

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A  
Minutes  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
May 11, 2023**

**Present:** Commissioners Amber Gove, Keya Chatterjee, Robb Dooling, Mike Velasquez, Roberta Shapiro, and Steve Moilanen were present. Commissioner Laura Gentile was absent.

The meeting convened virtually via Zoom at 7:00 pm.

Vice-Chair Keya Chatterjee called the meeting to order and noted the presence of a quorum. The minutes for the ANC April 2023 meeting were accepted. The agenda for the May 2023 meeting was accepted by unanimous consent.

#### **Community Presentations**

**David Epley, Associate Director, Data & Benchmarking Division, Department of Energy & Environment**

Mr. David Epley presented and led a discussion about electrification in the District, noting that there are several reasons to switch from gas to electric including health and climate benefits. There are several considerations that drive cost when electrifying a home: identifying existing distribution systems and which appliances use gas, whether service or panel upgrades are needed, and whether removal of existing equipment or reconfiguration of space is required. There are upcoming electrification resources in DC, including rebates for residents to improve energy efficiency - the "HOMES" and "HEEHRA" income qualified rebate programs which are not yet available - and we are still in the early stages of federal assistance for building electrification being rolled out. Interested community members can sign up to receive email updates on availability: <https://doee.dc.gov/service/ira-rebates-tax-incentives>. Rebates from DCSEU are at <https://www.dcseu.com/homes>.

#### **Consent Agenda**

The following items were adopted by unanimous consent:

#### **Alcohol Beverage Licensing (ABL)**

- ANC 6A take no action with regard to the application of Gallery O, LLC t/a Gallery O on H at 1354 H Street NE (ABRA-094849) for renewal of its Class C Multipurpose License.

#### **Transportation and Public Space (TPS)**

- ANC 6A send a letter of support to DDOT for the four Notices of Intent for reducing the speed limit from 25 to 20 mph ([NOI-23-44-TESD](#), [NOI-23-45-TESD](#), [NOI-23-46-TESD](#), and [NOI-23-47-TESD](#)); to request DDOT provide a status of ANC 6A requests for segments that were not included; and to request a report with any analysis that was conducted on both included and excluded areas. (Past ANC 6A Request to

DDOT: <https://anc6a.org/wp-content/uploads/ANC6A-support-for-installation-of-20-mph-signs-on-collector-streets.pdf>)

- ANC 6A send a letter of support to DDOT for the Notice of Intent for the [8th Street Bus Priority Project](#) (<https://buspriority.ddot.dc.gov/pages/a9f788c2398f46ba85659809dad85739>).
- ANC 6A send a letter of support to DDOT for Public Space Notice #10994457 for the renewal of the parklet permit for Granville Moore at 1238 H Street NE, and requesting DDOT give the ANC 30 days' notice to review such requests in the future.
- ANC 6A send a letter of support to DDOT for Public Space Notice #10994461 for the renewal of the parklet permit for The Queen Vic at 1206 H Street NE, and requesting DDOT give the ANC 30 days' notice to review such requests in the future.

### **Economic Development and Zoning (EDZ)**

- ANC 6A send a letter of support to BZA for a Special Exception pursuant to Subtitle E § 5201 and Subtitle X § 901.2 from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle E § 304.1 to construct a two-story rear addition, to an existing, attached, two-story with cellar, principal dwelling unit at 424 10th Street NE (BZA #20907) in the RF-1 zone, with the caveat that the developers make best efforts to get letters of support from neighbors.
- ANC 6A send a letter of support to BZA for: Request for a Special Exception pursuant to Subtitle E § 5203 and Subtitle X § 901.2 from the building height requirements of Subtitle E § 303.1 to construct a third story addition to an existing, attached, two-story with cellar, flat at 1112 8th Street NE (BZA #20911) in the RF-1 zone.

### **Officer Reports:**

1. The May 2023 Treasurer's report by Commissioner Steve Moilanen reviewed the three expenditures accrued in April: \$765.89 for webmaster services, \$250 for notetaking, and \$58.29 for Zoom Pro/Webinar (checks #2057, #2056, and #2055). Accounts payable include a security fund payment and webmaster services for February (checks #2046 and #2053). The opening uncommitted funds available were \$33,532. After disbursements and accounts payable totaling \$1,890.07, the closing available checking balance is \$31,641.93. The savings account opened at \$100.05, gained no interest, and closed at \$100.05, and petty cash remained at \$25. Commissioner Moilanen also flagged that another Commissioner should take over the Zoom subscription payments, as he should not be writing checks to himself; he will also be looking into other technology needed to support the eventual move to hybrid meetings. The Treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

#### **Community Outreach**

1. No report. COC did not meet in April 2023.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, May 22, 2023 (4<sup>th</sup> Monday)

## Alcohol Beverage Licensing

1. The April 2023 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Informational update to April 2023 ABL Committee report regarding postponement of KitchenCray license consideration (by ABL Chair Erin Sullivan, ABL Member Erin Blumenthal, Commissioner Dooling, and/or Commissioner Velasquez).

