



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
PO Box 15020
Washington, DC 20003



December 3, 2021

Via email to:

Chairperson Phil Mendelson
Councilmember Elissa Silverman
Councilmember Anita Bonds
Councilmember Christina Henderson
Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie
Councilmember Robert C. White

Councilmember Brianne Nadeau
Councilmember Brooke Pinto
Councilmember Mary M. Cheh
Councilmember Janeese Lewis George
Councilmember Charles Allen
Councilmember Vincent C. Gray
Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

Re: ANC 6A's Comments and Recommendations regarding the Ward Redistricting Amendment Act of 2021

Dear Councilmembers,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting¹ on December 2, 2021, our Commission voted 7-0-0 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to send the following comments and recommendations regarding the Ward Redistricting Amendment Act of 2021 ("Proposed Map").

We appreciate the difficult and thankless work of the Subcommittee, reiterate our support for all District residents, no matter their ward boundaries, and reject the divisive, classist, and racist language that has characterized some of the redistricting discussions. We recognize that the Council is required by law to draw new boundaries and must do so in a way that does not have the purpose and effect of diluting the voting strength of minority residents. We also appreciate that the Subcommittee took "seriously the requirement to keep communities of interest together, to preserve their electoral voice" as "the primary impact of changing ward boundaries is on voting representation" — "which councilmember, State Board of Education member, or Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner a resident can vote for."²

¹ ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on, anc-6a@googlegroups.com, and newhilleast@groups.io, at www.anc6a.org, on Twitter (@ANC6A) and through print advertisements in the Hill Rag.

² [Subcommittee on Redistricting Report on B24-371, "Ward Redistricting Amendment Act of 2021"](#) ("Subcommittee's Report").

Nevertheless, while the Subcommittee's proposal attempted to meet the six guiding redistricting principles,³ ANC 6A opposes the Proposed Map in its current form; the Proposed Map fails to meet the needs of our ANC 6A constituents (and what we understand are the purported needs of many of our current ANC 6B and Ward 7 neighbors). The Proposed Map:

- (1) Reassigns about 7,500 Capitol Hill residents to Ward 7, separating them from the rest of that ward by the Anacostia River. In doing so, the Proposed Map removes over 6,400 Capitol Hill residents from ANC 6B and oddly splits ANC 6A08 between Wards 6 and 7; as proposed, 1,178 of the residents of ANC 6A08 would remain in Ward 6, yet 1,181 residents of that single member district will be moved to Ward 7.
- (2) Draws an arbitrary line through the middle of 15th Street, ignoring any natural boundary.

As a result, the Proposed Map fails our constituents by creating a geographically nonsensical area, ignoring the identifiable neighborhood of Capitol Hill, and making an unnecessary change by adding 1,865 residents of Kingman Park back into Ward 6 at the expense of 1,181 current Ward 6 residents from ANC 6A.

We, therefore, recommend that the Council amend the Proposed Map to:

- (1) Retain all parts of ANC 6A within Ward 6; and
- (2) Return ANC 7D01 (Kingman Park) to Ward 7 (maintaining the Ward 6/7 boundary established following the 2000 Census), if it is mathematically impossible to configure the Ward 6 map otherwise.

A. The Proposed Map Fails to Meet the Redistricting Principles with respect to ANC 6A Constituents and Many of Our Neighbors in ANCs 6B and 7D01 as Capitol Hill is a Community of Interest that Should Not Be Divided.

First and foremost, the Proposed Map does not meet the needs of our ANC 6A constituents, and our Ward 6 and 7 neighbors throughout Capitol Hill, as it fails to respect the Capitol Hill neighborhood as a community of interest. Just as the Proposed Map keeps all of the Southwest Waterfront neighborhood and all of the Navy Yard neighborhood as cohesive neighborhoods within their respective new wards, the map adopted by the Council should treat Capitol Hill as one. "Capitol Hill is a 'city within the city'" with true boundaries that create a cohesive neighborhood.⁴ It was for these reasons that we submitted a letter outlining our concerns to the

³ See [Subcommittee's Report](#) outlining equal representation; racially equitable; compact and contiguous; communities of interest kept together; whole census tracts; and ward continuity and stability as guiding principles for the Subcommittee's redistricting efforts.

