:** David White.

**White:** Hello, thank you for calling on me. I was part of that, I participated in the Councilmember Frumin meeting. And one thing I had not considered, and they brought this up, but their proposal seemed very strange. They talked about Glover Park, and they said that part of the routes, the interior routes, were currently serviced, I guess, by a smaller-sized bus. And they claimed that they couldn't buy any more smaller-size buses, which just seemed very strange. Like, we're in the nation's capital and they can't figure out where to buy a smaller bus? But they claimed that they couldn't do that, and that was one of the reasons they were changing things around. It just made no sense. And as far as this, they're changing all the names and such. It's odd because they also talked about the finder or whatever, the app on your phone, and how you can find routes and such. And that's really how people are going to find the routes. There's no reason to change, in my view anyway, to change all the names. It just, again, it was an enlightening and also strange meeting. Thanks.

**Blumenthal:** I agree with you. I'd forgotten that thing about the small buses. It was so odd. Any other people who would like to speak on this issue?

**Lane:** Carol has a comment in the chat. "If their ridership declines, then WMATA should have the root cause of these changes." And she doesn't see ridership declines of those who use the D2.

**Blumenthal:** Yeah, we don't know anything about the ridership numbers, but they did mention that ridership is up all over since before the pandemic. Up from the numbers in 2019. So ridership may not be an issue here. It's hard to know. Okay, if there's no other comments, I move that we send this letter, to approve this letter, and send it to WMATA and to

Councilmember Frumin, who is mounting his own campaign with WMATA.

**Carroll:** I second.

**Blumenthal:** Second, Commissioner Carroll. All in favor? Okay, motion carries 5-0, with Commissioner Howie absent.

## **New Business [0:19:53]**

### **Presentation by Amitie Enterprises regarding its application to become an internet-only cannabis retailer [0:19:53]**

**Blumenthal:** Next up we are having a presentation by Amitie Enterprises. And I think that we have Khadijah Tribble here.

**Tribble:** That's pretty good, Jackie. Khadijah Tribble and Jennifer.

**Blumenthal:** I tried, I'm sorry.

**Tribble:** No worries. How are you guys?

**Blumenthal:** Do you have another person with you?

**Tribble:** Yes, Jennifer is here.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, please. Yes, there you are. Okay, good, we can see you. Feel free to share the screen. It's open for you. And I will just explain that Amitie has sent in an application to the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration to open an internet cannabis retailing operation in 2176 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 100. And that is on the corner of W Place and Wisconsin, headed inbound on the southwest side, I think we would call it. Is that correct?

**Tribble:** Correct, it is.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, and so the ANC is determining how to respond to this application, and we're having a presentation. Take it away.

**Smith:** Yes, so good evening, Commissioners, and thank you for your time and consideration this evening. We are Amitie Enterprises, a health and wellness company utilizing medical cannabis to promote self-care and wellness. Amitie's team includes our co-founders, Maya Gray and Khadijah Tribble, and an extended advisory team of professionals who have diverse experiences across a variety of industries, including medical cannabis. Want to give Khadijah a moment to forward that slide if you would, Khadijah.



**Tribble:** Can you see our team, Jen?

**Smith:** I don't-- I see Amitie Wellness. Do you all see--

**Blumenthal:** We don't see the team yet, no.

**Tribble:** No?

**Smith:** Just go forward one slide, maybe.

**Tribble:** I'm actually a slide forward. Let me see. I'm gonna escape and come back out really quickly. I'm going to stop sharing. Let's try this again. Share.

**Lane:** It wasn't in presentation mode?

**Tribble:** I thought I had it. Let me try it again. Can you guys see my screen now?

**Blumenthal:** We can. We're on screen--

**Lane:** Yes, but it's not in presentation mode. You see down--

**Tribble:** How about that?

**Lane:** --at the bottom. Down at the bottom on the right hand side, there's a little screen icon. The fourth one. Right hand side.

**Tribble:** Yeah, unfortunately, guys, I'm not the most tech savvy. Jackie, if I email it to you, do you think you'll be able to pull it up?

