



TUESDAY, MAY 3rd IS NEXT KCA MEETING DATE. GUEST IS 3RD DISTRICT MPD COMMANDER JACOB KISHTER

Usually, KCA features a session at least once per year with our local Metropolitan Police Department Commander, so I'm pleased to announce that Commander Jacob Kishter will be our special guest, Tuesday, May 3rd at 7:00 pm. Please note: This is the changed date of our April meeting, due to scheduling issues.

I've asked the Commander to discuss community policing, how MPD views that in relation to the so-called "club zone" on 18th Street, how deployment in Adams Morgan works in relation to the Reimbursable Detail Officers hired by restaurants/taverns, his views on a neighborhood watch program for Adams Morgan, and what MPD in general, and the 3rd District in particular, is doing with regard to enforcing the new noise ordinance.

-Denis James

MAY 26 KCA MEETING TO FEATURE DC OFFICE OF PLANNING DIRECTOR HARRIET TREGONING & DCHPO'S DAVID MALONEY

Because of two very large projects wending their way through the DC approval process, the so-called "Church Hotel" and the plans to build condominiums at the old Italian Embassy, and recent experiences with other projects in historic districts, coupled with a somewhat low profile on the part of the Office of Planning in Adams Morgan, I have asked OP Director Harriet Tregoning and DC State Historic Preservation Officer David Maloney of the DC Historic Preservation Office to join us for an evening of discussion on planning, growth, density and historic preservation in Adams Morgan.

-Denis James

"SAYING THEIR NAMES, TELLING THEIR STORIES", REMEMBRANCE EVENT FOR THE CEMETERIES AT WALTER PIERCE PARK

Henny Mockabee, 69, was freed April 16, 1862. C.H. Montague, 26, was a barber from Springfield, Mass. James Walker, 73, was a hotel messenger who testified for the prosecution in the Lincoln conspiracy trial. Jonathan Shoemaker was a Quaker born in Pennsylvania. Dinah Dorsey, 72, was a dressmaker. William E. Tolson, 39, ran away from enslavement in Prince George's County, Md., to enlist in the 1st U.S. Colored Regiment. Susan A. Tenney, 50, worked on freedmen relief efforts at Union Bethel A.M.E. Church. John Shorter, 60, helped build Metropolitan A.M.E. Church. Adelaide Morton, 9, was a schoolgirl. John Bishop, 65, was a cook born in Paris, France.

All were buried in the 19th Century African American and Quaker cemeteries at today's Walter Pierce Park in Adams Morgan.

VOLUNTEER READERS are needed to SAY THEIR NAMES and TELL THEIR STORIES on SATURDAY, MAY 7, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Walter Pierce Park. With 50-100 volunteers reading aloud from separate lists, it will take us about an hour to honor the memories of the 8,428 people buried in the cemeteries.

Howard University Professor Mark Mack will lead a brief tour of the site, where the Walter Pierce Park Archaeology Team has been working since 2005 to identify and protect graves that remain there. We'll then read the names. We'll wrap up with refreshments and discuss ideas for commemoration. We promise to be prompt! (This event was originally scheduled for April but bad weather caused its cancellation.)

We hope you'll join us for this unique event, which we did for the first time last year. You can view it in a film by Eddie Becker on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEG-7Esz9EY>

-Mary Belcher: 202-462-9069 maryjbelcher@comcast.net

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 17, 2011 MEETING OF THE KALORAMA CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

The meeting was called to order by President Denis James at 7:14.

The meeting was a public forum for the candidates for the DC Council at-large seat to be filled by the April 26 special election. Candidates were allowed one minute for opening and closing statements and one minute to answer each question. Denis moderated the forum.

Opening statements by the candidates present at the start of the meeting:

Sekou Biddle (D): Native Washingtonian and lifelong education activist. He pointed to the crisis of confidence in DC government resulting from the recent revelations about hiring, salary levels and perks. He noted that the federal government is investigating our government. He said that we need leadership and a change in direction that he can provide.

Tom Brown (D): Native Washingtonian, he noted his background as a teacher in Anacostia and administrator with KIPP schools, reflecting his ability to collaborate, and his experience with job creation in Wards 7 & 8 as skills that he would bring to the position.

Joshua Lopez (D): Native Washingtonian and a graduate of UDC. Believer in educational reform, says we need honesty in government. Said we need someone like him, with backbone who will work hard for the people.

Vincent Orange (D): Asserted that it's time for the city to pull together and move forward. We still have an opportunity for voters to vote for proven experience. He said that he "owns" the educational reform agenda.