⁴ [District Elements, Volume II, Chapter 15, April 8 2011.pdf \(dc.gov\)](#). As this Commission has pointed out previously, the D.C. Office of Planning states that: "Capitol Hill is 'bounded on the west by Central Washington and on the south by the Anacostia Waterfront. ... The community has well defined physical boundaries that enhance its sense of identity. Its neighborhoods are united by history, architectural tradition and relatively consistent urban form, including a system of grid and diagonal streets that has remained faithful to the 1791 L'Enfant Plan for Washington. Much of the community has the feel of a small historic town, with block upon block of attractive late 19th century and early 20th century row houses, well-maintained public spaces, historic schoolhouses and corner stores, rear yard alleys, and traditional neighborhood shopping districts. The community's attractive housing stock, living history,

Subcommittee. As it turns out, this ANC was the only Advisory Neighborhood Commission to officially submit a map.

The Subcommittee Report states that it could not support ANC 6A's proposal to keep the Capitol Hill community intact within Ward 6 and keep the Southwest Waterfront and Navy Yard communities intact, moving them into Ward 8, as its proposal "would significantly dilute the minority vote power in Ward 8." As volunteer Commissioners without staff, we admit that we are neither data experts, nor that our proposal was the only proposal that could or should be followed. In fact, we encouraged the Subcommittee to simply adopt our map *or something similar* to unify and maintain the Capitol Hill element.

Unfortunately, the natural result of the Subcommittee's decision not to redraw all the wards across the city (but instead is focused only on primarily shifting Ward 6's increased population into the lesser populated Wards 7 and 8) is that between 17,000-18,000 of Ward 6 residents, who, according to the 2020 Census, are 67% white, will be moved into the primarily black Wards of 7 and 8. Based on the data in the mapping tool, ANC 6A's proposal increased the number of white residents in a re-drawn Ward 8 by 14,453; the proportion of the minority (non-white) resident population for Ward 8 would have still been at about 80% (or 70% black).⁵ We had hoped that this proposed significant percentage of majority minority voters would have the impact of not diluting an already strong minority population. We are also hopeful that the Council's laudable efforts to improve voter accessibility will bear fruit and increase voter participation for current Ward 8 residents.

low scale, and proximity to the U.S. Capitol make "the Hill" one of the District's most celebrated and attractive communities." See [ANC 6A 2021 Redistricting Letter](#) referencing [District Elements_Volume II_Chapter 15_April 8 2011.pdf \(dc.gov\)](#).

As previously outlined by this Commission, a map that keeps Capitol Hill — from the Capitol Building to the Anacostia River — intact, within one ward respects the public policy considerations of neighborhood cohesiveness, natural geography, and political geography in furtherance of administrative efficiency. Such a map values the real, well-defined natural barrier of the Anacostia River, and by extension, the unpopulated, federal reservation that houses RFK Stadium, and its vast parking lots. Such a map also values the fabric of the entire Capitol Hill neighborhood. The present, existing Ward 6 boundaries encompass this neighborhood in a geographically compact and contiguous area (with the exception of the Kingman Park area that was annexed to Ward 7 in 2000). An arbitrary north-south dividing line along 15th Street severs this unified, continuous residential area that is tightly knit, indistinguishable on scale or quality on either side, and geographically divided from Ward 7 by the Anacostia River and Interstate 295/Anacostia Freeway.

⁵ In contrast, ANC 6A's proposal attempted to keep some diversity within Ward 6 — more diversity than was proposed by [all three Discussion Maps](#); white residents would have made up about 56% of Ward 6 with minority (non-white) residents making almost 45% of the total residents in the newly drawn ward. This proposal would have actually increased the total percentage of minority (non-white) residents in the ward (an increase of about 1%) in comparison to the current census data, which showed that in 2020 white residents make up 57% of Ward 6 with minority (non-white) residents making up 43% of the ward.

We feel the Subcommittee's pain in this regard as the Proposed Map is being summarially criticized (even by us herein), and we, like you, need to take a now tempered and practical new look at the situation and the implications of each map version. We, therefore, recommend that the Council amend the Proposed Map as described below (or something similar). In doing so, we continue to recognize that we do not have access to the full suite of data tools and information the Council has and it is not our intent to divide communities or dilute minority voting.