**Blumenthal:** No, give it-- Send it to Melissa.

**Tribble:** Melissa, put your email address in the chat, and I'll do it really quickly.

**Lane:** Okay.

**Tribble:** Sorry, guys.

**Blumenthal:** That's all right. We know Amitie from before. They applied when there was a program to allow medical marijuana dispensaries to open. And they applied for a slot here. And we liked Amitie, but we didn't like the place they picked.

**Tribble:** Well, we have a new place, Jackie. So we hope it will be a slam dunk this time. Whose email address am I looking for?

**Blumenthal:** Melissa.

**Tribble:** Melissa, okay.

**Lane:** At the bottom.

**Tribble:** It's coming to you now.

**Lane:** I don't see it yet.

**Tribble:** Not yet, I haven't pressed the send button. I'm bringing it up.

**Lane:** No worries. Okay, press send. Should be coming. Thanks, guys, for your patience. All right, Melissa you should have it.

**Lane:** Is it a big file?

**Tribble:** No, it's a PDF. We only have seven slides.

**Lane:** Okay.

**Tribble:** Jen, if you want, do you want to, while we're waiting for the slide presentation, do you want to introduce who you are?

**Smith:** I'll get started. So I am Jennifer Smith. I serve and support Amitie as a Business Operations Advisor. I'm a second-generation business owner with ten restaurants, and an Electrical Services and Facilities Management company in Southern Virginia. And I bring to bear my entrepreneurial experience, my people practices, and my hustle after having a company live through nearly 30 years. My connection to medical cannabis and wellness is very personal. My mother and father both suffer from illnesses that require a lot of medication, and medication that comes with unfortunate side effects. So in my pursuit of finding alternatives to those traditional medicines, I discovered that medical cannabis can successfully treat my father's neuropathy, and also the ailments associated with my mother's memory impairment, which include anxiety, and loss of appetite, and heightened agitation. And perhaps some of you all have family members that suffer from some of these illnesses. To find an alternative treatment in a safe, reliable, and regulated medical cannabis industry, it was a game changer for my family. And so my affiliation with Amitie, and my commitment, is to help educate others, like my mother and father, so they might find alternatives to traditional medicines. I wish you all had the slide with our team up, because we have a host of very talented and experienced individuals across a number of industries, including the regulated cannabis market. Khadijah, maybe you'll speak for a moment about your background.

**Tribble:** Sure. Thank you so much, Jen. My name is Khadijah Tribble, and I have a home in

Congress Heights. And I've called DC home for about 15 years. And like Jen, my connection to cannabis is super personal. Not only am I a caregiver of my father, who is a wartime veteran who is paralyzed, and we use cannabis to help treat his-- Thank you so much, Melissa. If you could go to the second slide. I think it's the team slide. Yes, thank you so much.

**Lane:** Wait a minute. Wait a minute. I'm losing it in my mind. Okay, we're good.

**Tribble:** No worries. So I'm a caregiver. I'm also the parent of four sons, one of which has a felony conviction related to cannabis possession. And I don't need to tell you guys that the war on drugs has been a significant negative game changer for many people of color in the District of Columbia, included. My son gave us a firsthand view of the negative impact of the collateral consequences associated with a cannabis conviction, or an incarceration, or even an arrest. And so I bring to bear to this particular movement, all of my experience as a public health advocate. I used to work at United Medical Center. I ran the first HIV Clinic there. And as you guys probably know, HIV was the catalyst for actually the very first piece of legal legislation that made cannabis legal in California with proposition 215. And so when I say it's personal, it's personal from a number of different areas. As a queer identified woman who's worked on issues like HIV, as a mother of a child who has a criminal conviction related to cannabis, and as a caregiver of a veteran who uses cannabis to help him deal with his paralysis, and not only that, but his dementia as well. And so we will speak to a little bit later on about how all of these lived experiences move to create what I believe is a game changer in the District of Columbia. A cannabis wellness company that is focused on bringing quality, backed by science products to the marketplace to help individuals realize how cannabis can be a part of their health and wellness journey. And with that, I'll turn it back over to Jen.

