

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A  
Minutes  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
May 13, 2021**

**Present:** Commissioners Amber Gove (Chair), Brian Alcorn, Mike Soderman, Robb Dooling, Keya Chatterjee, Phil Toomajian, Sondra Phillips-Gilbert and Laura Gentile.

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm.

Commissioner Amber Gove called the meeting to order and announced the presence of a quorum. The minutes for the ANC April 2021 meeting were accepted, and the agenda for the May 2021 meeting was accepted by unanimous consent.

**Community Presentations:**

**MPD Summer Crime Initiative - Captain Paul Hrebenak, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)**

Captain Paul Hrebenak presented on the Summer Crime Initiative in the Rosedale Langston Carver area; the initiative happens every year with a goal of reducing violent crime in areas of increased crime or resource deficiencies. The initiative aims to match resource asset allocation, outreach, and intelligence-led law enforcement to decrease violent crime which usually spikes in the summer. Outreach is a main component of the initiative and several community events are planned throughout the summer including concerts, field days, and cadet recruitment programs. Captain Hrebenak emphasized that MPD is working diligently with agency partners including the Department of Public Works (DPW), the Department of Public Housing (DPH), and the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) to affect long-term change and that the summer crime initiative is not just focused on increased police presence and patrolling but rather on increasing employment opportunities and addressing the deeper roots of crime. All events are posted on Next Door, the 5D and 1D listservs, Twitter, and Instagram; community members can contact Captain Hrebenak directly at paul.hrebenak[at]dc.gov. Tatjana Savoy is the new First District Captain for Sector 2 and can be reached at tatjana.savoy[at]dc.gov or (202) 740-4701.

**Anthony Diallo, Ward 6 Account Manager, Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA)**

DCRA Ward 6 Account Manager Anthony Diallo gave an update on four vacant and blighted properties: 1206 Wiley Street NE, 629 10<sup>th</sup> Street NE, 813 G Street NE, and 1000 C Street NE. Vacant properties and blighted properties both describe unoccupied properties; vacant properties are less expensive to own than blighted property as blighted properties have a nuisance tag associated with them (are unkempt, used for nefarious reasons, etc.) and incur a higher tax for the owner. The most recent inspection of 1206 Wiley Street NE was on February 25, 2021 and it was validated as a class 3 vacant property. Notice has been sent to the property owner and they were not in violation of vacant property maintenance standards at the time of the inspection. 629 10<sup>th</sup> Street NE was scheduled for inspection on May 13, 2021 and if the property meets the criteria class 4 blight, the owner will be notified. 813 G Street NE has been labeled class 3 vacant since 2015. DCRA has determined 1000 C St NE to be a class 3 vacant property for tax years 2018 and 2019 and made an initial determination of vacancy for 2020 but was overruled on appeal by the property owner. DCRA has made an initial determination that the property be class 3 vacant for tax year 2021 and the property owner has been notified and can appeal. Commissioners raised concern that this property has

been vacant and a nuisance to the community for more than two decades and will continue working with DCRA and partner agencies to address the matter. Commissioners also raised concerns about short term rentals being used for questionable purposes and Mr. Diallo noted that DCRA is limited in its actions on the matter until Mayor Bowser and other offices to sign off on DC law. Mr. Diallo can be reached at [anthony.diallo\[at\]dc.gov](mailto:anthony.diallo@dc.gov) or (202) 257-5259.

### **Celeste Duffie, Community Relations Specialist, Department of Public Works (DPW)**

DPW Community Relations Specialist Celeste Duffie gave an update on DPW's status and service platform. Several DPW services such as ground maintenance, parking enforcement, and alley cleaning were suspended due to the pandemic but are currently resuming. All parking enforcement except for booting will be reinstated on June 1. Ms. Duffie clarified the difference between dangerous and abandoned vehicles: abandoned vehicles meet 2 out of 4 criteria (expired tags, observed to be inoperable, determined to be a public health issue, and have been stored on public space more than 48 hours or on private property more than 30 days) while dangerous vehicles have been classified as such by other agencies and DPW takes care of removing them. Commissioner Keya Chatterjee asked for general guidance about where trash pickup should be and asked DPW to put together some collection maps or databases. Commissioner Mike Soderman raised a concern about a garbage truck hitting a residential property again and will work with Ms. Duffie to schedule an inspection and assessment of the location.

