**Transcript**

September 27, 2025, 5:05PM

started transcription

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 0:10
OK.
I'm just gonna step away from the music a little bit.
'Cause, I think that could be.
Also affecting.
My service.
Good afternoon guys.
Nice to see you all here.
How's everyone doing?

 **Jan Baker** 0:30
Good. How are you?

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 0:33
Then turn that to on.

 **Ann Walters** 0:34
Good.

 **Jan Baker** 0:36
Can I say what?

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 0:38
Get rained on.

 **Ann Walters** 0:48
Is it raining where you are now?

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 0:51
It's it's slightly drizzling.
It did rain a little bit earlier.
We did get a message from HCM saying that it's supposed to.
4IN from 2:00 till this evening.
Due to a hurricane that's passing by.
But we should be fine for the next week without rain.
According to the weather, we're just gonna jump right in.
I know that we don't have quorum.
But I still wanted to director Steyer still wanted me to hold the meeting.
And just.
Discuss the mayor's new priorities for FY20 6.
And also get a readout of community concerns which you guys want to accomplish by the December meeting.
Etc.
Also to note that we will be starting brunches again next week.
They're more gonna be for.
Community readouts. What's happening in the community?
What are we hearing?
What events are you guys attending?
Cleanups, giveaways, things like that?
And so that will be. That's just a note for everyone that we will be having.
Our Monday brunch is back.
So I'm gonna move right into the mayor's priorities for this year. Her priorities this year will be clean, and which is?
Honestly the same as kind of FY20 6A clean and safe BC.
Basically, keeping the city clean, so we're prioritizing more cleanups more.
Things going to 311.
Just keeping the city safe and clean, so beautifying the city.
That's two of hers.
Sorry I have to pull up the others.
Excuse me for a second.
Umm.
So even now we have a clean up tomorrow for.
With the Bahamian association so.
We're gonna start doing more of those as well.
Partnering with Clean City and serve DC to do that.
Sorry.
Umm.
Also another thing is the.
The businesses in DC we're looking to work continuing to do grants.
We actually just opened up a new grant from the mayor.
It's called project access. This grant is for.
Businesses, organizations that are willing to hire returning citizens.
They will.
The grant funds 10 returning citizens per organization, and then if there's more than what we expect, it might go to maybe like 5 to 8 returning citizens.
But that grant closes on the 3rd October 3rd.
There it is.
On serve D CS Galaxy to serve DC Galaxy digital or you can see the grant information and apply to that so.
So if you know any organizations, any businesses that are willing to.
Hire returning citizens.
That would be a good grant for them.
So economic development is her other one clean and safety seat and also.
The revitalization of downtown, of course.
Where she has, I believe we just bought a building to renovate it into a homeless shelter. So keeping our citizens safe and protected and out of the streets and in the homeless shelters and.
Sorry it went out for a second.
And then just wanna hear from you all.
What's what have you been hearing from the community?
How are you guys feeling?
What's happening?
If you have anything you want to bring to our attention, just community readouts will go person by person.
We can start with Commissioner Baker.

 **Jan Baker** 6:25
Thanks for having us today.
I know you are doing double duty in the rain this week alone as a tenants association President, but also as a person who lives in a building in DC.
We met with the Department of Buildings organized by Empower DC and at bread for the city to have a tenant, a citywide meeting with the Department of Buildings about what's not working and how there can be improvements.
So we talked about how, you know, department of Buildings will come to your build and then end up meeting with the landlord instead of the tenant who reported the action or implementing customer service surveys after.
The inspection has happened, or the time that they're doing inspections because sometimes inspectors will come say they're coming at 10. They'll come at two when you have to leave to go pick up your kids, you end up missing the inspection. Then you're getting marked a no show and.
Then the landlord can say that, oh, you didn't allow them in.
So we're going to move forward eviction proceedings.
So it was a really good meeting.
I think there's gonna be some follow up. Somebody took pictures.
Did you want me to send pictures for that or? Yeah. OK, so I thought it was a good meeting because a lot of the tenants from all wards, especially the elderly, talked about, you know, like when there's fires and the fire alarms are not working and just overall.
Safety in terms of crime.
My building again got raided again for the fifth time yesterday.
Which can be very unsettling.
And I will have to say when you just like US, Marshals are walking through your hallways.
But I feel like people we had a Tennis Association meeting on Thursday and I feel like people.
It also has been quiet, though I'm not going to sit here and lie about that.
It's been quieter in this neighborhood. We haven't had a shootout in a while.
So you know, I I don't know what to say.
Like it's it's been up and down and other than that we came to remember last month.
Came to the John Wilson building about that grant and I'm happy to say that three Caribbean companies work together to submit for that grant for the know your rights for capacity building and for legal services for the Caribbean Community.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 8:41
I'm happy.
Yes.
Thank you.
Hi, Commissioner Roche, just want to.