KitchenCray has rescinded their request for a stipulation but still are requesting a change of license, which ABL will be reviewing at their May meeting. Neighbors are concerned that the establishment suddenly opened a nightclub, in violation of their restaurant license, inviting loitering, littering, noise, and unseemly behavior. Management of the establishment will be meeting with neighbors and members of the ANC on Tuesday, May 16 at 6:30 PM, and anybody interested in attending can reach out to Commissioner Robb Dooling for the invitation. ABL Member and KitchenCray neighbor Erin Blumenthal shared the following update:

“Commissioners and Chair Sullivan, I’m grateful for the opportunity to share a brief update on what was raised at the ABL committee meeting with regards to Kitchen Cray and to express some of the community concerns that deserve to be shared regarding this establishment after this month’s lengthy ABL meeting.

Kitchen Cray opened and, in coordination with the neighborhood and ANC, was operating as a restaurant. My neighbors – a community of people who have chosen to reside along a thriving commercial corridor– have been very supportive and welcoming of restaurants, which improve the neighborhood’s character and our quality of life.

Then, in January (2023), without any community input, ANC consideration, or license, the establishment started running a nightclub called Flight Lounge. The immediate negative impact on the community was apparent. There was a noticeable uptick in noise, violence, public intoxication, loitering, and parking issues.

I have heard about and seen specific evidence of:

- Staff (in uniform) showing up hours before their shifts and during breaks smoking weed on the sidewalk in front of homes and on people’s properties;
- Clear violations of their existing settlement agreement by hosting DJs and live entertainment without a proper license;
- Regular hookah specials being widely promoted;
- Drunk patrons pouring out of the establishment, vomiting on sidewalks, and spilling over into the middle of 13th Street traffic is stopped;
- Music that can be heard not just one but two, three, and four floors above the establishment; and
- Trash issues both from the establishment itself and the weekly piles of litter the morning after from patrons who pre- and post-game in front of homes.

In making its’ business decision to open the nightclub, Kitchen Cray’s establishment began to directly and regularly violate their existing settlement agreement. Neighbors called the restaurant, their ANC representatives, and ABRA begging for enforcement. I understand

that some communication lines with the management are open, but in many cases, impacted neighbors still feel unheard.

The original request for tonight was going to be requesting permission to greenlight the nightclub ahead of the formal placarding process. I can speak on behalf of many neighbors in saying that we are grateful that that request was walked back.

But now is the hard part: as Kitchen Cray gets their formal application in order, it's important that they and the ANC think about how formalizing this business model that has been a disaster for us as neighbors will play out. Given the preview we've seen of the nightclub, does the establishment think they can execute this business model while also upholding a settlement agreement with the neighborhood? What more can be done to ensure that the new business model doesn't run on a collision course with the community?

I'll end on an optimistic note. I think it's a terrific start that the business management will be meeting with members of the ANC and community next week to discuss these issues and how to address them moving forward. And I'm looking forward to continuing this discussion at future ABL meetings if and when a formal application is submitted.

Thanks for allowing me to share this update with you all today. I know several of my neighbors are here today as well, but I hope that provides a relatively brief overview which I do think is important context as a recap for the ABL meeting discussion.”

### 3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, May 23, 2023 (4th Tuesday)

#### **Transportation and Public Space**

1. The April 2023 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, May 15, 2023 (3rd Monday)

#### **Economic Development and Zoning**

1. The April 2023 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, May 23, 2023 (3rd Wednesday)

#### **New Business**

- Commissioner Roberta Shapiro moved and Commissioner Mike Velasquez seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to DPR Director requesting:
  - 1) an explanation for the lack of programming at Sherwood Recreation Center over the last two quarters and specific plans for programming in Q3 and Q4;
  - 2) plans for improvement in routine maintenance of the building and ground and cleanliness in the outdoor areas surrounding the building;
  - 3) confirmation of alternative plans for a hypothermia shelter for Winter 2024.