Bryan Weaver (D): A former ANC commissioner, said that politics is not about power or money, it's about the improvement in people's lives. We need to change the way decisions are made, increase oversight/accountability of government.

Patrick Mara (R), Alan Page (SG), and Dorothy Douglas (D) were late & did not give opening statements. **Questions** (the candidates responded in rotating order):

Q. From the **KCA Executive Committee:** Mr. Biddle, at the start of this race there was a perception that you were a shoo-in, given the fact that the DC political machine lined up behind you. Now that machine is sputtering in the wake of dirty-politics scandals and outrage over self-enriching public officials. To you and the other candidates: How do you intend to put the word "servant" back into the phrase "public servant"?

Sekou Biddle: I've spent a lifetime in public service: 8 years in the classroom, 10 years with KIPP, bringing the best education to the worst performing middle school.

Vincent Orange: The political process, including the state committee appointment process, exposed a lot.

Says that he has the proven experience, an 8 year record as a public servant. "Lets move forward!"

Tom Brown: "Public service is what I'm about." He specified raising 5 children through the public schools, to help contain and redirect youth violence, his employment through DHS, and his status as an award winning teacher. He's served this way for the last 20 years.

Bryan Weaver: You can't separate the words you speak from the life you live. The machine has been what this race has been about. He advocates no second jobs for council members, no more LLC donations, no more pay to play politics, and a \$25,000 pay cut for each council member that would fund programs for the disadvantaged.

Joshua Lopez: Said it's outrageous to spend thousands on a vehicle. Says make Council positions full time with 15% cut in pay. All the candidates are qualified for the job. But who has the backbone to stand up and say what they're doing is wrong?

Q. From **Patrick Taylor:** why has there been a budget cut for DOES school training?

Vincent Orange: Because of the success of prior Council employment training organization in Anacostia, he has been meeting with DOES, looking to move the model to this side of the river.

Bryan Weaver: The cuts at DOES are symptomatic. The budget cuts are coming from programs that benefit those who can least afford cuts. Cited the example of the Adams Morgan hotel project, which included requirements for jobs for DC residents.

Joshua Lopez: DOES bureaucracy is too big, uses outdated approach. DOES problems are well known. It can't even submit accurate information to employers.

Sekou Biddle: We need to transform the culture from cronyism to competence. Cites the problem of nonprofits working to train workers and not getting paid. We need to fund training to the end goal--on the job. That needs to be the metric, not just "trained", but into jobs.

Vincent Orange: We need to connect education to employment to economic development. Cites east of river development, new convention center site & Walter Reed. Says he had the first ED project in Ward 5. Notes you need 7 votes & he would build consensus on Council.

Q. From **Martin Adams:** What's your position on term limits? And specifically to Mr. Biddle: Where were you when mayor was approving salaries?

Bryan Weaver: Residents voted for term limits, but the Council overturned it. It's inherent in what's wrong with system. Notes that 19 DPR employees could be hired with the excess in salaries that were approved.

Joshua Lopez: We don't need career/recycled politicians, but fresh ideas & new energy. He's been openly critical of the salaries. Checks and balances needed.

Sekou Biddle: The political culture is not about the best interests of the residents. He has mentored school board members to prepare others to serve after he leaves the Board. This is not a career for him.

Patrick Mara: He said he was the first to call for reduced council salaries.

Vincent Orange: Term limits would remove experience. In the past 4 years, Mayor & Council have become more professional. Notes that DC spent \$52 million for kid's jobs, with questionable results.

Tom Brown: Suggests a process of review before someone runs for a second term. When we're furloughing, it's ridiculous to give these administrators those amounts.

Alan Page (SG): Just arrived, apologizes for relying on public transportation to get to the meeting.

Q. From **Lisa Duprier:** Independent small business is an engine of minority development. What do you propose to encourage it? What's the state of small business? First do no harm?

Joshua Lopez: He's worked at a small nonprofit. On Georgia Ave., small grants paid for storefront improvements, street sweeping & made the street more attractive. Also believes that we can do more with tax incentives for hiring local residents.

Sekou Biddle: Notes his mother worked at SBA. We need to hire more locals to aid local communities. We need to get out of the way of start-ups. Cites example of nonprofit he advised that had to produce a series of documents that took a week to complete, an unneeded barrier to getting results.

Patrick Mara: Noted his consulting business. It really is a challenge figuring out what to do. DC is ranked 51st in making it easy to start a business. We must incentivize businesses. Notes we didn't hear a peep with four Wal-marts coming into DC because we need jobs.