 **Roache, Monica** 8:49
Hi everyone.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 8:51
Quickly Reca over.
We're doing a just gonna give you the rundown for Mayor Bowser's priorities for 2026 economic development and downtown revitalization.
Public safety education, a clean and beautiful DC.
And So what comes with that is we're partnering more with organizations to do cleanups around the city.
We partnered with.
The Community Affairs Office is offering a grant, so if you know any organizations or companies or businesses that want to hire.
Returning citizens, there's a grant for that.
It's called project access. If you look up Project Access DC grant it'll pop up.
That closes on October 3rd.
They're willing to.
The grant is willing to cover 10 returning citizens and their basically the salary.
That they will have economic development in downtown revitalization.
Is and one thing under that is her grow DC budget, attracting new businesses, creating jobs, increasing tax revenue, especially with.
The shrinking federal workforce.
It also has high the FY20 six budget itself has high incentives.
For high growth sectors like the tech industry.
And revive. She also included reviving the qualified high technology company tax incentive.
Also, downtown activation, so just continuing to have events, et cetera, down town.
Course RFK redevelopment, which will span a couple years, but.
As well.
And then.
Restaurant retail support like sales tax holidays, restaurants and citywide retail initiatives.
We will be.
For public safety, they allocated 30 million increase to MPD. For more hiring officers.
Safety programs like Safe Passage, safe locks programs for students, offer grants for safe commercial quarters, and nonprofit security and education.
The budget this year increases.
To 2.8 billion for DC public schools and public charter schools.
Which?
A portion of which is also dedicated to teacher pay raises.
Capital investments for schools, early childhood and Higher Education Funding.
So that's what we're just going over. And then I'm also asking if each Commissioner can give a readout for them from their community.
So we're next.
We'll go to Commissioner Ann Walters.

 **Ann Walters** 11:59
Hello. Good afternoon everyone.
Nice to be back on these meetings.
For my community, you know, it's nice.
The mayor's having downtown revitalization, but I think efforts should also span across the city because I'm seeing more and more Caribbean establishments opening for six months and then closing it is one such well.
Ward 8 is not my constituency. However I do work in Ward 8 and I noticed two Jamaican restaurants.
They went out of business.
There's another one, Astoria.
They went out of business.
People are not, unfortunately, because of the circumstances. They're not getting the foot traffic.
You know, they would normally get and known. George Ave. is a bus.
Ashland area people are.
Economically, they're stretching.
From time to time I do walk into a place and some of them said they're holding and some struggling and some just afraid to speak.
You know, I don't know what you know.
And all this talk to the Monaco they knew about the new some of the the the grand program. But I think they.
They probably need help to navigate.
The the process.
Think probably you know, people would be so, so focused in trying to.
Keep their business afloat, that everything would have the time to go through the branch application and the grant process.
This is what I notice is happening. A lot of businesses.
They're not sustaining, they can't.
Keep their doors open.
As for the cleanup tomorrow, I won't be able to attend.
One of the things.
I notice just.
Getting basic 311 service and I try to advocate for residents not only carbine, but older residents.
And you know you have to call.
Well, sometimes when people are literally waiting a year, two years for rubbish can or recyclable bin, especially the elderly, we need to they need to be a better way. I mean mocha, I do have to applaud, Leticia, because she does a wonderful job and try her best to.
To assist.
Yeah.
That's it, 'cause. You know she want us to use 311 but 311.
I don't know. Once they get the information where it and that's an issue.
Just getting basic service.
Need people elderly, especially their needs.
Met that.
Oh, you know what?
I would love for us to do and I think Monica can help me with this, but I don't know who we can partner with because with the healthcare situation, if if everything goes through upon Capitol Hill, a lot of people will be losing.
In their health care, and I don't know what alternatives are out there or some of us would be paying higher premium.
But I don't know.
I would love for us to do something so we can communicate.
To folks about the changes that you know, impending changes in terms of insurance and what is it?
Medicare, Medicaid. I get them so mixed up.
But yeah.
That's something I would love for us to do if we can partner with someone I don't know.
Church, I don't know, but think we probably need to do something on health care, health insurance.
That's it for me.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 16:32
Thank you, Commissioner Walters.
I'll definitely take note of that.
I am transcribing this.
So I'll definitely take note of that.
And see what we can do. And then also we'll probably do like I'll probably send out something like a concept sheet. So for events that you all want to put on, you guys can fill out those concept sheets and that's how we have to do our process is.
To fill out a concept sheet and take it to leadership.
So it would help having the basis.
For events that you guys want to do.
So we can definitely talk about that as well, Commissioner Andrew.
The one who left the chats by accident.
You're muted.