**Smith:** Melissa, if you could forward the slide one for me. We are a minority women-owned CBE in the District, and we intend to connect medical cannabis patients with safe and reliable products, incredible information on the health and wellness uses of cannabis. And, of course, we're committed to being good citizens of DC, and good neighbors within our local community. There are a number of channels that we intend to leverage to engage with our patients, and they include virtual consultation with our staff, marketing tactics through website and social media programs. And virtual educational events and seminars. Forward the slide for me, please. The commissioner mentioned that we presented to the commission nearly two years ago when our license was a brick-and-mortar application. And since that time we've modified our business application to an internet retailer. This business model aligns with the evolving consumer trends towards online shopping, and also provides patients with a more convenient and discreet option to access their medical cannabis. One of the concerns that you expressed in the past was community impact. And I think you'll find that by supporting an internet license, or an internet retailer application, you can promote economic growth while maintaining community safety and welfare. And so let me explain. This slide that's up now speaks to what an internet retailer license is. An internet retailer license permits the delivery of medical cannabis and medical cannabis products, but an internet retailer is not permitted or allowed to service patients or caregivers within the business location, or offer curbside or drive-through pickup. There are limitations on our delivery hours, and so those are limited to the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

daily. Our hours of receivables for product is from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. And, of course, those deliveries are restricted within the District. I just want to add that Amitie Wellness will not have patient traffic into and out of our location. We will have a highly secured office with limited access by our trained staff. The last time that we met with you all, there were some questions and concerns about parking, and our site includes two dedicated parking stalls that are very close to our office space. I know that security is very important to you, and so I will ask that Khadijah walk you through our security plan.

**Tribble:** Next slide. Thank you so much, Jennifer. And as you guys probably are aware, this application includes 32 pages of our security plan. We took to heart some of the questions that you posed to us the last time we were here two years ago, and we think we've created a plan that not only addresses those, but expounds on the kind of company Amitie wants to be. So I'll say tonight my role is to really highlight components of the security plan. I won't bore you with all 32 pages. But I do want to make sure that we highlight those things that were of concern to you before. Some of them Jen mentioned: the security, the parking, the handling of product, and the handling of cash. And so we stand before you now as an applicant as an e-retailer. And Jen explained explicitly what that means, and the difference. And to that end, I want to highlight that our overall objective with our business, as it relates to security, is to make sure that we do not become a disruptive business in the community. And so we have taken great length to make sure that we create a plan that addresses those issues that you guys are concerned with. We want to be good neighbors, as Jen mentioned before, and at the same time we want to make sure that we can have the products available to our consumer and patient base, while maintaining a safe environment for our employees, our vendors, our contractors, and those City officials who will be dropping by for inspection. I mentioned that the plan is 32 pages. It is what we consider to be robust, and there are some things that I want to highlight and bring to your attention. One of the first things I want to highlight is that all of the staff and contractors that will be working with Amitie Wellness will undergo at least 28 hours of security and safety specific protocol. In addition to that training, we will also make available in our employee spaces those protocols and practices visible, so that folks are reminded on a day-to-day basis that safety is first. Point two I want to iterate is that, you know, we spent a great deal of time looking for a security partner that hit not only the technical things that we need to do to be able to provide the safety and security to our business, but those that were value aligned. And I'm pleased to report that we've identified Trayvon Smith, who is a Washingtonian and the owner/operator of TLS Security Management Solutions, which is a CBE, minority-owned business. Which is super important to us. Not only do we want to make sure that we be good neighbors to the immediate community, we also want to make sure that we pay it forward as it relates to communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs. So you will see throughout our tenure in your neighborhood that we're going to look for opportunities to build the capacity of minority-owned businesses to participate in the cannabis ecosystem. And the security safety vendor is just one way we intend to do that. As a part of this partnership, Trayvon Smith and his team are able to provide us not only staffing, equipment, and training, but we might also be able to utilize their secured, armored vehicles and their drivers. Thirdly, we will maintain the highest effort of safety, making sure that individuals who come to work for Amitie every day understand how important it is for us. And on page 12 of our proposal, you will find a daily closing security