B. All of ANC 6A Should Remain in Ward 6.

This Commission very much appreciates that the Proposed Map retains much of ANC 6A within Ward 6. However, the Proposed Map did not go far enough, and in fact, does harm to our constituents. According to the Subcommittee's report:

"The Subcommittee heard from many Hill East residents in opposition to moving the Ward 7 border to 15th Street, and many argued that all of Hill East should stay in Ward 6. ... Most of Capitol Hill has been in Ward 6 since the beginning of Home Rule in 1975. There is little economic activity on Capitol Hill east of 8th Street, outside of the H Street NE corridor, though some retail, restaurants, and other economic activity have been growing eastward. Many residents travel west for work, entertainment, school, and shopping."⁶

Yet, the Proposed Map cuts ANC 6A08 residents off from the rest of ANC 6 by creating an arbitrary line up 15th Street NE/SE (referred herein as "15th Street"). Like Kingman Park since the 2000 Census, these residents will be "like an island apart from the rest of the ward."⁷

1. The Proposed Map's Boundaries are Not Geographically Sensible.

Frankly, there is no logic in a border between wards drawn up 15th Street. This arbitrary line ignores any natural boundary, thereby creating a geographically nonsensical boundary.⁸ 15th Street is not a natural east-west dividing line. It does not provide a divide between police districts, school districts, or zip code. 15th Street is not a busy multi-lane thoroughfare, but rather a one lane, one-way street. There is no difference between the east and west sides of 15th Street — both sides are overwhelmingly residential, with similar architecture. Nor does this arbitrary line respect the boundaries established by the Capitol Hill Historic District, which draws the eastern boundary on the west side of 14th Street.

2. The Proposed Map's Boundary up 15th Street unnecessarily divides a Census Tract.

With Respect to ANC 6A08, the arbitrary line drawn up the middle of 15th Street in the Proposed Map bisects Census Tract 80.02.⁹ This is yet another reason that the map should be amended to keep all of ANC 6A, including all of ANC 6A08, within Ward 6.

⁶ [Subcommittee's Report](#).

⁷ [Subcommittee's Report](#).

⁸ The Proposed Map fails to meet the redistricting principle that requires that "boundaries need to be geographically sensible." See [Subcommittee's Report](#) for redistricting principles.

⁹ The Proposed Map fails to meet the redistricting principle that requires that "[a]s much as possible, Census tracts should remain whole to make data collection more accurate and understandable." See [Subcommittee's Report](#) for redistricting principles.

3. The Proposed Map incorrectly includes 15th Street to the Anacostia River within “Hill East.”

As discussed above, despite the fact that “identifiable neighborhoods should stay intact and not be divided among legislative districts to the extent possible,”¹⁰ the Proposed Map flatly ignores an identifiable neighborhood — Capitol Hill. The Subcommittee tries to justify this decision by explaining that “the District has long recognized that within the larger Capitol Hill area, there are identifiable neighborhoods, including Hill East, Kingman Park, and H Street NE” and by, therefore, proposing that the Kingman Park area be reunited with the Rosedale area within Ward 6 and that all of “Hill East” should be moved to Ward 7.¹¹ Yet, in doing so, the Subcommittee recognizes a non-identifiable, separate neighborhood from 15th Street to the Anacostia River — calling it “Hill East.”

This area is actually not recognized by that name. The District Government’s view of what defines “Hill East” is simply the redevelopment area east of 19th Street, *a.k.a.* “Reservation 13”¹² — a much smaller area than what is being proposed for Ward 7. Yet, Urban Turf’s definition of “Hill East” is the SE part of Capitol Hill bounded by 14th and 19th Streets SE and Independence Ave SE and the SE Freeway SE — again, a much smaller area than what is being proposed for Ward 7.¹³ Of note, neither of these definitions include areas within ANC 6A.

The Subcommittee does recognize that “there is little agreement on the exact borders of Hill East,” but regardless of what the area between 15th Street and the Anacostia River is called, residents “disagree that the neighborhood is meaningfully different from the greater Capitol Hill.”¹⁴ While this Commission would much rather that all of Capitol Hill remain in Ward 6 (for the reasons described above), ANC 6A recognizes that this may be an impossible task without a variance.¹⁵ Nevertheless, if “Hill East” is a neighborhood that should be kept intact, the Subcommittee has overreached with the boundaries it has drawn. Therefore, if the Council seeks utilize the Office of Planning’s recognition of an “identifiable neighborhood” within Capitol Hill, like H Street and Rosedale, the map should be redrawn to at least more closely reflect “Hill East” and the Council should not include any portion of ANC 6A in Ward 7.

¹⁰ [Subcommittee's Report](#).

¹¹ [Subcommittee's Report](#).

¹² [Hill East Neighborhood](#).

¹³ [Hill East: Capitol Hill's Lesser Known Neighbor](#).

¹⁴ [Subcommittee's Report](#).

¹⁵ “Deviations from exact equivalence are allowed to accommodate policy objectives such as preserving communities of interest or drawing districts that are geographically compact.” [Subcommittee's Report](#). According to D.C. Code §1–1011.01(f), “No redistricting plan or proposed amendment to a redistricting plan shall result in district populations with a deviation range more than 10% or a relative deviation greater than plus-or-minus 5%, unless the deviation results from the limitations of census geography *or from the promotion of a rational public policy, including but not limited to respect for the political geography of the District, the natural geography of the District, neighborhood cohesiveness, or the development of compact and contiguous districts.*” [DC Code](#) (*emphasis added*).