 **Janelle Andrew** 17:24
Oh, I'm gonna pick you back on my Commission on Walter, said 'cause.
I've been.
I was gonna say I've been spending most of my time.
You know, working within the health healthcare community because I work for SQAC organization that we we're supposed to support, anybody that walks in the door.
But because of, you know, funding and so forth, you know we're struggling and so just working with other healthcare organizations.
In the community to work with DC, you know, to try and find alternate alternate ways to get coverage.
So if you do, if it if it does, there's some kind of outcome as far as the concept sheet that we can.
Inform folks of at least.
What's happening?
I don't know about any changes.
I can have some folks that will be able to share, you know, some more details on where the holes are and you know where, where services are changing and where immigrants are.
Losing coverage in a couple of days.
So so we if if we do, we do have some.
Resources for that. Can I tell you about the grant?
I'm definitely gonna share that information.
You know, I know a lot of people that will be happy to hire people, but knowing that, you know, you can reimburse to the government might be very encouraging.
So I'll share that and then.
One other thing is Scott, you know we've is right around the corner from where I work.
I know we we will have the grand opening and so forth just for mine observation.
I don't think they're gonna last long.
Yeah. So just a little bit of feedback from being in the community attempting to go a couple of time, the prices.
You know, just timing and all that stuff. So I don't know if they, I think they might need to make some changes to get people in the door, but the way it's looking right now, I don't think that they gonna let.

 **Ann Walters** 19:19
Who is?
Who is that?
I didn't hear that.
Who is?
Who is that?

 **Janelle Andrew** 19:21
Stop with the a lot of the the new one in.

 **Ann Walters** 19:22
I didn't hear.

 **Janelle Andrew** 19:23
The new one in what, 7?

 **Ann Walters** 19:24
Oh, oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

 **Janelle Andrew** 19:26
Yeah. So similar to what you were saying.
Yeah. So.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 19:31
So we we've been we partner with them for a couple things.

 **Janelle Andrew** 19:36
Yeah, yeah.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 19:37
I do heard from the community that they're happy hour is when it's like the most packed, but I do know what to talk about, prices, price range, etcetera.
Definitely noting that.
Yes.

 **Janelle Andrew** 19:55
Yeah. So.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 19:56
Anything else for me?

 **Janelle Andrew** 19:58
That's pretty much all I have.
I'm back in ServiceNow 'cause. I was out of phone groups.
So I'm now catching up.
Hopefully I will do some research on the cleanup tomorrow and be able to attend.
So that's that's what I have.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 20:12
It's from 8:00.
It's from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM.

 **Janelle Andrew** 20:14
Go ahead.
No, just kidding.
OK.
OK, that might be better for me.

 **Ann Walters** 20:20
For me, I'm sorry, charge for me? Yeah.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 20:21
10:00 AM.
The McDonald's on Georgia Ave. is the starting point and we're doing the cleanup in that area.

 **Janelle Andrew** 20:24
Yeah.
OK.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 20:31
Coordinating with the Mokers because that's where they said a lot of people don't do cleanups there around that area.
So it'll be.
It'll be a good two hours.

