



**The Palisades Community Association
Town Hall - Virtual
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2025**

1. Welcome and Opening Announcements

President **Jessica Davis** called the November Town Hall and general membership meeting to order, welcoming attendees and reminding everyone that PCA Town Halls are held on the third Tuesday of each month. She noted that the next meeting will take place on **December 16**, featuring Councilmember **Matt Frumin**, who will provide a Ward 3 update and take questions. Jessica also reminded members to keep their PCA memberships current. She reiterated that in October the membership approved an increase in annual dues: single memberships rose by \$5 per year and family memberships rose by \$20 per year, while senior dues remain unchanged. Members may join or renew at **palisadesDC.org**.

2. MPD Report – Officer Anthony McElwee

Officer **Anthony McElwee** delivered the monthly MPD report for PSA 205, noting that overall crime is **down** this month, with a total of **15 offenses**, including one sexual abuse case, one robbery, one burglary, one motor vehicle theft, two thefts from autos, and nine general thefts.

Robbery on Q Street

He detailed a robbery on October 31 involving juveniles in the 4500 block of Q Street NW. One juvenile displayed a handgun and demanded the victim's Canada Goose coat and backpack before fleeing. He noted MPD is seeing a renewed uptick in thefts of Canada Goose jackets.

Burglary at Green Theory

Officer McElwee then described a November 11 burglary at **Green Theory** on MacArthur Boulevard, where a suspect shattered a front window, entered the business, and took vape accessories before fleeing.

Additional Crime Updates

A stolen vehicle incident on October 19 occurred outside MacArthur High School. Two thefts from autos were reported—both involving valuables left in plain view—on 48th Street NW and Massachusetts Avenue NW. Officer McElwee again stressed removing items from cars and keeping vehicles locked.

With holiday package deliveries increasing, he urged residents to retrieve packages promptly, consider using Amazon lockers at the 2nd District station, and avoid setting intact boxes from large purchases at the curb.

Retail Theft and Traffic Collision

He noted continued retail thefts at Walgreens on New Mexico Avenue and CVS on MacArthur Boulevard. He also recounted a recent traffic incident in which an elderly driver likely suffered a medical emergency and flipped her vehicle after hitting a parked car on MacArthur Boulevard. Fortunately, she sustained no serious injuries.

Traffic Enforcement and Vacation Checks

Officer McElwee announced that during the next 30 days he will focus on speeding and crosswalk enforcement along the 4500–5000 blocks of MacArthur Boulevard. He reminded residents traveling during the holidays that he will be on duty and is available to conduct **vacation home checks**.

Q&A with Officer McElwee

In response to a question about a police-involved shooting near Foxhall and Reservoir, he confirmed that the incident was domestic-related and remains under investigation. He also offered to look up details on a car crash on W Street raised by a resident.

Before concluding, he thanked Jessica and the PCA for recognizing him at the recent community awards dinner, where he received **Officer of the Year for PSA 205**. Jessica expressed appreciation for his ongoing partnership with the community.

3. Bylaws Vote and Governance Update

The meeting next turned to the scheduled vote on updated PCA bylaws. **Stephen Gardner** reviewed the procedural background, explaining that the proposed revisions were presented at the October meeting and posted online for the past month. No comments or objections were received.

Although several households confirmed multiple voting members, the total remained below the quorum requirement of twenty. Stephen recommended proceeding by

unanimous consent, which is permitted under the current bylaws for properly noticed changes. Jessica asked whether any member opposed adoption of the revised bylaws, and hearing none, declared them **approved by unanimous consent**. When **Nick Keenan** joined later, he confirmed he also had no objections.

4. Guest Presentation – Rachael Jackson, *Eat or Toss*

Jessica introduced guest speaker **Rachael Jackson**, a journalist and creator of the food-safety website **Eat or Toss**. Rachael shared the origins of the project, which began when she joined a farm share and received produce with unusual appearances that made her unsure what was safe to eat. Finding no central, reliable resource with photos and expert guidance, she began consulting food scientists and built the website to share those insights.

She explained how each post contains an image, a quick “eat or toss” answer, a detailed explanation, and sources from credible experts. Rachael demonstrated the site’s food index and walked through examples including callus tissue inside apples, which is often mistaken for mold but is harmless, and “hollow heart” in potatoes, caused by rapid growth and also safe to eat.

Rachael discussed the meaning of date labels, noting that “Best By” generally refers to quality rather than safety and that storage and handling matter more than printed dates. She addressed the limits of freezing food, explaining the difference between true freezer burn (dry patches caused by air exposure) and simple ice buildup, and described how fats and proteins can degrade over time even when frozen.

The best ways to engage with [Eat or Toss](#) are by visiting the site directly and joining the email list. You can also check Instagram, Threads and BlueSky for updates on new posts and other happenings. For fun programming for your office, organization or school, please check out the Eat or Toss events page. Rachael can be reached at rachael@eatortoss.com. You can also submit questions [here](#).

Audience Q&A

Members asked several practical household questions. Rachael recommended washing fruit only immediately before eating, because storing wet produce accelerates mold and bacterial growth. She explained that eggs typically remain safe for weeks beyond their pack date if refrigerated, and that older eggs should simply be cooked thoroughly. She responded to a question about freezer-burned meats by noting that while long-frozen items are generally safe, their flavor and texture may be compromised. She also discussed why baking mixes often have shorter shelf lives due to their fat and whole-grain content.

Jessica thanked Rachael for her engaging and useful presentation, and Rachael invited members to explore the site further and submit questions directly.

5. Events Committee Update

In the absence of a full committee report, Jessica announced that the PCA, in partnership with the **Palisades Hub**, will host a **blood drive** this Friday. All appointment slots are currently filled, but members interested in participating may check the listserv for cancellations or contact the organizer, **Maria Garcia**.

6. Community Note

Jessica acknowledged a recent message on the neighborhood listserv announcing the passing of **Dan Moskowitz**, a longtime Palisades resident and former PCA president. She expressed sympathy on behalf of the PCA and recognized his decades of service to the community.

7. Adjournment

With no further questions or comments from members, Jessica Davis thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm.