



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



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Commission 6B
921 Pennsylvania Ave SE
Washington, DC 20003

April 19, 2022

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: Support for creation of a compact “West of the River” Ward 7 Advisory Neighborhood Commission

Dear Councilmembers;

At regularly scheduled and properly noticed meetings on April 12th, 2022, ANC6B voted 9-0-0 (with a quorum present) and on April 14th, 2022, ANC6A voted 7-0-0 (with a quorum present) to recommend the creation of a primarily west of the river ANC to represent the connected Ward 7 neighborhoods of Hill East, Kingman Park, Rosedale, Reservation 13/RFK developments and include a Single Member District for the incarcerated residents of the DC Jail.

According to the principles of redistricting set out in Federal and DC law and [reiterated](#) by the Redistricting Committee, redrawn ANCs must be “compact and contiguous”, have “geographically sensible” boundaries, and keep communities of interest together. **The ANC map advanced by the Ward 7 Redistricting Task Force fails to meet these criteria, specifically because the proposed ANCs 7A and 7F are not compact and do not have geographically sensible boundaries (see Exhibit A).** The proposed map also divides the shared community of interest that includes Kingman Park, Rosedale, and Hill East, which share geographic proximity to the Anacostia River and community interest in the current and future developments at the RFK complex and Reservation 13/Hill East neighborhood. Options are available that would form a compact ANC commission of the community of interest of Ward 7 residents West of the

Anacostia River, which is a clear natural boundary. The proposed map also fails to provide the prospect or certainty of continuity and stability in ANC matters relevant to those 6A and 6B residents who were redistricted from Ward 6 to Ward 7 in the District's Ward redistricting, completed in December 2021.

These principles are not merely technical terms without meaning. They are necessary principles to enable robust civic participation on hyper-local matters, and functional ANCs able to consider neighborhood business in an effective way. They are necessary for preserving residents' voices in the roads, parks, businesses, and government services within close proximity of their homes. Residents of the connected neighborhoods of Kingman Park, Rosedale, and Hill East (as well as those "Old City" portions of the eastern end of Capitol Hill with no localized neighborhood name) are united by their use of the same transit corridors including east-west and north-south arterials such as C Street NE, East Capitol Street, 15th Street, 17th Street, and 19th Street. Residents use the same parks and trails such as the Rosedale Recreation Center, the Fields at RFK, Kingman Island, and the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail. The communities are anchored by shared civic institutions such as Eastern High School, Eliot-Hine Middle School, and the Stadium-Armory Metro. As housing, retail businesses, and a new correctional facility are constructed on Reservation 13, and as DC contemplates the future of the RFK campus, it is essential that these proximate communities have representation and a meaningful voice in these matters at the ANC level.

Hill East, Kingman Park, and Rosedale are a community of interest within Ward 7. These adjacent and connected neighborhoods share administrative similarities which are central to hyper-local ANC business including zoning and transportation issues. Newly Ward 7 6A and 6B Commissioners collaborated for multiple years as 17th street NE/SE was reconstructed from Benning Rd NE to Barney Circle and continue to collaborate with ANC 7D01 on a significant DDOT project addressing traffic calming on 17th and 19th Streets and Potomac Avenue. These connected communities, like a significant portion of Capitol Hill, also have identical RF-1 (rowhouse) residential zoning with pockets of medium-density mixed-use developments. Current 7D01 residents also fall within MPD's Fifth District, while the remainder of ANC 7D falls within the MPD's Sixth District. And the Ward 7 portions of ANC 6A and 6B fall within MPD's First and/or Fifth Districts. As 7D01 Commissioner Tamara Blair testified to the Redistricting Subcommittee, the lack of shared interest in zoning, transportation, and police districts between 7D01 and the rest of ANC 7D led to the repeated marginalization of or inaction on the concerns of the residents of 7D01 in the current cross-river ANC 7D Commission.

