

Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Minutes
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
September 9, 2022

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

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

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

Community Presentations:

Public Safety: Linda Harllee Harper, Director, Gun Violence Prevention

Director Linda Harllee Harper noted that this is a concerning time in DC as incidents of gun violence are increasing. The Mayor created the Gun Violence Prevention Emergency Operation Center two years ago in collaboration with the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) and staff were dispatched to communities across the city with the highest levels of gun violence. The center assessed and engaged communities while looking at nationwide research and data. A year ago, an Office of Gun Violence Prevention was created directly within the Office of the City Administrator, and the purpose is to coordinate and collaborate with different government agencies and remove barriers to accessing city services. The Community Justice Action Fund recently released a report on jurisdictions with the best investments in gun violence prevention and DC was the first on the list, reflecting that investments are in the right places and there should be long term positive impacts. For example, the recent investments in the Department of Park & Recreation (DPR) lead to unique programming for teens and at-risk youth. The Office will focus on the People of Promise initiative, trying to find and engage 250 individuals at risk for high gun violence that were identified in a recent assessment by the National Institute of Criminal Justice Reform. Especially as juvenile violence is rising, authorities ask for the help of schools, community members, and faith institutions to identify and engage at-risk youth. DC has one of the strongest juvenile confidentiality laws in the country and the nuances of the juvenile system are not widely understood by the public, and Ms. Harllee Harper recommends having the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) at a future meeting. The DYRS Parent Support Group is called Anchored in Strength and is facilitated by Princess Whitaker Taylor who can be reached at (202) 431-1668. Ms. Harllee Harper can be reached at linda.harlleeharper[at]dc.gov.

Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen

Councilmember Allen recognized that public safety is an urgent priority and has confidence in Commander Bryant, Captain Savoy, and their teams to strategically address the troubling violent incidents happening in Ward 6 and the District as a whole. The Councilmember believes there needs to be a whole-government approach to violence prevention, meaning that government agencies need to be working alongside the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). The government is taking a “both/and” approach, attempting to both prevent cycles of violence and asking deeper questions and responding swiftly when incidents of violence occur. There has been a renewed focus on H Street Corridor, where authorities are focused

both on preventing violence and responding and intervening quickly when it does happen. A concentrated effort must be made, like it was on U Street NW, with increased resources and attention resulting in a lower rate of robberies and violent crime. In response to a shooting near Maury Elementary School, which was a targeted incident, the Councilmember would like to get the Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) and other agencies involved to augment MPD's services. He also reminded the community that in addition to the Red Flag Law, if a family member reports a juvenile's gun possession, that gun can be safely taken away and the juvenile will not be charged with possession. In addition to gun violence, the Councilmember recognizes other public safety concerns, such as reckless driving and notes that we need slower and safer streets, especially as children are walking to school again. The Councilmember continues to support crisis response teams and highly recommends residents take advantage of the security camera rebate program: <https://ovsjg.dc.gov/service/private-security-camera-system-incentive-program>

First District (1D) Commander Tasha Bryant

First District Commander Tasha Bryant participated in summer workshop with other major US city police departments and found that all of these cities are facing the same challenges of increased crime and youth violence. Commander Bryant reported that overall 6A crime is actually down, but there has been a string of violent offences. The nightlife initiative that started on June 17, 2022 on H Street NE is in effect on Friday and Saturday nights, and MPD will install dedicated officers in the corridor, giving the community and business owners to connect with officers and establish relationships. The number of carjackings and stolen cars has decreased; MPD is hoping to modify behavior by letting residents know to not leave their cars idling or in unsafe parking areas. MPD is seeking any additional information or videos from the shooting on Tennessee Avenue NE and the homicide at Eastern High School and ask that residents remain aware of their surroundings and report anything suspicious to MPD. Commander Bryant noted that while there is some controversy around curfews, MPD has mostly been implementing curfews to keep at-risk juveniles at home.

