

Minutes  
**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**  
**July 14, 2022**

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

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

Chair Amber Gove called the meeting to order and noted the presence of a quorum. The minutes for the ANC June 2022 meeting were accepted, and the agenda for the July 2022 meeting was accepted by unanimous consent.

**Community Presentations:**

**Andre L. Wright, Assistant Chief of Police, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), Patrol Services South Bureau**

MPD Assistant Chief of Police Andre L. Wright has managerial oversight of the First (1D), Sixth (6D) and Seventh (7D) Districts and gave an update on overall MPD initiatives. The summer crime initiative is in full swing, focusing in high crime areas and working in conjunction with a year-round homicide reduction plan. The plan has led to an overall 16% decrease in homicides. MPD's other strategies include government partnerships for support, spot policing, and community engagement; they are increasing resources and focusing on nightlife on U Street NW and H Street NE; community members have probably seen more police patrolling these corridors. This has resulted in a decrease in weapons and robberies. MPD is especially focused on decreasing robberies as carjackings incidents have increased; officers have increased traffic enforcement and have seen many traffic stops lead to uncovering narcotics, unregistered firearms, and illegal tags. Even with decreases in homicides, sex abuse, and deadly weapons, robberies remain at high levels. Captain Tatiana Savoy spoke about the First District, echoing that violent crime has decreased with the exception of robberies. The last 30-60 days, however, have seen two closures and a 44% decrease in robberies, even though robberies overall are at higher than usual levels. Captain Savoy will be pushing resources into repeat crime areas and continuing to focus on the nightlife initiative, specifically on the H Street corridor. Since 6/17, MPD has partnered with ABRA and parking enforcement in these areas. MPD will be addressing the border of 1D and the Fifth District (5D), another high crime area; overall Assistant Chief Wright and Captain Savoy are proud of the significant reduction in crime due to MPD's strategies and believe the trend will continue.

**Captain Jerome M. Merrill, Fifth District, Metropolitan Police Department**

MPD Captain Jerome M. Merrill gave an update on 5D, recognizing that the uptick in violent incidents and gunshots are due to recent returnees to the area from prison. MPD is working with DDOT to install speed bumps in alleys in the area to improve safety and they are working with the Office of the Attorney General on safety

improvements. Commissioner Sondra Philips-Gilbert advocated for more MPD involvement in the Rosedale community specifically around the laundromat. There is a monthly MPD Citizen's Advisory Council meeting which is a great place to get direct answers and information from MPD.

### **Consent Agenda**

The following items were adopted by unanimous consent:

#### **Community Outreach**

- ANC 6A send a letter requesting a public restroom at 8th and H Street NE and to DPW to request a process for removal of biohazards.

#### **Alcohol Beverage Licensing**

- ANC 6A protest the new license application of Old City Cafe unless a Settlement Agreement is entered into prior to the protest date, and that the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC, as well as the Co-Chairs of the ABL Committee and Ms. Kara Hughley, represent the ANC in the negotiation of the Settlement Agreement
- ANC 6A protest the license renewal application of Sticky Rice/Sing Sing Karaoke Palace unless an updated Settlement Agreement is reached prior to the protest date, and that the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC, as well as the Co-Chairs of the ABL Committee and Ms. Erin Sullivan, represent the ANC in the negotiation of the Settlement Agreement.
- ANC 6A protest the license renewal application of Crab Boss LLC unless an updated Settlement Agreement is entered into prior to the protest date, and that the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC, as well as the Co-Chairs of the ABL Committee, represent the ANC in the negotiation of the Settlement Agreement.

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

- ANC 6A write a joint letter with ANC 6C to DDOT with post-completion requests for the Maryland Avenue Project, including no right turn on red signs; prioritizing bicycles and pedestrians in this corridor; and remedying the dangerous exit into a steep bioswale on certain blocks.

#### **Officer Reports:**

1. The July 2022 Treasurer's report by Commissioner Brian Alcorn reviewed the five expenditures accrued in June: \$765.89 for webmaster services, \$250.00 for notetaking, \$58.29 for Zoom Pro/Webinar, a \$2,500.00 grant for Ludlow-Taylor PTO, and a \$2,000.00 grant to Eliot-Hine PTO (Checks # 2023-2027, respectively). The ANC received two OANC allotments totaling \$10,891.00 and had \$1,074.00 in uncashed checks (Checks #2020-2022) and \$2,161.00 in cashed checks. The opening uncommitted funds available were \$24,020.00 and after these allotments, disbursements totaling \$5,574.18, and cashed and uncashed checks, the closing available checking balance is \$26,101.30. The savings account opened at \$100.05,

gained no interest, and closed at \$100.05. Petty cash remained at \$25.00. The Treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent.