Existing ANC divisions on the Eastern edge of Capitol Hill currently divide the connected communities of Hill East, Kingman Park, and Rosedale into 6A, 6B, 7D, and 7F. This division causes administrative challenges for DC agencies, local organizations, and Commissions as well as additional time commitments for Commissioners. The present ANC redistricting

provides an opportunity to unite these connected communities in one Commission. To bridge these existing divisions, ANC 6A, 6B, and 7D have expended additional volunteer hours convening special joint meetings, creating special task forces, and holding joint training sessions with District agencies to collaboratively address common interests of transportation and development. Representatives from civic associations such as Friends of Kingman Park and agency representatives from DDOT, MPD, DMPED, EventsDC, Eastern High School, and other entities currently must attend multiple ANC meetings in order to deliver the same message to the community of interest at the eastern edge of Capitol Hill. As just one example of the potential additional administrative burdens of the map drafted by Ward 7 Redistricting Task Force, a meeting with MPD in the proposed ANC 7A would require inviting representatives from the First, Fifth, and Sixth Police Districts (in addition to any liaisons with Prince George's County Police) to respond to residents' concerns over such a geographically diffused area.

Ward 7's ANC map can be improved by building on and improving the Ward 7 ANC Redistricting Task Force Map. Creating an ANC map for Ward 7 that unites the community of interest in Kingman Park, Rosedale, and Hill East can be achieved without throwing out the Task Force's map and starting from scratch. A tremendous amount of work by well-intentioned volunteers went into the Task Force map, and relied on the localized knowledge of the volunteer Task Force members and community members who participated in the process. The Council should respect their work and retain the proposed boundaries for ANC 7B, 7E, and 7C, but should reconfigure ANCs 7A and 7F in order to unite the connected cluster of Ward 7 neighborhoods on the West bank of the Anacostia River in a single commission. We include the map proposed by a coalition of the minority of the Ward 7 ANC Redistricting Task Force¹ as one possible solution (see Exhibit B). Additional options are also included in Exhibit C.

For the reasons outlined above, we urge the subcommittee to draw Ward 7's ANC boundaries in a way that unifies Rosedale, Kingman Park, Hill East, and Reservation 13 in one ANC. Thank you for giving great weight to the recommendations of our Commissions. Chair Holman can be contacted at 6B06@anc.dc.gov and Chair Gove can be contacted at 6A04@anc.dc.gov.

On Behalf of the Commissions,



Corey Holman
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B



Amber Gove
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

¹ 6A Task Force Member Brian Alcorn, 6B Task Force Member Francis Campbell and 7D Co-Chair and Task Force Member Tamara Blair, formed a minority block and provided a Minority Rationale and maps in the Ward 7 Redistricting Task Force Report with an ANC proposal that would create a west of the river ANC. These items are on pages 17-18 and 20-21 in the Ward 7 Task Force ANC Redistricting Report.

Exhibit A: Depiction of how current Ward 7 residents presently represented by ANC 6A and 6B would fit within the proposed 7A and 7F Commissions proposed by the volunteer Ward 7 ANC Redistricting Task Force. The Task Force has not provided for geographically sensible boundaries for these proposed ANC.

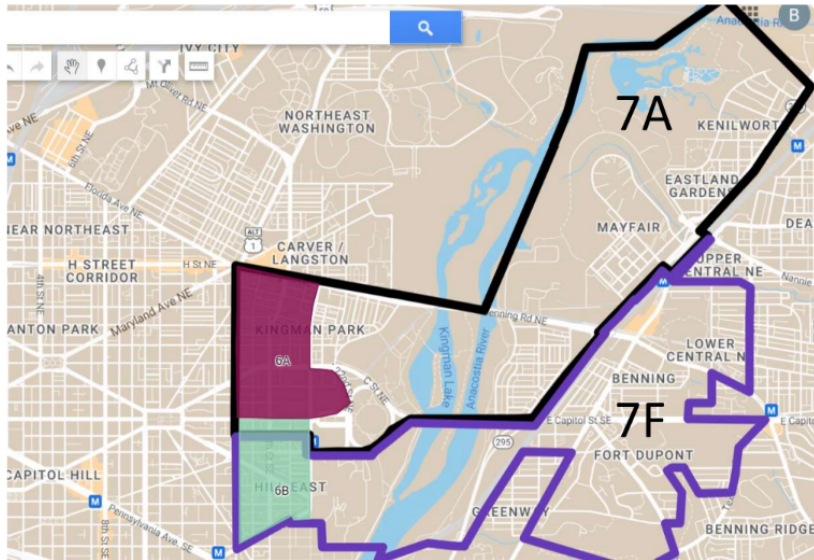


Exhibit B. Ward 7 Task Force on Advisory Neighborhood Commissions - Minority Position Map (see p 17-18 and 20-21 of the [Ward 7 ANC Redistricting Task Force Report](#))