Alan Page: Noted consolidation of one stop center for businesses in SW. We need to consolidate across agencies, to reduce the number of forms required. Proposes tiered fee system.

Vincent Orange: Experience and accountability matters. Said DC OCP requires agencies to spend 50% with local business. Under his oversight, he called every agency head in to make sure that the percentage was met.

Tom Brown: Mr. Orange says I don't know much about this, citing the \$10 billion project at St. Elizabeth's for Homeland Security, which should help DC subcontractors. We must nurture small business.

Bryan Weaver: Is franchise the way we want to go? Gave example of incentives for new IHOP, suggests there's a difference between "small" and "local". Noted that 18th Street Streetscape project promised abatement or deferment of property taxes for impacted small business owners, which got cut. We need tax relief for something other than bars. We need to get loans to small businesses.

Q. From **KCA Executive Committee:** Is it good for DC to invite four Wal-marts in, given their predatory practices and effect on small businesses?

Joshua Lopez: Critics said the same when Target came, but the opposite happened. Jobs & tax revenues will be created At the Georgia Ave. location, small business nearby aren't owned by locals or employ them. It will help keep the dollars spent in DC. Says unlike other developers, Wal-mart has not asked DC to pay anything.

Sekou Biddle: His concern is making sure that they don't lower standards for workers in DC.

Remembering how Columbia Heights was, he appreciates the opportunity to have retail choices that are not currently offered, where you can actually shop in the neighborhood.

Patrick Mara: DC's policies tend to favor larger businesses. He notes that in DC, being all the way to the right is being to the left of Howard Dean anywhere else. He also notes the importance of workforce development, particularly for ex-offenders and those without GEDs.

Alan Page: Wal-mart isn't asking anything from the city because they don't want to be exposed for what they do: Destroy 1.5 jobs for every job they create. We need a big box law that would require a living wage.

Vincent Orange: One of last pieces of legislation he participated in involved the living wage law. It has still not been implemented. Wal-mart should execute the community benefits agreement to provide a living wage, with no discrimination between men and women.

Tom Brown: He's against that decision being made without people being part of the process. Believes Wal-mart sucks jobs out of small business, giving you "free" things until you're hooked. Oversight and accountability are needed.

Bryan Weaver: There were missed opportunities. Says that he's intrigued by Biddle's statements since Wal-mart's lobbyist is one of Biddle's supporters.

Q. From **Martin Thomas:** On campaign fundraising: Mr. Orange has led in fundraising, with many donors out of the District. How are you going to remain independent despite the costs of campaigning?

Sekou Biddle: We have a decent disclosure law. He's been elected twice & made decisions contrary to supporters after election. There's a four-year renewal contract with the people. Candidates should be judged by what they do, not just what they promise. He has never been compromised by donations.

Patrick Mara: Claims that, being a Republican in DC, he can say whatever he wants. Tells contributors "thanks, but that doesn't mean you're getting anything".

Alan Page: As the Statehood/Green party candidate, he doesn't accept corporate contributions. He believes that in elections with modest funding, you can get the word out. You need a message & to knock on doors.

Vincent Orange: Claims it makes him more independent to get money from outside DC. Says no one has questioned what he's delivered, listing examples. Says he provides experience, integrity, and accountability.

Tom Brown: His approach: Don't raise a lot of money, just talk with a lot of people. Asks audience members to visit his website: www.whytombrown.com

Bryan Weaver: Local dollars are important and disclosure laws are abysmal. DC campaign finance law allows LLC contributions without naming principles. Developers/corporations give essentially unlimited amounts. We need an open & honest government. Lobbyists expect a return for their contributions.

Joshua Lopez: Says that you're bound to make some relationships if you run for enough offices. People who donate to him do so because they believe in him.

Q. From KCA Executive Committee: What's your position on having to pay for parking meters until 10 pm at the rate of \$2/hour? Should there be a waiver for local residents with a sticker?

Patrick Mara: Says signage for parking is very misleading. He doesn't own a car. He believes that in high concentration areas, there should be more consideration to residents. We also have to do more to improve public transportation. Believes 10 pm is too late.

Alan Page: Residential parking is the most contentious issue. There should be some compromise. It's a good idea to have an exemption in areas like Adams Morgan later, when it's not harming local businesses. We also need to encourage non-car alternatives.

Vincent Orange: The parking fees are outrageous. The last administration used it to increase revenues without increasing taxes, also red light cameras. Says government is lazy; the federal government owes us huge amounts because DC doesn't file the necessary paperwork.