 **Janelle Andrew** 20:43
OK, OK.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 20:44
Yeah.

 **Janelle Andrew** 20:44
I'll try to make it tomorrow.

 **Ann Walters** 20:44
I might see you on my way to church.
'Cause I go to church right up there. Go to nativity so my feel.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 20:50
OK.
Yeah, my church run.
I got a Emory.

 **Janelle Andrew** 20:54
I used to be my church. My son was baptized there and.

 **Ann Walters** 20:55
Oh, OK.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 20:57
Yeah.
Commissioner Roche.
If you can, I don't know.
OK, I'm gonna do a quick roll call. 'cause. I did not do it at the beginning.
Oh yes, go ahead.
Sorry, go ahead, Commissioner Baker.

 **Jan Baker** 21:25
I just wanted to know are we are there?
Is there gonna be a feedback loop for DC art all night?
Like, are they gonna? Are we gonna be able to submit?
Like, not. Not necessarily the Caribbean event, but just overall our experience at DC Heart all night.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 21:42
Let me check on that because I know it's through events DC they might have.
A. It might be through them, like through their website, where they send out like yeah feedback form, but I can check to see if they have one.

 **Jan Baker** 21:51
OK.
OK.
OK, you guys did a good job.
I had a good time.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 21:59
Thank you.
That was it.

 **Ann Walters** 22:03
At the library.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 22:04
Yeah. Oh, OK.

 **Jan Baker** 22:05
I know you're.

 **Ann Walters** 22:06
Yeah, that was good.

 **Jan Baker** 22:06
I know you're saying.
I know you're saying you don't.
You're not gonna take credit for it, but it was still a nice showing.
I mean, you know, I mean, like, it was still.
It was still fun.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 22:16
Yes, I'm glad.
I'm glad you had fun, High Commissioner Roche.

 **Roache, Monica** 22:20
Hi I'm here at my machines. I like to dash.
I'm trying to do 2 things at once.
Yeah, I guess.
What I would just want to continue to do is have resources for the Caribbean Community.
Of you know what to do.
I have a pamphlet. I got it. Democratic meeting in my ward of from the mayor's office. Well, from the city it put out about just your knowing your rights.

 **Jan Baker** 22:42
No.

 **Roache, Monica** 22:48
So you know, just trying to continue to spread the word.
To our community about what to do with your family has been picked up and things like that.
And so that's what I've just been trying to help people and and in that way.
But I couldn't hear what you were saying about healthcare and and how what you had in mind.

 **Ann Walters** 23:20
No, no. I'm just saying we need to find a way to figure out what is happening so we can share with folks because.

 **Roache, Monica** 23:26
Oh, absolutely, yes, yes.

 **Ann Walters** 23:29
Yeah. Yeah, because it's it's no one knows exactly. And I think all of us will be impacted somewhere or another, you know.

 **Roache, Monica** 23:38
I just.
I have lupus and I actually just finished the DC lupus walk on the mall and I would say out of the maybe 400 people that walked almost everyone was black and the impact it has on our health, you know the the community, I'm let you know live.
Every day, in terms of my medicines, and that was one of the the medicine we take is one of the medicines that Trump was targeting during COVID.
One of the few medicines we can take, so I am very concerned.
And about the outcome of health care and what's gonna happen.

 **Ann Walters** 24:13
Please let me know when there's a lupus walk because I had a cousin who died from it.
So that's near and dear to me, yeah.

 **Roache, Monica** 24:17
Oh, definitely. Get it. Thank you.
Wish you maybe get a team next year.

 **Ann Walters** 24:23
OK.

 **Roache, Monica** 24:24
Yes, yes.
Alrighty.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 24:31
Thank you, Commissioner versaire.
Yes, let us know about the lupus walk too.
Maybe come out with support, of course.

 **Roache, Monica** 24:38
Exactly, yes.
Yes, I love you too.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 24:42
I'm gonna do a quick roll call.
You know, just because I didn't do it at the beginning.
I'm gonna start with Vida Ali.
Then we'll go to Commissioner.
Sorry, give me one second.
Working on my phone because the computer not working is so different.
Commissioner Roche.