C. ANC 7D01 (Kingman Park) Should Remain in Ward 7.

This Commission recommended that the Subcommittee should propose a map that would “reunite the geography of ANC single member district 7D01 (Kingman Park, Kingman Park Historic District) with Ward 6 after its 20 year hiatus following redistricting to Ward 7 following the 2000 Census.”¹⁶ We very much appreciate that the Proposed Map expands Ward 6 to include the part of Kingman Park that was annexed into Ward 7 in 2000. However, our recommendation for the Proposed Map to take this route was to promote the greater redistricting principle of keeping the Capitol Hill community of interest together in an attempt to make the wards racially equitable. Therefore, the Proposed Map’s expansion of Ward 6 to include ANC 7D01 (Kingman Park) (without maintaining the entire Capitol Hill community of interest) fails to meet the needs of our ANC 6A constituents (and what we understand are the purported needs of many of our current ANC 6B and Ward 7 neighbors). For the reasons discussed below, we understand that there may be good reasons to keep Kingman Park in Ward 7.

1. The Proposed Map Makes Unnecessary Radical Change for Some of Our Constituents.

According to the Subcommittee’s report, “given the volatility of the pandemic, [the Subcommittee endeavored to] make boundary changes guided by federal and local law but avoid unnecessary radical change.”¹⁷ Yet, the Proposed Map makes an unnecessary radical change. This Commission respects that, given the extreme growth of Ward 6, some changes needed to be made to the ward. However, the changes proposed divide a community of interest and, in doing so, adopted some changes proposed by this Commission, at the expense of other Capitol Hill residents.

The Council should not make this reunification at the expense of 18,296 residents of ANC 6A, including those 1,181 current Ward 6 residents from ANC 6A08, or the 6,416 current Ward 6 residents from ANC 6B. Given the Subcommittee’s desire not to make radical change because of the pandemic, the Proposed Map fails as reunifying Kingman Park within Ward 6 (if the rest of the Capitol Hill cannot be retained within Ward 6) is just simply radical.

2. Many Ward 7 Constituents Do Not Support Reunification.

The Proposed Map has prompted strong reaction from Ward 7 residents over potential redistricting of Kingman Park.¹⁸ While there may be many residents of Ward 7 who support

¹⁶ Specifically, we encouraged the Subcommittee to propose a redistricting plan that honored “the principles of neighborhood cohesiveness and respect for natural and political boundaries by keeping Capitol Hill intact ... [,] extending the eastern portion of the Ward 6 boundary to the Anacostia River, reuniting Kingman Park, the RFK Campus, and the new Hill East development (both currently in Ward 7) to their adjacent neighbors.” [ANC 6A 2021 Redistricting Letter](#).

¹⁷ [Subcommittee's Report](#).

¹⁸ There is no known consensus of the boundaries of “Kingman Park.” For the purposes of this letter, Kingman Park is the geographic area covered by ANC SMD 7D01, which has been considered by many as the “Kingman Park ANC SMD” for nearly two decades. The non-Ward 5 portion of the Kingman Park Historic District overlays ANC SMD 7D01.

reunification of ANC 7D01 with Ward 6, there are many, including perhaps the most important Ward 7 Resident — Councilmember and former D.C. Vincent C. Gray — who do not.

In June 11, 2011 testimony to the Redistricting Subcommittee, then-ANC 7D01 Commissioner Lisa White said, “We still think in Kingman Park we should be redistricted back to Ward 6... it is in the best interest that Kingman Park be redistricted back to Ward 6.” And this Commission has heard from present Kingman Park residents that this is still the case. In a letter dated November 28, 2021 to DC Councilmember Elissa Silverman, the Kingman Park Civic Association asserts, “the Kingman Park Civic Association agrees with the DC Redistricting Sub-Committee that the Kingman Park neighborhood (currently in Ward 7) should be returned in its entirety to Ward 6 as recommended by the sub-committee.”¹⁹ Similarly, several Ward 7 residents, present at a November 30, 2021 Zoom meeting hosted by ANC 7D01 Commissioner Tamara Blair, expressed support for Kingman Park to be redistricted to Ward 6.²⁰