Commissioner Shapiro noted a growing constituent concern about Sherwood maintenance and lack of organized programming and would like to ask the Mayor's office and DPR to delineate how programming, maintenance, and overall standard of operations at Sherwood will be improved for residents of the community. The Commissioner would also like to know whether Sherwood will continue to serve as a hypothermia shelter; there have been reports that it will house migrants and

cease being a rec center. The community deserves a dedicated rec center with a standard of programming, cleanliness, and maintenance of that of other communities' rec centers.

Commissioner Chatterjee offered an amendment and Commissioner Velasquez seconded the amendment of striking from the letter the sentence about not having Sherwood be a shelter in the future, and replacing it with language vocalizing support for migrant housing - "We ask that DC agencies including the Mayor's Office offer wraparound services to whoever might need to be accommodated, whether that is a possible influx of refugees or those needing shelter." The motion as amended passed 6-0.

- Commissioner Robb Dooling moved and Commissioner Amber Gove seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to Councilmember Charles Allen reaffirming ANC 6A support for the DC Streetcar extension to Benning Road Metro Station. (Past ANC 6A support: <https://anc6a.org/wp-content/uploads/ANC6A-Resolution-No.-2021-002.pdf>)

The funding for this project is potentially being pushed to 2026, but the extension would bring many benefits to Wards 6 and 7. The motion passed 6-0.

## **Commission Business**

### **Single Member District reports**

Commissioner Gove (6A04) reported a power outage and continues to urge community members to join First District (1D) MPD meetings on the first Tuesday of every month, where officers continue stressing that drivers should remove their keys from their vehicles to prevent carjackings. Officers are working on community engagement and more officers on bicycles. First District MPD is hosting a screening of "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" in Lincoln Park at 8:00 pm on May 12, 2023. There was a community bike ride with more than 250 people and there is another one on May 20, 2023 at 4:00 pm, sponsored by Hill Family Biking. The Commissioner asks community members to continue putting in 311 tickets.

Commissioner Velasquez (6A02) reported some developments at AutoZone. The developer, who has been very engaged with the community, shared that there is an article in the trade press with additional renderings of the project. The Commissioner will arrange a meeting with those being impacted by construction so they know what to expect. The zoning commission meeting will be in September 2023, so the start of construction will be delayed and the issues stemming from the parking lot's existence will persist. A number of establishments have been broken into - Pursuit Wine Bar has been broken into three times; this is a citywide issue - Mayor Muriel Bowser held a meeting about it and Councilmember Charles Allen held a walkthrough. The Commissioner appreciates Commissioner Dooling's and the community's input on KitchenCray and he reached out to the Deputy Mayor of Public Safety and Justice for a multi-agency meeting for the city to acknowledge everything happening along the H Street corridor.

Commissioner Dooling (6A06) checked with DC Council about the H Street Bus Priority project and confirmed that it is funded for next year and is in conversation with DDOT about it; they will be presenting a design of the project. The Commissioner is grateful to Commissioner Velasquez and all the neighbors that have been performing outstanding civic engagement in response to KitchenCray. The Commissioner is also saddened about the several break-ins on H Street and will be planning a public safety walk with MPD in the residential area south of H Street. If community members are looking for an opportunity to support neighborhood small businesses, Atlas Theater is putting on “A Raisin in the Sun” starting June 21, 2023.

Commissioner Shapiro (6A03) reported a well-supported cleanup around Sherwood and SWS and has been working on a public sidewalk survey and several Sherwood issues. SWS is, in theory, willing to host future hybrid ANC 6A meetings, though they do not have equipment to broadcast the meetings.

Commissioner Moilanen (6A07) will be asking COC Chair Adina Wadsworth about putting hybrid meeting possibilities on the COC agenda. At the request of the DC Attorney General’s office, the Commissioner is preparing a community impact statement about 1000 C Street NE. The Commissioner also expresses appreciation for DDOT for thinking about traffic in a more comprehensive way. An arrest was made in connection with the fatal stabbing of a woman who lives on D Street NE. Finally, the Commissioner salutes people working on their gardens and beautifying the city.

Commissioner Chatterjee (6A01) reported trips, falls, bike crashes, and loose metal grates, among other catastrophes on Florida Avenue NE and has been working with ANC 6C in hopes of having an in-person DDOT representative based in this neighborhood to hear the community complaints and see the problems firsthand. The H Street Farmers Market is open. There is a budget for programming on H Street and that needs to happen.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.