Consent Agenda

The following items were adopted by unanimous consent:

Alcohol Beverage Licensing

- ANC 6A protest the license application of Bronze DC, LLC t/a Bronze DC unless a Settlement Agreement is reached prior to the protest deadline, and that the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC, as well as the Co-Chairs of the ABL Committee and Mr. Velasquez, be authorized represent the ANC in this matter.
- ANC 6A update the existing Settlement Agreement with DC Conscious Cafe, LLC t/a DC Conscious Cafe to reflect the current standard agreement for the ANC, and that the Chair and Vice Chair of the ANC and Commissioner Robb Dooling, as well as the Co-Chairs of the ABL Committee, be authorized to represent the ANC in this matter.
- ANC 6A protest the license renewal application of Chupacabra, LLC t/a Chupacabra 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, be authorized to represent the ANC in this matter.

Transportation and Public Space

- ANC 6A send a letter to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) requesting that the Traffic Safety Investigation (TSI) Dashboard include the entire text of the submission, information about work orders, and planned timeline for resolution.

- ANC 6A write a letter to DDOT in support of the Low Impact Development proposals for the intersections of on West Virginia Avenue/8th Street/K Street and West Virginia Avenue/L Street/9th Street, with the provisions that DDOT retain the south crosswalk on West Virginia Avenue and 8th Street NE, or make the crosswalk at 8th and K Streets NE a raised crosswalk to slow traffic coming around the pocket park and onto West Virginia Avenue NE, and add trees to both new green spaces; and ANC 6A send a letter to DOEE requesting that the bioretention areas be regularly maintained and cleaned.

Economic Development and Zoning (EDZ)

- ANC 6A send a letter of support to HPA for a plan to construct a rear three-story addition; add a partial third floor on the existing house, and renovate the existing house for a home at 223 8th Street NE (HPA 22-329) in the Capitol Hill Historic District.
- ANC 6A send a letter of support to BZA for a special exception pursuant to Subtitle C § 909.2 and Subtitle X § 901.2 from the loading requirements of Subtitle C § 901.1 and Special Exception zoning relief pursuant to Subtitle H § 910, Subtitle H § 1202, and Subtitle X § 901.2 from the design requirements of Subtitle H § 909.1 to raze three existing buildings and to construct a new, six-story with cellar and penthouse, mixed use building at 814 14th Street NE (BZA 20744) in the NC-15 zone.
- ANC 6A send a letter of support to BZA for a special exception under the enlargement and design requirements of Subtitle H § 910.1 and § 1202.1, to construct a mixed-use building at 1341 H Street NE (BZA 19358) in the NC-14 Zone with the caveat that the owner make best efforts to get letters of support from neighbors.
- ANC 6A provide comment to ZC at the public hearing on a proposed Racial Equity Analysis Tool (ZC Case 22-RT1) to evaluate all zoning actions through a racial equity lens. A draft presentation will be delivered to the ANC from the EDZ.

Officer Reports:

1. The July 2022 Treasurer's report by Commissioner Brian Alcorn reviewed the 5 expenditures accrued in July and August: \$765.89 for July webmaster services, \$250 for notetaking, \$58.29 for Zoom Pro/Webinar, \$111.30 For FedEx, and \$465.89 for August webmaster services (Checks #2028-2032, respectively). The ANC had \$4,500.00 in uncashed checks (Checks #2026 and #2027) and \$2,148 in cashed checks. The opening uncommitted funds available were \$31,825.37 and after these disbursements totaling \$1,651.37, and cashed and uncashed checks, the closing available checking balance is \$23,525.64. 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 presented a high-level overview of a proposed ANC 6A FY 2023 budget, noting that typically, an ANC has 60 days after the announcement of the OANC allotment to create a budget, but the OANC has yet to announce the FY 2023 allotment. Using the FY 2022 allotment of \$21,782.63 as a guide and knowing that this number could be adjusted, Commissioner Alcorn proposed a draft budget of \$22,988.70 for FY 2023 and is open to questions and discussion. ANC 6A had approved \$27,841.63 for FY 2022.