Yet, this Commission has also heard from present Kingman Park residents and Ward 7 community leaders that they would like to remain in Ward 7. In a letter dated November 29, 2021 to Council Chairman Phil Mendelson, Councilmember Gray states, “I and other Ward 7 residents support the goal of uniting Kingman Park in one ward. The most logical and effective way to do that is to unite Kingman Park in Ward 7.”²¹ A Tweet posted on November 19, 2021 posted by the Ward 7 Democrats, states: “We, the Ward 7 (W7) Dems, W7 State Board of Education rep, leaders of the W7 ANCs (7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, 7F) & leaders of the W7 Civic Associations, support resorting and unifying the Kingman Park Community in W7.”²²

3. We respect that there may be good reasons to keep RFK and Reservation 13 in Ward 7. This Commission stands by the fact that, with respect to the development at RFK and Reservation 13, the interests shared by Capitol Hill residents on the east and west sides of 15th — just by nature of proximity and geography — are more similar than the interests shared by our neighbors east of the river and therefore there are good arguments with respect to political geography to redistrict these areas into Ward 6.²³ As just one example, the District’s “No Parking

¹⁹ This letter was emailed to ANC 6A Commissioners Sondra Phillips-Gilbert and Brian Alcorn.

²⁰ Other residents and some Ward 7 community, civic and elected leaders present at the Zoom meeting asserted that Kingman Park should remain in Ward 7.

²¹ See

<https://www.scribd.com/document/543581999/Letter-to-Mendelson-on-Final-SubCommittee-Redistricting-Map>.

²² See <https://twitter.com/ward7democrats/status/1461790225588498446?s=21>.

²³ Dividing the wards up 15th Street (or another boundary on the east end of Capitol Hill) will not change how the neighbors on either side of the border view these developments, but will change how Capitol residents east and west of border will be represented in these matters. For example, the present Ward 7 Councilmember’s views about the redevelopment of RFK Stadium are already at odds with those residents who currently reside in ANC 6A. See [ANC 6A Letter Endorsing Councilmember Charles Allen’s opposition to a new NFL stadium on the current RFK site](#). For those Capitol Hill residents west of the Ward 6/7 board, their voices will not be given much weight by Ward 7 decision makers; it can be incredibly challenging for residents to receive meaningful engagement of a Councilmember and their staff if residents live outside of the Councilmember’s ward. [ANC 6A 2021 Redistricting Letter](#). For those Capitol Hill residents who are to be redistricted into Ward 7, living as an island apart from the rest

During Stadium Events” signage extends westward all the way to 13th Street, as an indication of the wide ranging impact RFK has had, and any future development will have, on residents all the way to Lincoln Park. Yet, we understand that there may be good reasons to keep RFK and Reservation 13 in Ward 7.

According to the Subcommittee’s report:

Reservation 13 “is beginning to see significant economic development. The Subcommittee believes this development will hasten the shifting of the economic center of the Hill eastward. Over the past 15 years, there have been two new grocery stores built east of 13th Street, there’s a new food hall at 14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue SE, the Reservation 13 development will deliver thousands of new homes and tens of thousands of square feet of retail, and the currently vacant RFK Stadium is also likely to be redeveloped over the next decade. The Subcommittee is concerned about removing the Reservation 13 development, one of the largest development projects in the city, from Ward 7. ... With Ward 7 retaining Reservation 13 ..., [Ward 7] would also contain significant new economic development projects, allowing [the ward] to continue to grow at a faster rate over the next decade, hopefully keeping pace with the rest of the city’s growth.”²⁴

Additionally, most (if not all) residents of Capitol Hill will be impacted by development at RFK and Reservation 13. Constituents from across ANC 6A and 6B are already focused on the impacts the redevelopment plans will have on our neighborhood, in terms of additional traffic, people, disruptions, and opportunities. These plans will impact Capitol Hill neighbors equally whether they live on either side of 15th Street (and beyond). Yet, residents of ANC 7D01 and 6B09 and 6B10 will be most directly impacted. Retaining ANC 7D01 in and moving ANC 6B09&10 to Ward 7 will “allow the residents closest to those developments to vote for the political representation for those developments.”²⁵

D. ANC 6A’s Recommendation for the Council: Respect the Natural Geography of Capitol Hill as much as possible.

While we are hesitant to propose any specific maps, we recommend the Council should at least amend the Proposed Map to create a Ward 6/7 border that more reasonably respects natural geography.

of Ward 7, our present constituents’ voices may be drowned out in a manner that the Kingman Park portion of Ward 7 experienced over the past 20 years. Thus, as these plans advance and remain under the direct purview of Ward 7 leaders, ANC 6A constituents and all of the residents of Capitol Hill have a legitimate concern about the representation they will receive in these matters thanks to the Proposed Map.