Tom Brown: There should be a preference for residents. He supports evenings with color coding. Also, local BIDs should have allowance for differences. We don't know exactly what we're getting for our money.

Bryan Weaver: In Adams Morgan, there was a proposal long ago for meters on residential streets with an exemption for residents. The Fenty administration was looking to raise money and found meters an easy way.

Joshua Lopez: The signage is confusing. We should relax time limits and make it convenient by installing new meters that accept other forms of payment everywhere.

Sekou Biddle: DC has made streets available only to residents.

Q. From Brenda Williams: (Member of the Commission on Aging): What is your plan for seniors?

Alan Page: Seniors are a rapidly growing demographic, but we lack planning in that area. We need to budget incentives to encourage residential living centers and an increased deduction for homeowners.

Vincent Orange: People have a real problem with how to pay for drugs or get transportation on a fixed income. We did increase the homestead exemption, but we need to continue to examine the problem. We just built a facility in Ward 5. [Mr. Orange then left the meeting for another engagement]

Tom Brown: There's a proposal to get an increase for such services in the coming budget. Noted the long term care problems experienced by his relatives, who had to mortgage their homes to pay for care. There's a lot seniors have to offer and we need to connect them with our youth.

Bryan Weaver: Seniors need good health care, a safe living environment, and access to community. Programs for the immigrant communities seem particularly subject to budget cuts. We need a more holistic approach.

Joshua Lopez: We should be in the forefront. Seniors aren't necessarily able to advocate for themselves, and feel ignored or forgotten. Advocates the creation of a

little brother/sister program with all schools to create relationships between generations.

Sekou Biddle: We need tax policy & services to let people age in place. We should also leverage them as a resource. Seniors are part of the diversity of community that we want to encourage.

Patrick Mara: First, we need data on our aging population. Is there enough housing stock in place? They need opportunities to stay in the community. Tax policy should encourage seniors to stay in the city.

Follow-up Q: Our greatest concern is for seniors who might need assisted living. We hear "senior housing is not profitable". What will you do to turn that around?

Dorothy Douglas (D), who just joined the meeting: There's a workshop already scheduled on HIV awareness. As a native Washingtonian and ANC commissioner, it seems that the passion is missing. As a senior myself, I know what the aging commissioner is talking about.

Q. From Hector Rodriguez: How are you going to bring us together in this city?

Dorothy Douglas: I'm a family person. The unity of the family is so important. We need to come together in meetings, reach out with a kind heart, supporting one another. We should have a community day, with volunteering, mentoring, in partnership with businesses.

Tom Brown: We need job creation & collaborative ventures. At a hearing on hiring of locals, potential employers expressed frustration with the quality of DC workers. Workforce Development Council is key. We want safe streets and quality schools.

Bryan Weaver: As a white kid from the country in Oregon, married to woman from South America, and who went to Howard, he believes: "one people, one struggle." When we have 30% unemployment east of the river, it's a crisis for all of us. We need new jobs that locals can do.

Joshua Lopez: Will work hard for people, speaking to people. Shouldn't just be up to 13 council members.

Sekou Biddle: The recent election was one of the most divisive. We need leadership and character to bring diverse people together. He has historically done just that.

Patrick Mara: It's all about opportunities. People either need more or want to protect theirs. He has no fear of interacting with anyone anywhere. Workforce development is crucial, but let's defund ineffective programs.

Alan Page: Says that he was the first gentrifier in his neighborhood. There's a lot of tension from demographic changes. Bilingual education is good, but we must openly address the issue of diversity.

Q. From Alan Roth: Said he typically votes for incumbents, giving the benefit to wisdom & experience. But the process of Mr. Biddle getting his incumbency troubles him. He voted last fall for Mr. Mara for the State Board of Education, now he's running for this office. If you're an incumbent, name one thing that warrants your election; if not, name one thing you've done that warrants your election.

Tom Brown: Gives example of being unhappy with snow removal last winter; went to William Smith Co. property manager & asked if he could organize residents on property to provide better service. They did such a good job that William Smith fired the cleaning company it had under contract & now uses the cooperative for cleaning. It's important to get people to have power and influence.

Bryan Weaver: The worst part of being an ANC commissioner is liquor license issues. But he was able to have a dialogue on what's best for quality of life issues with all the parties. Also, working with at risk kids, getting involved when residences were threatened by helping residents buy their own building.

Joshua Lopez: He was a youth activist, speaking out against violence. He's community-focused. As a senior, he slept outside the school to protest UDC leadership.