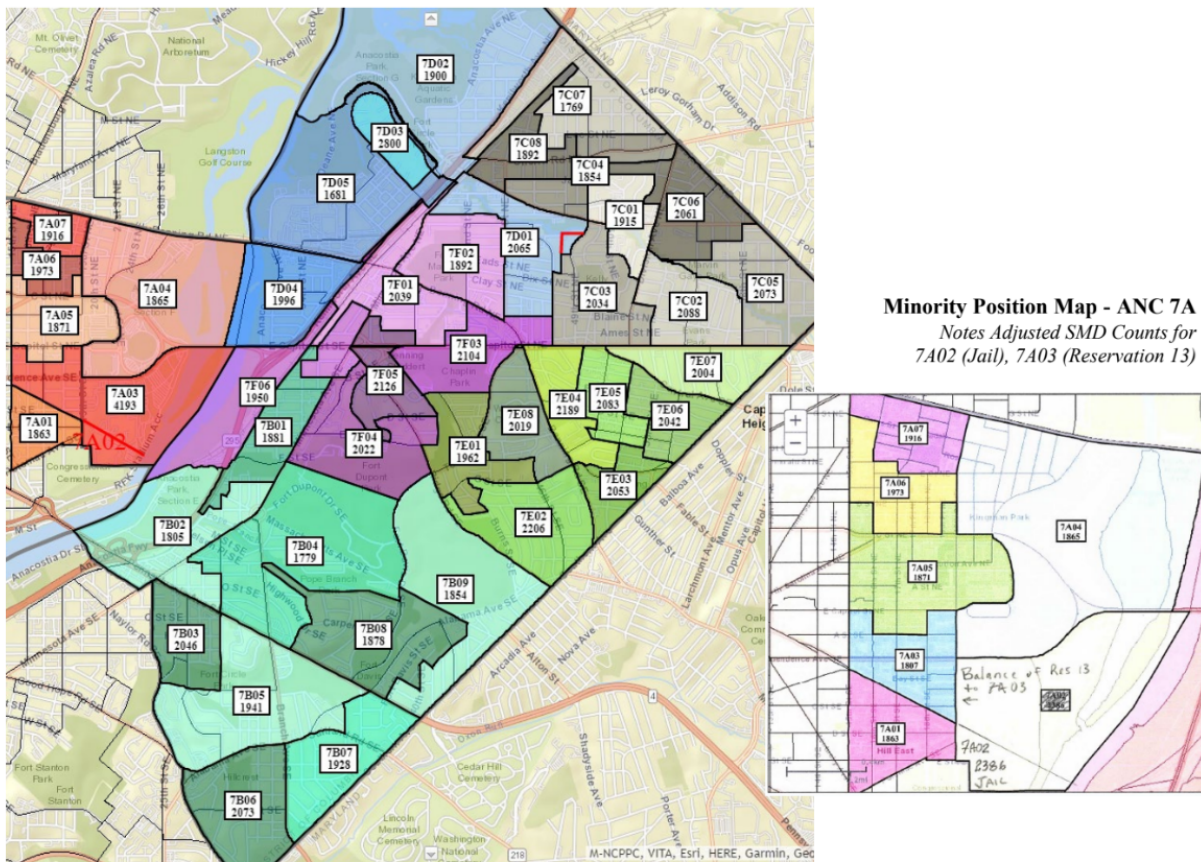


Exhibit C: Reallocation of West of the River 7A and 7F into 7A, East of the River 7A into 7F SMD maps
(Available in ESRI under shared plans -> “Ward 7 Commissions”)