²⁴ [Subcommittee's Report.](#)

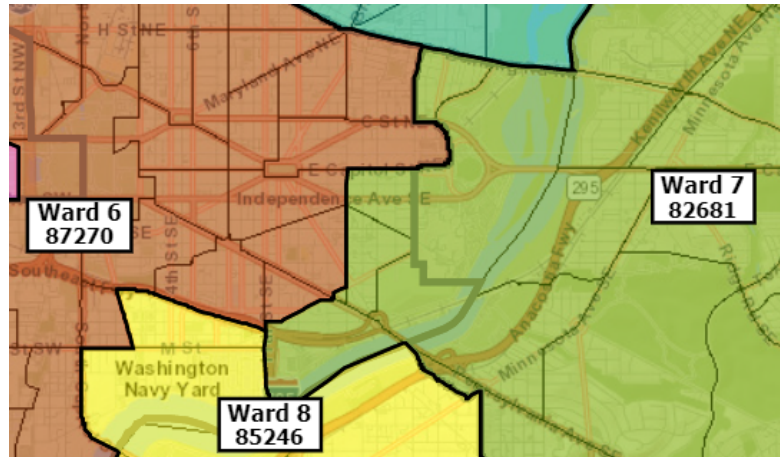
²⁵ [Subcommittee's Report.](#)

1. Proposal 1: East Capitol Street as a Natural Geographical Boundary.

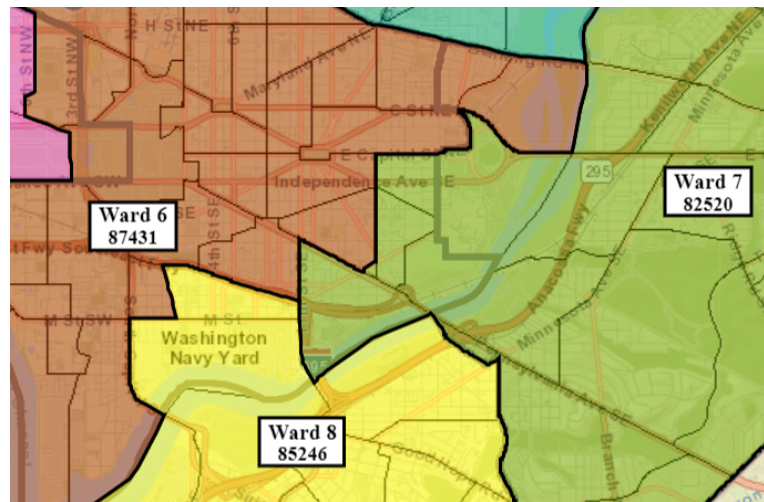
One such amendment could at least create a Ward 6/7 border at East Capitol Street. This Commission supports the Subcommittee's initial proposal to do so as "East Capitol is a boundary for many public services such as public elementary schools, police, and the ANC," and is, therefore, a much more natural boundary.

Below are two such proposals for creating the Ward 6/7 border at East Capitol Street, though we are fairly certain that these are not the only options that would respect this natural boundary.

This map, which utilizes East Capitol, rather than C Street NE as the southern border, is based on the Proposed Map, but removes ANC 7D01 from Ward 6 and returns the Portion of ANC 6A08 that was removed from Ward 6 in the Proposed Map.



Alternatively, this map, which also utilizes East Capitol as the southern border, is based on the Proposed Map, retaining ANC 7D01 within Ward 6, returns all of ANC 6A08 in Ward 6, and adds the triangle bordered by 11th, Potomac & Pennsylvania SE to Ward 7.



What could be more natural and durable than a well-defined, enduring, and historical boundary imposed by DC's four quadrants? The District's four quadrants, and the natural boundaries they create which, date back to 1791, remain highly relevant and are regularly referenced as the District's political- (perhaps even social- and economic-), service-based-, geographic-, and directional- boundaries. These boundaries are even used by the District to collect and aggregate

various data. The street also demarcates Zip Codes 20002, used in Northeast DC addresses and 20003, used in Southeast DC addresses on Capitol Hill. Therefore, East Capitol Street, which is, of course, the boulevard that serves to demarcate the NE and SE quadrants of DC, serves as a natural boundary.

This proposal does not assist with all aspects of political geography as Reservation 13 and RFK may need to retain their Ward 7 designation; not all Capitol Hill residents will have a say in the redevelopment that will impact them since not all residents of this cohesive neighborhood will have the same Councilmember and will be divided among many different ANCs.