2. Commissioner Alcorn asked the Commission to pre-clear the expenditure of \$1,074.18 to pay the webmaster, notetaker, and Zoom Pro/Webinar for the month of July 2022 since the Commission will not be meeting in August. The Commissioner also asked for the approval to print two large signs for the EDZ Committee; the estimate is \$200.00. The Commission precleared these expenditures.
3. The 2022 Q3 Treasurer's Report was accepted by unanimous consent 7-0.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

#### **Community Outreach**

1. The June 2022 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, July 25, 2022 (4th Monday)

#### **Alcohol Beverage Licensing**

1. The June 2022 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. The Committee recommended and Commissioner Mike Soderman seconded the motion that ANC 6A protest the license renewal application of Kitchencray H LLC unless an updated Settlement Agreement is reached prior to the protest date, and that the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC, as well as the Co-Chairs of the ABL Committee and Mr. Mike Velasquez, represent the ANC in the negotiation of the Settlement Agreement.

There are complaints about noise from Kitchencray's patio as well as from noisy staff outside of the premises. The owner is aware of these concerns and made several staff changes including hiring a new general manager. The motion passed 7-0.

2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, July 26, 2022 (4th Tuesday)

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

1. The June 2022 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.

#### Old Business:

2. Commissioner Alcorn moved and Commissioner Soderman seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of support to DDOT for NOI 22-191-PSD 19<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Protected Two-Way Bike Facility between East Capitol and C Streets NE.

In November 2021, there was a joint meeting with ANC 6B to discuss the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Street corridors in which community members brought forth concerns about speeding and the need for safe bike lanes. In May, DDOT presented options for dual bike lanes and ANC 6A sent a letter of support, including the 24 TSIs requested about the safety in these corridors. DDOT issued an NOI for protected bike lanes for a portion of 19<sup>th</sup> Street. DDOT has indicated that these could be installed before school opening in late August; since ANC 6A does not meet in August, it would be beneficial to fast-track this directly by the Commission rather

than going through TPS. ANC 6A is also advocating for an all-way stop sign at 19<sup>th</sup> and East Capitol Streets as part of these safety enhancements. The motion passed 7-0.

3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, July 18, 2022 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday)

### **Economic Development and Zoning**

1. The June 2022 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.

#### Old Business:

2. The Committee moved and Commissioner Laura Gentile seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of opposition to BZA for special exception zoning relief under Subtitle E § 5201 and Subtitle X § 902.1 from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle E § 304.1, and special exception zoning relief under Subtitle E § 5201, Subtitle E § 205.5, and Subtitle X §902.1 from the rear addition requirements of Subtitle E § 205.4 to construct a third story and rear addition, and convert to a flat, an existing, attached, two-story with cellar, principal dwelling unit at 647 16th Street NE (BZA Case #20612) in the RF-1 zone on the basis that it causes undue impact on the light and air available to the neighboring property. BZA Case scheduled for 7/27/2022. Chair Greenfield added a friendly amendment to add the latest interactions with the owner to the letter. The motion passed with this amendment 7-0.
3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, July 20, 2022 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)

### **Commission Business**

#### Old Business:

1. Commissioner Gentile moved and Commissioner Robb Dooling seconded the motion that ANC 6A set up a new Google group to serve as a community forum. This forum will be a place where community members may communicate freely with each other. ANC 6A is planning to narrow the focus of the current ANC 6A Google Group to serve solely as means of communication for ANC meeting agendas and notices, as well as for Commissioners and Committee Chairs to share information with the community. The membership of the community group will be a duplicate of the current ANC 6A Google group. ANC 6A is looking for community members to moderate and run the community group. Members can unsubscribe from either group at will. The motion passed 7-0.

#### New Business:

1. Commissioner Keya Chatterjee moved that ANC 6A approve the appointment of Jessica Clark as member of the Community Outreach Committee. This motion was tabled until the September 2022 meeting so Ms. Clark can be in attendance.
2. Commissioner Dooling moved and Commissioner Chatterjee seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of support to the Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCAH) for a mural to be installed on the exterior of the Atlas Performing Arts Center Building, facing Linden Court, during FY 2023. The motion passed 7-0.

### **Single Member District (SMD) reports**

Commissioner Soderman (6A03) sent an email to several listservs letting the community know that he will not be running for re-election and is open to speaking to any interested community members about the position. There have been several package thefts, robberies and a car accident on Constitution Avenue and the Commissioner is trying to get DDOT and the arborists to clean up some trees impacting sight. The community is experiencing a higher level of crime than usual and in response there is an increased presence of bike patrols and MPD. The Commissioner would like to see this continue and make sure all mental health services are initiated when responding to people in crisis.

