

## Barbara Kahlow's Talking Points for 2/3/26 Ward 2 Budget Forum

The West End Citizens Association (WECA), which I am representing tonight, is again supporting some of the same priorities as in the last two years of your Budget Forums (on 1/13/25 & 1/16/24) but with some new elaboration.

1. Continued funding for the **Foggy Bottom-West End Main Street** (FB-WE Main Street). The WECA continues to be most concerned about the many retail vacancies in the Watergate & Columbia Plaza retail "malls." The WECA has been disappointed that no new retailers have filled these vacancies by the FB-WE Main Street and hopes that future DC funds will require that the FB-WE Main Street emphasize funding new retailers instead of just awarding mini-grants to existing retailers.
2. Support for a **new Ward 2 Senior Center** preferably located **in or very close to ANC-2A**. Some of the identified Ward 2 site options would not be convenient for the large concentration of seniors in Foggy Bottom-West End.
3. The WECA continues to not support additional development (e.g., new high-rises) in the long-time DC Comprehensive Plan legislatively-mandated "permanent" **Foggy Bottom Parkland** between Penn & VA Avenues between 27<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Sts. Instead, the WECA would support **new recreational development**, such as tennis courts.

In addition, if **the Urban Land Institute's** (ULI) 2/6/24 Report titled "**Kennedy Center Cultural District Land Use Action Plan**" -- which ULI characterized as a "framework to advance transportation & land use planning around the Kennedy Center & Foggy Bottom" -- is considered by DC, that the WECA would like to be a full partner in all discussions.

4. Funding for a **pilot "noise camera"** (using proven acoustic technology) along the Potomac Expressway to complement DDOT's speed camera (which generated the most citations in DC & thus the most revenue for DC in Oct-Dec 2023 and for all of 2025) in an effort to improve traffic safety & reduce excessive noise in the Watergate-Plaza Condo-Columbia Plaza residential area of Foggy Bottom. We thank Councilmember Pinto for: (a) introducing her Vehicular Noise Reduction Act (B25-0040), (b) ensuring a 3/7/24 Council Committee on Transportation and the Environment hearing on her bill, and (c) working to add a \$50,000 earmark in the DDOT Budget for a single noise camera pilot test along the Potomac Expressway.