Sekou Biddle: As councilmember, he authored a bill removing Metro fares for students commuting to school. On the State Board of Education, instituted a new school report card, by injecting a year to year basis to the model.

Patrick Mara: In a special circumstance & because of the process of filling the vacancy, he decided to run. 6 Councilmembers have had major scandals. Believes that he can do significantly more on the issues he's committed to on the Council than he could on the State Board.

Alan Page: He cites his experience as a One Common Unity board member, bringing peace training into DC public schools, helping kids learn how to be peer mediators. He also helped another non-profit to make a film about Dr. King's dream.

Dorothy Douglas: As an ANC commissioner, she worked on a new branch library & recreation center. She's also brought seniors together to give out free turkeys. While she was on the State Board of Education, all projects were done together, as a group. Individuals shouldn't be taking credit for the work of the group.

Q. From **Teresa Lopez:** What's your position on giving authority over Unity Park to the Organization for Latino Affairs to determine usage?

Bryan Weaver: The original micro program was well-intended, but it was supposed to be short term. While he's in favor of projects to teach people financial literacy, the market has become its own primary purpose. He would prefer another location for the vendors.

Joshua Lopez: He supports the vendors 100%.

Sekou Biddle: We need to make informed decisions. Says that he'll study the issue and balance the interests. It shows a lack of leadership to just answer a question the way the audience seems to want it answered.

Patrick Mara: Says he doesn't know that he would micro-manage at that level.

Alan Page: Based on the question, micro-finance is a great concept & directed toward a community where it's necessary. Would need to hear from other side.

Dorothy Douglas: She believes that public space is for public use. Rules should be fair & balanced. Suggests sharing the space. But use shouldn't be exclusive.

Tom Brown: Believes that the public should have weigh-in. Maybe we need to look at whether the program is meeting its goal. Opportunity for compromise exists.

Q: by **Bill Thomas:** How will you keep young families in DC/ keep long-term residents here/ for small business?

Joshua Lopez: We need to fully fund affordable housing. He gave examples from his experience with Georgia Ave. business district upgrades.

Sekou Biddle: High quality education throughout DC must be provided. It's the crucial issue for young families.

Patrick Mara: Big boxes can absorb tax increases and regulation changes, but it's difficult for most small businesses.

Alan Page: Proposes a tiered taxation for small business. He's against tax incentive financing. You shouldn't require tax breaks to operate your business.

Dorothy Douglas: Giving incentives to big business only is not good.

Tom Brown: He operates a small non-profit. Small businesses breed entrepreneurship. The return of those imprisoned presents a big issue.

Bryan Weaver: There's a housing crisis for middle income families. We've lost 24,000 units of affordable housing. We need more middle income housing, as in Baltimore, where open lending & tax abatements are used.

Closing statements:

Sekou Biddle: Asked the audience to please vote. This is first about leadership. It requires a level of character to do and say what's right.

Patrick Mara: "To the victor go the spoils" a council member recently said. He cites his history of bucking the tide, even against his own party. If elected, he will owe no one on the Council or the mayor.

Alan Page: Asks the audience to go to alanpage@dc.com to see what he stands for.

Dorothy Douglas: She's the only woman on the ballot, a strong voice for all, the voice of the people. She's always been a fighter.

Tom Brown: When he decided to run, friends said "you're too clean, you get too much done, why get into politics?" He just wants to serve. Assess, include, implement.. That would be his approach to problems.

Bryan Weaver: Unity Park stopped being an effective program. You have to look at the details to come to the right conclusion.

Joshua Lopez: You deserve better. Last thing we need is rubber stamp. Will work hard and ask hard questions. Check his website: joshualopez2011.com

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 pm.

-Ted Guthrie, Secretary

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- Pay annual dues of \$25.00
 Contribute _____ to Pierce Park Archaeology
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Washington, DC 20009

KCA is a 501(c)(3) organization. All dues and contributions are fully tax deductible to the extent provided by law.



PO Box 21311

Washington, DC 20009

Return Service Requested

The next three KCA meetings:

At Good Will Baptist Church

1862 Kalorama Road, NW

Tuesday, May 3rd, 7:00 pm

Guest: 3rd District MPD Commander Jacob Kishter

Thursday, May 26, 7:00 pm

Guests: Harriet Tregoning, Director, DC Office of Planning
David Maloney, DC's State Historic Preservation Officer

At Perrys Restaurant

1811 Columbia Road, NW

Thursday, June 16, 6:00 pm

Annual Summer Party Happy Hour & Dinner