checklist. And it seems very simple on its face, but just like if you wanted to lose weight or do anything else, consistency is the key. And so we want to make sure on a daily basis we are recognizing and reiterating to our employees that safety is first. I also want to raise the issue of hours of operation. Jen spoke specifically about what the District allows for us to do as an operator from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. But let's be honest, we're in DC, where the traffic is crazy. So we anticipate, and this is only a proposal, the market would tell us exactly what we need to do once we are operational, but our plan or our idea is as an e-commerce, is that we'll open our facility up in the morning operationally for our administrative and our compliance in our inventory team, somewhere between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Our delivery team will make its first appearance, get the product ready, and start delivering between the 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. time frame. We're not trying to leave Wisconsin Avenue anytime after 3:00 p.m. and try to get across the city. That's probably not something that's very smart for us economically. So we'll do our very last run at 7:00 p.m. to make sure that we're aligned with the compliance requirement of the District. So, ideally between 10:00 and 2:00 is that first run, would be our largest run. And then we'll do one last run at 7:00 p.m. for individuals in the District of Columbia. And lastly I'll say this and bring to your attention that Amitie is making a significant investment in our security and safety plan. So much so that we'll have at least 20 cameras positioned both internally and externally. And if you take a look at our site map, you'll see that a significant amount of our space inside of the facility will be designated for our security team to be able to monitor those cameras. We will also have 24-hour digital camera monitoring. And so I want you guys to know, and to be able to rest easy that Amitie is taking your concerns to heart. And we have implemented and executed inside of this strategy plan a way for you to sleep easy knowing that Amitie, a retailer in the District of Columbia, will be able to provide quality, backed by science products to the community in a way that doesn't disrupt your particular neighborhood and community. And with that, I'll close our presentation. If you have any questions, we are standing ready to answer to the best of our ability. And I will close, lastly, with saying that I'm hopeful that you, the ANC, will support this application and give us an endorsement to move forward in this process. Thank you so much. Any questions?

**Blumenthal:** Yes, let's start with the commissioners, and I'm going to take precedence first, since I live right across the street from where you're going to be operating. First of all, I want to check on the timing of this. You have submitted your application to ABCA, is that correct?

**Smith:** Yes.

**Blumenthal:** But you haven't been placarded yet? You haven't gotten notice that--

**Tribble:** Placard takes place I think today or tomorrow.

**Blumenthal:** Oh, really?

**Lane:** Tomorrow.

**Blumenthal:** Do you know when the deadline is for us to respond or not? That's what's usually

on the placard. I tried to find out, but I didn't see your placard yet.

**Tribble:** Jackie, I don't know specifically. Jen, do you know?

**Smith:** I don't know, but I want to clarify. First of all, we don't know your deadline. And also, the placard will be-- Given that it's an e-commerce site, e-commerce business, the placard will be on our website, not to be confused with on the building.

**Blumenthal:** Yeah, that's fine, not a problem with that, I don't think. Usually they let us know when applications are received, and they're placarded, and there's something like 45 days from the placarding date before we have to respond. And we don't meet in August. So you're being placarded today means that we have to act tonight, which I don't think we were prepared to do, since I didn't realize you were placarded yet. So this is one question for us. Maybe we can resolve it tonight. We'll see. The other question I have is, are you going to have any outside signage that gives any indication of what you are inside?

**Tribble:** We are not anticipating any outside signage. We are not open to the public at all.

**Blumenthal:** Okay. And do you have other locations in DC? Does Amitie Enterprises do other cannabis-related business here?

**Tribble:** We do not.

**Blumenthal:** Okay. And your service is for everybody in DC, not just for this area, is that correct?

**Tribble:** That's correct, Commissioner.

**Blumenthal:** Why did you pick Glover Park for an office, for the location?

**Tribble:** Well, as you know, DC is very strict about where businesses can reside in terms of location, and footage from schools, churches, and things of that nature. And this is one of the locations that presented as a best option for us based on what the zoning compliance is.