However, a proposal that divides Ward 6 and 7 at East Capitol Street (rather than 15th Street) will allow most Capitol Hill residents who attend Maury Elementary School, Miner Elementary School, Eliot-Hine Middle School, and a comprehensive high school, such Eastern High School, to share the same Councilmember and State Board of Education member. Unfortunately, an arbitrary 15th Street border for Wards 6/7 means that a different Councilmember and State Board of Education member would represent Maury/Miner and Eliot-Hine/Eastern; the Ward 6 Public Schools Parent Organization (W6PSPO) have relayed to this Commission that having one Councilmember focused on all of these schools is more beneficial to the students and their families than having two councilmembers representing families at different stages of their students' careers.

Councilmember Silverman expressed concern at our November 2021 ANC 6A meeting that few Ward 6 students presently attend Eastern High School. However, this ignores that Ward 6 attendance at these schools is growing rapidly.

As recently as the 2019-2020 school year, attendance of Ward 6 students at Maury Elementary has grown to make up 92% of the total student population; 61% at Miner, 31% at Eliot-Hine; and 29% at Eastern.²⁶ Over the last six school years, there has been almost a 20 percentage point increase²⁷ in Ward 6 students at Maury and Miner Elementary Schools:

Ward 6 Enrollment	SY 2014-2015	SY 2019-2020	Increase
Maury ES	81% of total population	92% of total population	Approx. 12 percentage point over 6 school years
Miner ES	55% of total population	61% of total population	6 percentage point over 6 school years

²⁶ OSSE Audited Student Enrollment Data by Ward, SY14-15 to SY19-20. The most recent data available to this Commission is from the 2019-2020 school year. However, this Commission has been informed that in both the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school year, the Eliot-Hine Ward 6 student population has been growing as more and more Maury Elementary School students are matriculating within the feeder pattern thanks in large part to the stability and strength of the leadership team that was established in the 2018-2019 school year.

²⁷ OSSE Audited Student Enrollment Data by Ward, SY14-15 to SY19-20.

Additionally, over the last three school years, there has been a steady increase of Ward 6 students who are matriculating at Eliot-Hine Middle School.²⁸ In fact, between the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years, the total number of Ward 6 students who enrolled at Eliot-Hine doubled from 30 students (making up 15% of the total population) to 61 students (making up 27% of the total population). Comparing the number of Ward 6 students at Eliot-Hine between the 2017-2017 and 2019-2020 school years only shows a larger growth -- an increase of over 50 students or a 16 percentage point increase over those two years.

Ward 6 Enrollment	SY 2017-2018	SY 2018-2019	SY 2019-2020
Eliot-Hine MS	30 Ward 6 Students 15% of total population	61 Ward 6 Students 27% of total population	81 Ward 6 Students 31% of total population
		12 percentage point increase from prior year	4 percentage point increase from prior year 16 percentage point increase over 2 years

This growth at both the elementary and middle school is in large part owed to the commitment of present Ward 6 parents to improve these schools and their partnerships with ANC 6A and the Ward 6 councilmember and is a sure sign that more and more Ward 6 students will matriculate at Ward 6 middle and senior high schools in the years to come. The recent renovation of Eliot-Hine MS, addition of academic offerings including the International Baccalaureate Middle Years program, along with the school's leadership stability is expected to lead to further in-boundary growth at both Eliot-Hine MS and Eastern HS. Current Ward 6 parents have relayed to this Commission that they are concerned that severing Eliot-Hine MS and Eastern HS from its Ward 6 feeder pattern schools would add administrative burdens including duplication of effort as residents would seek support for repairs and improvements through multiple councilmember offices. In addition, our Commission has long collaborated with the parent teacher organizations at Eastern HS and Eliot-Hine MS to support students and the larger community, including multiple grants for the beloved Eastern HS marching band and creation of an emergency food pantry serving needy Eliot-Hine and neighborhood families. For these reasons, this Commission would support a map that better serves our constituents by utilizing East Capitol as a more natural border.