Standing Committee Reports:

Community Outreach (COC)

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

2. Commissioner Keya Chatterjee moved and Commissioner Robb Dooling seconded the motion that ANC 6A appoint Kelsey Grimes, Jessica Clark and Iris Gill to the Community Outreach Committee. Iris Gill has not yet attended a COC meeting, and currently Jessica Clark is in ANC 6C and will be in ANC 6A once redistricting takes into effect, which makes her current appointment potentially in conflict with bylaws. Given this, the motion was amended to appoint Kelsey Grimes and Jessica Clark to the COC, either now or when the bylaws permit, after redistricting. The motion passed as amended 6-0.
3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, September 28, 2022 (4th Wednesday; usually 4th Monday)

Alcohol Beverage Licensing (ABL)

1. The July 2022 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent .
2. Commissioner Phil Toomajian will be meeting with concerned community members about Bronze, which appeared on the consent agenda. Meanwhile, residents can submit complaints to ABRA here: <https://abra.dc.gov/service/complaint> or call (202) 329-6347. The settlement agreement will be posted here: <https://anc6a.org/settlementvoluntary-agreements/>
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, September 27, 2022 (4th Tuesday)

Transportation and Public Space (TPS)

1. The July 2022 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent .
2. The Committee moved and Commissioner Chatterjee seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to the DDOT Public Space Commission in support of Brown AME's application to replace their existing chain link fence with a decorative black metal fence no taller than 72 inches and in accordance with the documentation submitted in their application. The new fence will be placed in the exact location as the existing fence and would serve as a safety measure as well as a cleaner, stylistic update. Some community members support the measure while others are worried about the precedent this sets and the height of the fence and suggest moving the fence to the church's private property. In order to qualify as a security measure through the grant, the fence does need to be 72 inches tall. Several Commissioners pointed out the need to be flexible in these trying times and reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to anti racism, as this is a Black-owned church. The motion passed 5-0-1. Commissioner Toomajian abstained.
3. The Committee moved and Commissioner Chatterjee seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT in support of NOI #22-221-TESD to install multimodal safety improvements on C Street NE between 11th and 15th Streets, and request that loss of linear feet of parking for setbacks be minimized to the extent possible while ensuring safety. The motion passed 6-0.
4. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, September 19, 2022 (3rd Monday)

Economic Development and Zoning (EDZ)

1. The July 2022 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent .
2. The Committee moved and Commissioner Chatterjee seconded the motion that ANC 6A provide comment to the Zoning Commission (ZC) at the public hearing on a proposed Racial Equity Analysis Tool (ZC Case 22-RT1) to evaluate all zoning actions through a racial equity lens. A draft presentation will be delivered to the ANC from the EDZ. The ZC has started using the Racial Equity Analysis Tool and zoning amendments now must be viewed with a racial equity lens. The ZC is hosting a roundtable on this topic at 4:00 pm on September 9, 2022 and is soliciting feedback from ANCs. The EDZ has put together a presentation of recommendations and changes to the Tool. The main recommendation is to not only address racial and economic disparities but to reverse their effects in places

where they have already occurred. Another recommendation is that projects should have to list details on the housing provided, including the number of units, their size and their MFI level; overall, the recommendations aim to make projects more objective and measurable. The motion passed 6-0. Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Toomajian seconded the motion to add to the original motion that EDZ Chair Greenfield and Commissioner Dooling be authorized to present on behalf of ANC 6A at the roundtable. The motion passed 6-0.