**Blumenthal:** Okay. And you have no cash on site, right?

**Tribble:** That's correct. Yes.

**Blumenthal:** But you will have, you will store your product in this location, right?

**Tribble:** Correct.

**Blumenthal:** And it's delivered only by cars, so you're not shipping any outside of the District?

**Tribble:** No.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, so it's just a delivery service.

**Tribble:** Correct.

**Blumenthal:** All right. That's it for my questions. Why don't we take other commissioner questions, if there are any. Questions from participants?

**Tribble:** Questions from the chat?

**Lane:** There are several from the chat, some of which we've gone over. Holly, do you want to ask your questions?

**Blumenthal:** I don't think Holly is still here.

**Pollinger:** Sure, I'm happy to ask it. I put them all in the chat. My questions had to do with-- The first one was why Glover Park? And that's been answered. I'd like to know who oversees the businesses? Is it the DC government? The federal government? Who is looking at you, since it is an unusual business.

**Tribble:** ABCA.

**Blumenthal:** Yeah, I'll take this one for a minute. Holly, it's the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration, which just used to oversee liquor licenses. They now oversee cannabis licenses under almost the same framework as their liquor license oversight. It's very reputable, it's very well-managed, and we're used to the process. So it's in the District, it's a District agency, and it's a well-run, and well-regulated agency, in my view.

**Pollinger:** Okay, my third question is can you just describe what is an eligible patient or caregiver? What is eligible about these patients and caregivers?

**Tribble:** Well, the District of Columbia has come up with a set of requirements and eligibility. I'll have to-- I can put it in the chat, I can put a link in the chat. But very briefly, over the age of 21, either residing in the District of Columbia or visiting the District of Columbia. The DC ABCA office allows for individuals who are visiting to have a temporary license to be able to purchase cannabis while they are in the District of Columbia.

**Pollinger:** So these are patients

**Tribble:** Correct. This is a medical cannabis business.

**Pollinger:** Medical cannabis. It is not any other kind of cannabis. In other words, the patients need medical cannabis, and that's the totality of what you're offering?

**Tribble:** The District only has a medical cannabis program. It does not have an adult use recreational program.

**Pollinger:** Okay, that's interesting. I did not know that.

**Blumenthal:** Although I will say that nobody really sorts them. It used to be you had to have a doctor's card. You don't need that anymore. It used to be you had to self-certify on paper, and you don't need to do that anymore, either. So essentially we don't have a recreational program here because the federal government oversees the District of Columbia's home rule on this issue, and it's easier not to cause a problem that way. So it could be recreational, it could be medical, but there's really no way for anybody to know the difference.

**Pollinger:** Except us that live in Glover Park.

**Blumenthal:** Well, people are gonna be using marijuana all the time. You know, we have an illegal marijuana distributor here who's been here for three years who we're trying to get registered. And nobody's ever noticed or complained about it. So that's where we are. Did I say that fairly, ladies?

**Tribble:** You did, Jackie. Very diplomatic.

**Blumenthal:** I tried.

**Smith:** I want to clarify that our patients will be located across the District, not specific to Glover Park. And, you know, our focus and our goal is to present options and education for medical patients like my mother and father, like Khadijah's father. And so the quote or our motto is, "Helping people to understand how they can seek wellness through medical cannabis." I know there are a number of illegal cannabis dispensaries operating in the neighborhood. And, of course, you know, we wouldn't have any affiliation. And it's a, I think, a blight to the community that people are operating outside the lines. And we're doing it by the book.

**Blumenthal:** Right, and you are.

**Pollinger:** Thank you.

**Blumenthal:** Are there any other questions? Oh, Holly? Carol's got several questions about why you need 20 cameras.

**Smith:** It's a requirement of ABCA that our site include 20 cameras to secure the space, and maintain security and safety.