 **Roache, Monica** 25:15
Here present.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 25:21
Commissioner Mona Phillips.
Commissioner Ashley Smith.
Commissioner Roland Roebuck.
Commissioner Ann Walters.

 **Ann Walters** 25:39
President.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 25:43
Commissioner Jan Baker.

 **Jan Baker** 25:48
Air present.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 25:49
Commissioner Janelle Andrew.

 **Janelle Andrew** 25:51
Present.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 25:53
Commissioner Alicia Francis.
Commissioner Yurika Huggins.
Commissioner, is monfilan.
We do not have form, but that's OK.
Just want to continue.
Today.
Sorry.
So we're going to, sorry, excuse me, so sorry.
Wanna call the meeting to a close now, if any, before I do, does anyone else have anything they'd like to add?
Anything I do want to note that yes, we will continue our Monday brunches starting next Monday. I will be out of office from October 2nd.
All the way to the.
I'll be back on the 14th.
So just to let everyone know that my e-mail will be forwarded to Snyder.
So just in case anyone emails or anything like that, just to give you all a heads up now.

 **Roache, Monica** 27:28
I hope you're doing something fun.

 **Jan Baker** 27:31
Her birthday.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 27:32
Yes, it's my birthday.

 **Roache, Monica** 27:33
Are you going? Are you traveling?

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 27:35
Yes, in country only.

 **Roache, Monica** 27:36
OK.

 **Jan Baker** 27:36
Good.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 27:37
Because right now, you know.

 **Roache, Monica** 27:39
I understand, yeah.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 27:41
Yeah, I'm heading to Vegas.

 **Roache, Monica** 27:43
Oh, I know, Vegas.

 **Jan Baker** 27:44
Happy, nice, happy birthday early.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 27:48
Thank you.

 **Roache, Monica** 27:48
Yeah.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 27:49
Thank you.

 **Ann Walters** 27:50
Yeah, happy early birthday.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 27:52
Thank you.

 **Jan Baker** 27:55
Is there?
Is there a lot of people out there right now?

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 27:58
People are slowly trickling in.
There was a lot of like parties and sports events earlier with kids, so a lot of them live around here, so they're coming back.
Right now it's not too many people.
Maybe people are holding up because of the weather too, but it hasn't.
It keeps like on and off drizzling right now so.

 **Jan Baker** 28:20
Yes, 4.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 28:22
It's a food truck.

 **Jan Baker** 28:23
OK.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 28:24
Uh-huh. And then we're they have, like snacks and waters and juice and sodas to give for free.
And school supplies.

 **Ann Walters** 28:35
Will there be entertainment?
Will there be entertainment?

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 28:39
Yes, there's a DJ here.

 **Ann Walters** 28:43
OK.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 28:44
Mm-hmm.
Well, it's 134. I'm gonna give you guys the rest of your 26 minutes back.

 **Jan Baker** 28:53
I I have a question though. If if you said that the rain is gonna start at 2:00, is there gonna be a point where you're gonna pack up 'cause? I don't know if if any of us say we're gonna come and then you won't be there.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 29:03
Yeah, I don't know.
It depends. If rookie decides the president decides to shut down when it, if it's when it starts pouring, then we'll probably shut it down.

 **Jan Baker** 29:07
Yeah.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 29:12
But for the most part, we're here for now.
Maybe you could text me or anything to see once the rain starts. If that's around the time you're coming.
But I don't know.
These guys look OK, but you never know.

 **Jan Baker** 29:30
OK, cool.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 29:31
Yeah.

 **Jan Baker** 29:32
Alright, thank you.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 29:33
No problem. You guys have a great rest of your weekend.

 **Janelle Andrew** 29:34
Alright.

 **Ann Walters** 29:35
Thank you.

 **Roache, Monica** 29:37
You too.

 **Ann Walters** 29:38
Alright, bye guys.

 **Janelle Andrew** 29:39
Trying good.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** 29:39
OK. Bye bye. Yeah, meeting adjourned.

 **Janelle Andrew** 29:40
See you on Monday.

 **Ann Walters** 29:41
Bye bye.
Bye.

 **Shanklin, Kai (EOM)** stopped transcription