3. Commissioner Sondra Phillips-Gilbert moved and Commissioner Dooling seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of renewed 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. The motion passed 6-0.
4. The Committee recently accepted the resignation of Daniel McPheeters and would appreciate assistance recruiting new members.
5. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, September 21, 2022 (3rd Wednesday)

Commission Business

New Business:

Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Phillips-Gilbert seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT requesting the addition of a stop at Lincoln Park at East Capitol and 12th Streets (both north and south of the park) to the proposed Deanwood-Union Station Circulator route. The comment period for a new Deanwood-Union Station Circulator Route ends before the next TPS and ANC 6A meetings, so there is no time for an extended comment period in committee. The Circulator will stop at 17th and 8th Streets along East Capitol Street; the motion requests an addition stop at 12th Street. Commissioner Alcorn noted that the Ward 7 map is still incorrect, and that this new route would be a partial replacement for a discontinued D7 bus. The motion passed 6-0.

Single Member District reports

Commissioner Chatterjee (6A01) reported a lot of construction, including unpermitted construction, on Florida Avenue NE, leaving the bike lane there unusable. There is ever increasing gun violence in 6A01, and school has started again, so the Commissioner hopes community members are extra careful as they move around neighborhoods.

Commissioner Toomajian (6A02) welcomed the School within School (SWS) at Goding community back to school as construction continues and hopefully will be finished soon. Mayor Bowser was also in the community to encourage traffic safety, particularly at the intersection of 11th and F Streets NE, where the Commissioner has long advocated for increased safety measures.

Commissioner Gove (6A04) gave a shoutout to DDOT for all-way stops at 16th Street and Constitution Avenue as well as at 19th Street and Constitution Avenue, which will also be narrowed to a one-way. The recent H Street walk was very collaborative and the Commission received helpful feedback from businesses, and they will continue working on the upcoming bus and streetcar priority lane pick-up and drop-off spots.

Commissioner Dooling (6A06) reported a shooting of people in an alley at 15th and Isherwood Streets NE; several Commissioners worked with MPD, Councilmember Allen's office, the mayor, and several government agencies to get a 24/7 camera installed in the alley to deter further activity. They are still working on speedbump installation to deter drive-by shootings. The H Street Festival is scheduled for Saturday September 7, 2022 from 12:00-7:00 pm; the Commissioner encourages residents to support the small businesses in attendance. Finally, ANC 6A will be changing the current ANC 6A Google group to a vehicle for official ANC6A posts and news. ANC 6A resident Felix Duc has volunteered to run a new ANC6 A Community Forum Google group for open discussions.

Commissioner Phillips-Gilbert (6A07) reported a shooting of two young children and is trying to meet with government agencies to discuss safety concerns. Her community is anxious and feel unsafe. DDOT installed three speedbumps on E Street NE. The Commissioner asked for help and support for Mamie Peanut Johnson Court, noting what a positive addition this would be to the Rosedale community.

Commissioner Alcorn (6A08) shares in the excitement about the new all-way stop at 16th Street and Constitution Avenue NE and has received questions about the Eastern High School track and community hours, which is open from 6:30-8PM in addition to the posted signage of 6-8AM. The Commissioner has also received questions about the ongoing DDOT C Street project; community members can access information at www.cstne.com. The ongoing developments at 19th Street and Constitution Avenue NE are pleasant news; the Commissioner looks forward to the installation of the promised protected bike lane there.

Community Comments

Jen DeMayo of Councilmember Allen's Office gave a few legislative updates: the DC Council is about to come back from recess and there are several pieces of legislation upcoming. The Committee on Transportation is going to markup and vote on a bill in September or October 2022 which would provide a \$100.00 monthly balance to all DC residents and makes a major annual investment in bus service. The Internet Equity Bill is also upcoming, which would ensure that every household has access to high-speed affordable internet with a pilot program happening at Potomac Gardens. There are several bills regarding public safety, one of which being an omnibus bill expanding the rights and access of victims of violence and their families.

Ms. Gail Sullivan is wondering if ANC 6A meetings will continue to be virtual and is concerned about lack of and decreased parking due to construction and new bus and bike lanes. Virtual meetings have been approved through November 2022 and will likely continue or at least be hybrid.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 pm.