**Tribble:** We have to have cameras in every room, every entry and exit point.



**Blumenthal:** Carol, to secure the marijuana that they have in there. And the product.

**Smith:** There are both internal and external cameras.

**Lane:** And there are no walk-ins? You're not talking about any walk-ins at all, right?

**Tribble:** No. No public access to our business. We are an e-commerce site, and so our consumers will receive the product in their homes, or location of their choice.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, Commissioners, I have an issue. Do we feel comfortable making a decision tonight, without having this go out to constituents with any notice? And if not, how do we want to deal with that?

**Lane:** I guess we could have a special meeting in August.

**Blumenthal:** We could do that. Let's see how many of the commissioners feel better, would feel better having a special meeting in August to do this? All right, so that's--

**Lavezzo:** I don't have an issue with a special meeting, and that might work out for us better as well, given we may need to have a special meeting for the Q3 QFR.

**Blumenthal:** Oh, okay. Well, that makes sense, Kevin. All right.

**Bergmann:** Yeah, I mean, I guess I'll just say, like, I don't know. You know, I think we should-- Obviously, normally we try to give folks time. It does seem like an e-commerce business doesn't raise the same concerns that others, like a gifting shop would, or kind of it's not-- To me it strikes me as this is like an office location. It's not the same kind of thing. But if we're going to meet for the Q3, might as well meet then.

**Blumenthal:** Yeah, I don't disagree with you, Commissioner Bergmann, about that. I don't think it would be problematic to have this business here. But I do think it would be problematic for us to make that decision without people who live near the area being aware of it.

**Lane:** Right, I agree. I think we should seek at least take public input for a couple weeks.

**Blumenthal:** Okay.

**Carroll:** The question I would raise in regard to public input is in a general manner, like the liquor license that we're probably going to get to discussing. There's a visible presence in a commercial area that says, "We're asking for a liquor license." This is a little bit different. So how will our constituents know that this is being considered if the placard is on a website that no one would know to go to look to?

**Blumenthal:** It'll be my responsibility to reach out to my constituents who live closest to this.

And we'll put it on the listserv and we'll put it on our website, and we'll do what we can. I mean, we can only do so much. But we should do something.

**Tribble:** Jackie, is there anything that we, as the business, can do to help make sure that the folks that are in proximity are aware?

**Blumenthal:** I will let you know. I mean, it's hard to reach out, but I think I'm-- Just make sure you put the placard up there. And one of the things I will circulate is your website. Okay? And people can check it out. I don't think it's going to be a problem, just so you don't have to worry about this too much. But I do think it would be a problem if we went ahead and made this decision tonight without consulting people. Okay?

**Tribble:** Totally understand.

**Blumenthal:** So, great. Thank you very much.

**Tribble:** Thank you guys so much.

**Blumenthal:** We'll keep you posted on everything and let you know when the August meeting, the special meeting, is scheduled for.

**Tribble:** All right. Thank you, guys, and have a great evening.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, thank you both, very much.

**Tribble:** Bye bye.

## **Grant Request from the Glover Park Citizens' Association, in partnership with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club [53:12]**

**Blumenthal:** Now we're moving to the grant request from the Glover Park Citizens' Association, in partnership with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. And I think we have--

**Lane:** Lisa McCluskey's here.

**Blumenthal:** Lisa McCluskey. I said only one person needed to come, because they got late notice, because we didn't know if this was going to be okayed by the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.

**Lane:** Alex is here too.

**Blumenthal:** Alex?

**Sanders:** Yeah, I'm here.

**Blumenthal:** Oh, okay. Great. Okay, all right, well then you guys open up your screens and mics. Lisa, do you want to participate?

**McCluskey:** Hi! I'm just here to say hello, and thank you for this opportunity. And I'm going to let Alex be the one who's putting forward. But he has our full support. And, you know, as a longtime Glover Park resident, I'm very excited about this. I'm on the trails almost daily, so this is an amazing opportunity for us to make transportation around the area a lot better.