### **Casey Watts - Rank the Vote DC**

Casey Watts presented on Rank the Vote DC, addressing the problem with current voting ("the spoiler effect") where voters feel they must vote for a frontrunner, rather than for their favorite candidate that aligns most with their values, or else risk throwing away their vote. Several other countries and states used ranked choice voting which gives voters the chance to rank their top three candidates. This summer there will be a bill to pass ranked choice voting in DC with six of the necessary seven councilmembers already voicing support. Mr. Watts encourages community involvement to spread the initiative and for ANC 6A to sign a resolution, like many other ANCs have done, in support of ranked choice voting. Mr. Watts agreed to attend the May 2021 ANC 6A Community Outreach Committee (COC) meeting and can be reached at [Casey.s.watts\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:Casey.s.watts@gmail.com). Several resources and information on ranked choice voting are below:

- [Rank The Vote DC | Ranked Choice Voting](#)
- [What would ranked choice voting mean for DC politics? - Greater Greater Washington \(ggwash.org\)](#)
- [FAQs | Rank The Vote DC](#)
- [Data on Ranked Choice Voting - FairVote](#)

### **Officer Reports:**

1. The May 2021 Treasurer's Report by Commissioner Brian Alcorn reviewed the 3 expenditures accrued in April: \$61.02 for Zoom Pro/Webinar, \$200.00 for meeting minutes, and \$765.89 for webmaster services (checks #1970, #1971, and #1972, respectively). Existing obligations are \$1,424.18 in checks issued not deposited (checks #1922, #1967, #1968, and #1969). The opening uncommitted funds available were \$25,321.07 and after these disbursements totaling \$1026.91 and existing obligations of \$1,424.18, the closing uncommitted funds are \$22,869.98. The savings account opened at \$100.05, gained no interest, and closed at \$100.05. The Treasurer's Report was approved by unanimous consent without objection. Commissioner Alcorn noted that all paperwork has been filed but ANC 6A has still not received its FY 2021 OANC allotment.

## **Standing Committee Reports: Community Outreach**

1. The April 2021 committee report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, May 24, 2021 (4<sup>th</sup> Monday).

## **Alcohol Beverage Licensing**

1. The April 2021 committee report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Laura Gentile seconded the motion that ANC 6A protest the application of 18<sup>th</sup> & D Liquors, Inc., t/a Master Liquors at 1806 D Street NE (ABRA #074594) for renewal of its Class A Retail License on the grounds of negative effect on peace, order, quiet, and property values, and that the ANC authorize the Chair and Vice-chair of the ANC and the Co-Chairs of the ABL to represent the ANC in this matter.

ABL has received numerous concerns about public disturbances at this establishment and it has been a topic of conversation with Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen. Neighbors have cited apprehension about the unattended nature of the lot, regular disturbances at the location, fireworks, and unknown compliance with DCRA regulations. John and Jasey Briley, managers/owners of Master Liquors, spoke about several initiatives they are undertaking to better the community and resolve some of the community's complaints and concerns and can be reached at [Jbb3inc\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:Jbb3inc[at]gmail.com). The motion passed 8-0.

3. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Alcorn seconded the motion that ANC 6A protest the application of Capitol Square Bar and Grill LLC, t/a C Capitol Square Bar & Grill at 1500 East Capitol Street NE (ABRA #118000) for a Class C Restaurant License on the grounds of negative effect on peace, order, and quiet, and on vehicular and pedestrian safety, unless a satisfactory settlement agreement is finalized before the protest deadline, and that the ANC authorize the chair and vice-chair of the ANC, the commissioner in whose SMD the establishment is located, and the co-chairs of the ABL to represent the ANC in this matter.

While the establishment is close to reaching a settlement agreement, the outstanding issue is the sidewalk café and ABL is waiting on DDOT's ruling on the public space application for negotiations to be resolved. Several neighbors voiced opposition to the establishment's sidewalk café plan and late-night hours due to noise and community disruption. Chander Jayaraman spoke on behalf of the establishment owner and is willing to continue discussions with any worried community members; he can be reached at [chanderforanc\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:chanderforanc[at]gmail.com). The motion passed 8-0.

4. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Phil Toomajian seconded the motion that ANC 6A take no action on the applications of Andy Lee Liquor, t/a New H Wine & Spirits at 914 H Street NE (ABRA #093440); Jumbo Liquors, Inc., t/a Jumbo Liquors at 1122 H Street NE (ABRA #000420); Sky Globe, Inc., t/a Grand Liquors at 409A 15<sup>th</sup> Street NE (ABRA #10850) for renewal of their Class A Retail Licenses. The motion passed 8-0.
5. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Robb Dooling seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of support for the application of 7 River, LLC, t/a 7 River Mart at 250 11th Street NE (ABRA #074594) for renewal of its Class A Retail License. A friendly

amendment was offered authorizing ABL Co-Chairs to represent ANC6A in this matter.  
The motion passed 8-0.

6. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, May 25, 2021 (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday).