Commissioner Dooling (6A06) is thankful to Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen and DDOT for assisting in installing speed bumps in the Linden Court alley. The Commissioner went door to door with Friends of the DC Streetcar speaking to businesses along H Street and distributing the flyers that Commissioner Chatterjee made supporting streetcar only lanes. DDOT will be attending July 2022 TPS meeting for an update on the H Street priority project. There is a major rodent problem and the Commissioner encourages community members to use 311 for rodent inspection and to not put trash out too early. Finally, the Commissioner is grateful to Commissioner Gentile for hosting a public safety walk on the border of their two SMDs.

Commissioner Philips-Gilbert (6A07) had a great walk on July 6, 2022 with a neighbor and MOCRS Jasmine Coilton to follow up on some neighborhood concerns. Crime is rising in the Rosedale community and they are not seeing any relief; there are gunshots every day; the area is dangerous and requires more policing.

Commissioner Alcorn (6A08) recognizes two changes at Eastern High School. Principal Sah Brown will be moving to Jackson Reed High School; taking the helm at Eastern will be Steve Miller. Residents have reported that access to the running track and stadium remains inconsistent and the Commissioner is addressing this. The Commissioner attended a virtual quarterly Events DC/RFK meeting. He noted that demolition of RFK Stadium should be completed by the end of 2023; asbestos abatement needs to be carried out. All debris will be trucked out via I-395. He recognized the ongoing efforts of 18<sup>th</sup> and D Streets residents in reprogramming the vacant lot at D Street and reminds everyone that east side of 15<sup>th</sup> Street NE are now Ward 7 residents and encourages new ANC 7D involvement.

Commissioner Chatterjee (6A01) reported problems with bicycle lanes on Florida Avenue NE and is concerned with how long the Washington Gas' project there is taking. There is also a massive uptick in rodents and community members need to handle trash appropriately; DPW should be educating the public on correct practices. There is also an increase in gun violence and the Commissioner would like to dig deeper into Councilmember Allen's recently circulated plan for gun violence reduction.

Commissioner Gentile (6A05) reported gunfire near 15<sup>th</sup> and Isherwood Streets and the Commissioner scheduled a meeting with MPD leaders and community members. Speed bump installation in those alleys might detract from the use of these alleys as getaway routes. The Council will accept comments and testimony on the matter of two single family homes at 13<sup>th</sup> and C Streets until July 20, 2022 at [cow\[at\]dccouncil.us](mailto:cow[at]dccouncil.us).

Commissioner Gove (6A04) gave an update on the grass on Kingsman athletic field, noting that the sprinklers were not turned on and the field will be reseeded. The Commissioner also attended the Events DC/RFK quarterly meeting and they will be providing regular air quality monitoring and asks that Events DC improve any communication on the subject. August 2, 2022 is MPD's National Night Out at Lincoln Park from 5:00-8:00 pm. The C Street Project is currently scheduled for completion for September 2022 and the project website is [www.cstne.com](http://www.cstne.com). The Commissioner heard from DDOT that they plan to proceed with the 1300 North Carolina Avenue project.

### **Community Comments**

MOCRS Jasmine Coilton mentioned that the Mayor's Office of Nightlife will be hosting a town hall on July 26, 2022 at 1:00 pm with a focus on H Street. The annual Department of Public Works (DPW) Truck Touch will take place on July 16, 2022 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at RFK Lot 8. Ms. Coilton can be reached at [Jasmine.coilton\[at\]dc.gov](mailto:Jasmine.coilton[at]dc.gov) or (202) 538-1241.

Jen DeMayo of Councilmember Allen's Office shared a few announcements. The housing assistance fund is set up to help people experiencing hardships due to Covid with homeowner's insurance, mortgage payments, HOA fees, etc. Events DC has community grants and would support nonprofits working in a variety of areas. Councilmember Allen made a video encouraging community members to run for ANC positions.

New Ward 6 map:

[https://planning.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/op/page\\_content/attachments/Ward6\\_ANCSMD2023\\_24x36.pdf](https://planning.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/op/page_content/attachments/Ward6_ANCSMD2023_24x36.pdf)

New Ward 7 map:

[https://planning.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/op/page\\_content/attachments/Ward7\\_ANCSMD2023\\_24x36.pdf](https://planning.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/op/page_content/attachments/Ward7_ANCSMD2023_24x36.pdf)

ANC boundaries: <https://openanc.org/>

DC Homeowner Assistance Fund: <https://haf.dc.gov/>

Events DC Community Grants: [https://eventsdc.com/community/community-grants?utm\\_source=Events+DC+Email+List&utm\\_campaign=6a049b8ff0-](https://eventsdc.com/community/community-grants?utm_source=Events+DC+Email+List&utm_campaign=6a049b8ff0-)

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ANC 6A will not be meeting in August; the next meeting is September 8, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.