**Blumenthal:** Great, thank you, Lisa. Alex, please take it away.

**Sanders:** Thank you. And thank you, Commissioners. So my name is Alex Sanders. I'm the District Manager for the DC District of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. We're a volunteer organization. We've been around since 1927. We were one of the many clubs that built the Appalachian Trail. And we've long since expanded out to other parks within the region. And we've been working in Rock Creek Park with the National Park Service since about 1977 or so. One of the trails we maintain is the Whitehaven Trail, which runs through Glover Park, roughly from Wisconsin Avenue to the west, to 37th Street, and then on to intersect with the Glover-Archbold Trail. And several parts of this trail, including one of the more western parts, has experienced a lot of erosion over the last few years. And there's been quite a bit of undercutting of some of the steps, and some of the erosion control devices have rotted out. And so it's time for some repair and replacement, and some general rehab of the trail. So we are seeking a grant of about \$2,200 from the ANC to purchase materials, lumber and rebar, to allow us to conduct this rehab of the Whitehaven Trail. It would be done entirely by volunteers, led by myself and my deputy. And we would go out over two to three days in September and October, and remove rotted out erosion control devices, replace them. Remove steps, replace them. There are a few places where we very much need to add some steps. We're going to haul out a lot of fill to improve the distance between the steps and make that easier for people to use. And add fill in other places. And generally make the trail a lot easier to traverse for the many residents that use it in Glover Park, and the neighborhoods around.

**Blumenthal:** Great. I think we've given you grants before to do that.

**Sanders:** Before the pandemic, yes

**Blumenthal:** That's what I thought. And, Commissioners, any questions for Alex?

**Lane:** No.

**Blumenthal:** Participants, any questions? Okay.

**Sanders:** I'll add one more thing. We're doing this in concert with the Glover Park Citizens' Association. They would be taking receipt of the grant funds, and managing the grant funds.

And then we'll execute the project and do any and all reporting that's required for it.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, so we would make our check out to GPCA?

**Sanders:** Yes.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, all right. Good. In the chat someone is asking which areas exactly. Explain that the trail starts-- Doesn't it start like sort of across from Trader Joe's?

**Sanders:** Yes. So it's a little over a mile long. We're going to be focusing our work roughly between the community garden south of 40th down over to the Glover-Archbold Trail. There's a ravine that's roughly in between them that is going to get the lion's share of the work. But there are also shorter sections between 37th Street and Glover-Archbold that'll also receive new steps, more fill, replacement of existing structures where they're rotted out. But most of the work, I would say, will be happening in that ravine, where the steps have gotten pretty eroded. It's quite difficult for people to get over them now because we've lost so much dirt between them. And so we're going to be adding some, hauling a lot of fill out there so we can make those steps a lot easier for people to use.

**Lane:** I'm confused exactly where that is. At 40th Street?

**Sanders:** Yeah, so if you-- The trail that runs, we're talking about the western part of the trail. Leave the part that's closer to Wisconsin, because we're not working on that in this project. And then you kind of go up, and you hit the kind of unofficial dog park out there. And then just a few hundred meters to the west is the community garden that's there. The trail runs just to the north of there. It's roughly from that section to the west for the Glover-Archbold Trail that we'll be focusing on.

**Lane:** So basically the end point is up around New Mexico?

**Sanders:** We won't be going that far north. We'll be staying on the Whitehaven Trail. We won't be working on the Glover-Archbold Trail on this project.

**Lane:** Okay, thank you.

**Blumenthal:** Any other questions? Then I move we approve the grant. Second, Commissioner Carroll. All in favor? Grant approved, 5-0, with one absent. We will work with Lisa on getting the check delivered. Right, Kevin, when you're back in town? Okay.

**Lavezzo:** I'll be back in a few days.

**Blumenthal:** Okay. Thank you very much, Alex and Lisa.

**Sanders:** Thank you. We're looking forward to it.

## **Maharaja House of Biryani Liquor License Application [60:45]**

**Blumenthal:** Okay, so I was going to talk about the liquor license for Maharaja House of Biryani. But now that we're having an August meeting, it makes sense to move that to the August meeting because they're not placarded yet, either. Their placard goes up tomorrow. Tomorrow, yeah. Tomorrow. So that will give people a chance to notice that they're getting a liquor license, and they will be able to respond. And we will put that awareness out at the same time we put out the awareness for the internet cannabis retailer, if that makes sense to everybody. Yes. All right. And we will discuss offline later when we're going to schedule this meeting for in August.