### **Transportation and Public Space**

1. The April 2021 committee report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Dooling seconded the motion that ANC 6A approve a Resolution on the Negative Impact of Fencing Around the U.S. Capitol on Local Transportation. The motion passed 5-0-3 with Commissioners Gentile, Soderman, and Toomajian recusing themselves as government employees.
3. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Soderman seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT in support of a dedicated parking spot for HIPS in front of their location at 906 H Street NE from 11:00 pm - 6:00 am, seven days a week, with the option of a PUDO (pick up/drop off space) during other hours. Commissioner Toomajian noted that this should not be a precedent for granting parking spaces on H Street NE, but this is an exception for a community organization providing crucial services in the time of a health pandemic. The motion passed 8-0.
4. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, May 17, 2021 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday)

### **Economic Development and Zoning**

1. No report. EDZ did not meet in April 2021.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, May 19, 2021 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)

### **Ad Hoc By Laws Committee**

1. The April 2021 committee report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, May 26, 2021 (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday)

### **New Business**

1. Commissioner Sondra Phillips-Gilbert moved and Commissioner Laura Gentile seconded the motion that ANC 6A approve a letter in opposition to the proposed siting of a public restroom pilot at 17<sup>th</sup> Street and Benning Road NE. Commissioner Dooling offered a friendly amendment of adding to the letter that the Commission continues to support its initial restroom location recommendations (8<sup>th</sup> and H Street NE and another suitable H Street NE location) and to be more specific about the dangerous activities (strike loitering and focus on theft, stabbing, and shooting). The Commission will be shortening the letter to clarify the support of public restrooms in Ward 6 but not at this non-optimal location; ANC 6A does support funding for public health and social services in this area. The motion passed as amended 7-0-1; Commissioner Chatterjee abstained.
2. The motion that ANC 6A approve a resolution to support the adoption of Ranked Choice Voting in District of Columbia was tabled due to the topic being on COC's upcoming meeting agenda.

### **Single Member District Reports**

Commissioner Chatterjee (6A01) reported 60 rounds of gunfire shot at 12<sup>th</sup> and K Streets and Florida Avenue NE and was informed by the building owner at the location that the building is being used for a DHS program. There have been numerous other shootings at the location and the Commissioner is trying to meet with DHS for community members to discuss concerns. The Commissioner also reported a crash at 13<sup>th</sup> and I Streets, an intersection that needs a stop sign. The Commissioner had a good walk with the MOCRS representative around her SMD pointing out traffic and gun violence locations and noted continued unresolved conflict about

traffic collection. Finally, the Commissioner flagged that bike lanes on West Virginia Avenue will be on the agenda of the May 2021 TPS committee meeting and encourages community members to attend.

Commissioner Toomajian (6A02) is working on rat burrows at Sherwood. Happily, the Sherwood merry-go-round is finally in working condition. He has heard concerns about dirt bikes and ATVs in his SMD.

Commissioner Soderman (6A03) noted a recent incident in which an individual was shot in another ward and drove to Ward 6. The Commissioner is looking forward to the successes of MPD's summer crime initiative and reported several attempted break ins; the Commissioner recommends MPD's camera security program to community members.

Commissioner Gove (6A04) reported that Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton held a public meeting on the fence where ANC 6A gave input. The Commissioner is working with National Park Service on improvements for Lincoln Park and there will be opportunities for community input. ANC6 A participated in moveDC and DDOT meetings. Finally, the Commissioner thanked Commissioner Alcorn for organizing an MPD walk for the shooting at the corner of 3 SMDs.

Commissioner Gentile (6A05) thanked Commissioner Alcorn for setting up the community walk. The Commissioner passed out flyers explaining the upcoming advisory bike lanes and encouraging community members to attend the upcoming TPS meeting.

Commissioner Dooling (6A06) reported a recent sexual assault midday on 14<sup>th</sup> and H St NE; the Commissioner walked this block with the MOKR and discussed how to make it safer.

Commissioner Phillips-Gilbert (6A07) attended the summer crime initiative kickoff meeting and was featured on several news stations and in the Washington Post. The Commissioner thanked Commissioner Alcorn for organizing the community walk as well as TPS Chair Maura Dunden for helping coordinate vaccine outreach in her SMD. The Commissioner hopes to see everyone out in the Rosedale community on May 22, 2021 helping get the message out. The Rosedale vaccine site will be moving to Eastern High School on June 1, 2021.

Commissioner Alcorn (6A08) reported that the shooting for which he organized a community walk was caused by illegal gambling. He noted that a family member was the first 16-year-old to get vaccinated at Arena Stage.

### **Community Comments**

Naomi Mitchell from Councilmember Allen's office noted that while the CDC just released a statement that all vaccinated individuals can stop wearing masks indoors and outdoors, the DC Mayor will hold off on fully opening bars and restaurants until June 16, 2021. Ms. Mitchell reported that usually the mayor submits the budget to the DC Council in March but it has been delayed until May 27, 2021; the money has now been made available. \$2.3 billion is available and much of that will go to covering deficits and to schools and rent and utilities. The summer recess will likely be shortened.

The meeting adjourned at 10:21 pm.