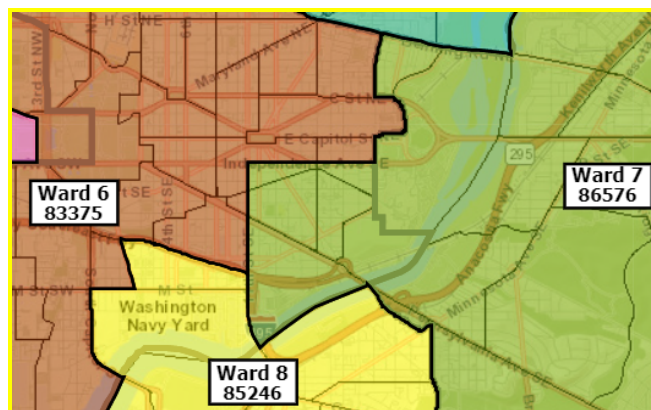
2. Proposal 2: Respect Independence Avenue SE as a Natural Geographical Boundary

Another amendment option would be to create a Ward 6/7 border at Independence Ave. While this does not provide the historical demarcation that East Capitol provides, Independence Ave is a much more natural geographical boundary than 15th Street. For example, Independence Avenue is a major commuter route, connecting Ward 6 and 7 via the 295 bridge. A southern border at Independence Avenue (rather than C Street) still allows most Capitol Hill residents who attend Maury Elementary School, Miner Elementary School, Eliot-Hine Middle School, and Eastern High School, to share the same Councilmember and State Board of Education member.

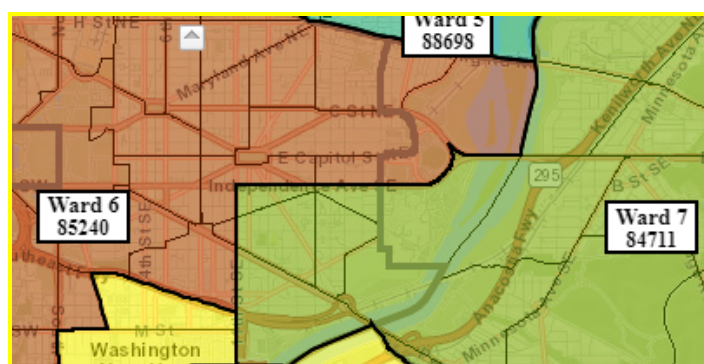
²⁸ OSSE Audited Student Enrollment Data by Ward, SY14-15 to SY19-20.

Below are three such proposals, though we are certain that these are not the only option for creating the Ward 6/7 border at Independence.

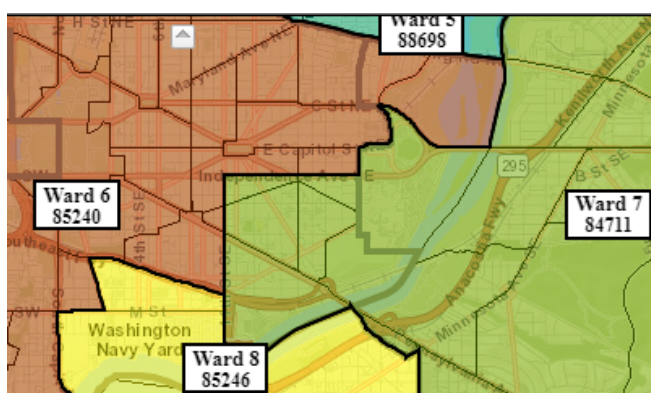
This map, which utilizes Independence as its southern border, rather than C Street NE as the southern border, is based on ANC 6B's Proposed Map 3,²⁹ but removes ANC 7D01 from Ward 6 and returns RFK Stadium to Ward 7.



This map, which utilizes Independence as its southern border, is ANC 6B's Proposed Map 3.³⁰



This map, which utilizes Independence as its southern border, is ANC 6B's Proposed Map 3,³¹ but removes RFK from Ward 6.



²⁹ <https://coreyholman.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/6B-Resolution-For-Vote-on-December-1.pdf>

³⁰ <https://coreyholman.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/6B-Resolution-For-Vote-on-December-1.pdf>

³¹ <https://coreyholman.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/6B-Resolution-For-Vote-on-December-1.pdf>

E. Conclusion.

We are grateful for the time and effort of the Subcommittee and their staff in reviewing the more than 220 maps submitted by the public and participation in numerous hearings and Commission meetings. We encourage the Council to consider the above options and any additional creative solutions, including maps that vary from the 5% variance in population principle, in order to best meet the needs of DC residents. We also wish to recognize substantial potential growth of residents in Reservation 13 as well as potential undercounting of residents that should help to grow the population of Ward 7, which might help to justify such a variance. In short, we do not envy the decisions ahead of you and hope that you can seek to create a map that best meets the needs of as many residents as possible and increases their involvement in Commission and Ward level activities.

Thank you for giving great weight to the recommendations of ANC 6A. Should you wish to discuss this letter with the Commission, please feel free to reach out to me at 6A04@anc.dc.gov.

On Behalf of the Commission,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amber K. Gove".

Amber Gove
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A