## **Updates and Information [0:61:30]**

**Blumenthal:** So, updates and information. I have a piece of information. You remember a while ago we passed a resolution protesting Washington Gas's Project Pipes, 3 which was intended to replace the entire gas line system, which made no sense to anybody and was going to cost consumers a lot of money. We just got word that Project Pipes 3 was rejected by the Public Service Commission, and they directed Washington Gas to file a new pipe replacement plan that focuses on replacing leak-prone, high-risk gas line segments based on age and materials, which is precisely what we asked for. So our ANC and the many other ANCs who weighed in on this scored a big win on that, and I just wanted to share it.

**Carroll:** That's awesome. Thank you.

**Blumenthal:** Yeah.

## **Open Forum [0:62:33]**

### **Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) [0:62:33]**

**Blumenthal:** Is there anybody in the audience who has an update or some information they want to share with us? We may have a MOCR here. I can't tell.

**Cousin:** I do. That would be me, Hope Cousin.

**Blumenthal:** Welcome.

**Cousin:** Hi, I'm turning on my camera now. Hi, everybody. Just wanted to let you know that Matthew Barclay is still a part of the Ward 3 MOCRS team, but it's been restructured, and I am the Ward 3 manager. So I'm going to put my information in the chat. So, anyone, if they have issues, please feel free to reach out to me, and I'll be happy to assist as best I can.

**Blumenthal:** Great. Thank you very much, Hope. We're happy to meet you, and glad you're taking over the job.

**Cousin:** Thank you. I'm excited.

**Blumenthal:** But we liked Matthew.

**Cousin:** Oh he's still around. He's still around. Thank you.

**Blumenthal:** Great. Oh, someone in the audience asked what you are in reference to. And I guess I didn't explain MOCR. The MOCR is the Mayor's Office of Constituent something or other.

**Lane:** Community Services.

**Cousin:** Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services.

**Blumenthal:** Community Relations and Services. Thank you all. And they are our liaison to the Mayor's office, and to all of the departments that report to the Mayor. Okay. Anybody else have anything to say? All right, and I guess I'll say again, we're in open forum so anybody can say anything if they want to raise their hand. All right, that's done.

## **Administrative Matters [0:64:25]**

**Blumenthal:** We're moving to administrative matters. We need to approve the June minutes. I read them, they're very accurate. I move that we approve them. Second, Commissioner Lane. All in favor? Motion carries, 5-0, one absent. Monthly financial report. Kevin?

**Lavezzo:** Okay, so I have May and June for everyone. May, we started out with \$31,723.47 in our account. We had no deposits, no withdrawals. Ending balance was the same, \$31,723.47. For June we started out with-- Sorry, \$41,723.47. We had three separate deposits from DC government, and that was the funds that were withheld from previous months due to some issues with our minutes being uploaded. Each one of those was \$3,958.21. And we had an ending balance of \$43,679.10. Sorry. I do not have a quarter three financial report. We are working with OANC to get that accomplished. That's not due till August 15, so we have some time.

**Blumenthal:** So that means we should have our meeting before August 15th, if possible.

**Lavezzo:** Yes.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, that's a good guide. All right then our next meeting is in August. I don't know the date. Just watch this space, and we'll let you know. It'll be an open public meeting, as usual, even though we don't normally meet in August. That means we could cancel September, October, or November, or December if we wanted to. But right now we're scheduled for September 12th, so we'll see how that goes.

**Blumenthal:** Thank you all. And I move we adjourn.

**Lavezzo:** Second.

**Blumenthal:** Commissioner Lavezzo. All in favor?

**Lane:** Aye.

**Blumenthal:** All right. Motion carries 5-0, one absent. See you all next month. Thank you.

**Lane:** See you next month.