

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Minutes
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
October 12, 2023**

Present: Commissioners Amber Gove (Chair), Keya Chatterjee, Roberta Shapiro, Dave Wethington, Robb Dooling, Steve Moilanen, and Mike Velasquez were present.

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 6A September 2023 regular and special meetings were accepted. The agenda for the October 2023 meeting was accepted by unanimous consent.

Community Presentations

Commander Colin Hall, Captain Sherrelle Williams, Lieutenant Araz Alali, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) First District (1D)

Commander Colin Hall and his colleagues noted that MPD is focused on improving the neighborhood and making the community as safe as possible, though several issues such as mental health and homelessness are beyond MPD's control. On a recent 1D multi-agency H Street walk, MPD noted several issues in the area and got feedback from residents in the area about people using the alleys as restrooms, graffiti, trash, etc. MPD is deploying resources across the city to monitor several protests and events related to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, while simultaneously responding to neighborhood safety requests. Recently six (6) arrests were made in the area and have set up a bike unit along H Street who are making arrests and enforcing quality of life issues as well as engaging with the community and local business owners. Though progress has been made since the beginning of the year, there are still many robberies happening and extra layers of robbery patrol and suppression have been added throughout the areas seeing persistent robberies, such as the north and south sides of Lincoln Park. Gun violence is also prevalent across the city and the violent crimes division has been very effective in getting guns off the street and apprehending gun violence perpetrators. MPD has been keeping pressure on the Attorney's Office on key arrests to paper these cases and is also training officers on anticipating how the US Attorney's Office will think and act and operate in a manner that will help the case get papered. There is a gun reward program for tips from residents - anyone can text 50411 or 727 9099; these text tips help MPD track trends. The camera rebate program is also highly recommended and can help with a variety of crimes including package theft and carjackings, which are still prevalent due to a popular TikTok challenge. Dangerous driving remains an issue, and several officers have been dedicated to traffic safety, especially around schools. In terms of retention at MPD, the organization has fifty-eight (58) officers more than was previously projected; salaries have been improved, hiring bonuses are \$25,000, and housing assistance is provided. Community members should add the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) 24/7 crisis response number to their phones: (202) 673-6495.

Camera rebate program: <https://ovsjg.dc.gov/page/private-security-camera-rebate-program>
Public Citizens Advisory Council meetings with MPD: <https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/citizens-advisory-councils-cac>

Anwar Saleem, Executive Director, H Street Main Street

Mr. Anwar Saleem urges more presence from the DBH on H Street, as the MPD cannot address mental health and homelessness issues. HIPS on H Street is helping the corridor but more needs to be done for a stronger impact. Several agency programs do not result in any actual or meaningful change in the community. The Main Street area covers not only H Street but is about 3.5 miles and stretches between Bladensburg Road, Mt. Olivet Road, and Kenilworth Avenue NE. A survey conducted recently with businesses along H Street found that safety along the corridor was a main concern, so Mr. Saleem has been working with MPD, the Department of Housing (DOH), DBH and other agencies, as well as with nightlife establishments along the corridor who need to take responsibility and ownership of their customer bases. Security wands will be purchased for these businesses as well as ID scanners for records of all people that come through the building. Mr. Saleem has been placing young people from the area into businesses of interest during the summer, but there need to be more outlets throughout the school year and summer for their energy and time, as well as better infrastructure to prevent crime. Monthly safety meetings will continue, and H Street Main Street will continue to promote establishments along the corridor to highlight their offerings and build larger customer bases for the area. Part of this initiative is a video highlighting some of the corridor's best businesses in conjunction with posting ads across social media and newspapers. There are five major events throughout 2024: Small Business Saturday, Summer Music Series, Day of Dignity, Art All Night, and the H Street Festival. The process has started in developing a Business Improvement District (BID) on H Street. H Street does manage a clean team of three members, but they need a larger budget.

Consent Agenda

The following items were adopted by unanimous consent:

Transportation and Public Space (TPS)

ANC 6A send a letter of support of ANC 7D's resolution for the honorary renaming of the 1300-1600-blocks of A Street NE to recognize the Eastern High School Blue & White Marching Machine.

Officer Reports:

1. The October 2023 Treasurer's report by Commissioner Steve Moilanen reviewed the three expenditures accrued in September: \$765.89 for webmaster services, \$250 for notetaking, \$58.29 for Zoom Premium, (checks #2071-#2073, respectively). The opening uncommitted funds available were \$30,911.33. After accounts payable totaling \$1,074.18 the closing available checking balance is \$29,962.20. The savings account opened at \$100.05, gained no interest, and closed at \$100.05, and petty cash remained at \$25. The Treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. Commissioner Gove moved and Commissioner Roberta Shapiro seconded the motion that ANC 6A submit the FY2025 budget plan as outlined here by Commissioner Moilanen: expected expenses of \$12,890 for regular notetaking and webmaster services and Zoom Premium, plus \$100 of miscellaneous quarterly expenses, and an estimated \$1,000 per quarter in grants yielding \$17,290 annual expected expenses. On the revenue side, OANC said to expect \$4,625 per quarter, yielding \$18,500 annually. The motion passed 7-0.
3. Commissioner Moilanen moved and Commissioner Gove seconded the motion that ANC 6A renew service agreements for package prep/web services and notetaker for FY2024. The motion passed 7-0.

Standing Committee Reports:

Community Outreach (COC)

1. The September 2023 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.

2. Next meeting - October 23, 2023 (4th Monday)

Alcohol Beverage Licensing (ABL)

1. The September 2023 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, October 24, 2023 (4th Tuesday)

Transportation and Public Space (TPS)

1. The September 2023 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Commissioner Gove moved that ANC 6A send a letter of support for NOI-23-198 and requesting a comprehensive study of pedestrian safety and vehicle circulation around Lincoln Park. (<https://ddotwiki.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/NI/pages/2247131313/NOI-23-198-TESD>). The big changes include an increased island for pedestrians and strollers and bringing existing pedestrian ramps to ADA standards; DDOT is hoping to break ground on this project in November and the ANC recommended that they engage with Wine and Butter and consider delivery trucks/loading, as well as raise the crosswalks. Community members can reach out to Abraham Diallo at [Abraham.diallo\[at\]dc.gov](mailto:Abraham.diallo[at]dc.gov) for further DDOT questions. The motion passed 7-0.
3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, October 16, 2023 (3rd Monday)

Economic Development and Zoning (EDZ)

1. The September 2023 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, October 18, 2023 (3rd Wednesday)

New Business

Commissioner Robb Dooling moved and Commissioner Keya Chatterjee seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter of support to DC Councilmembers for the Open Movie Captioning Requirement Act of 2023. This act would require certain DC movie theaters to provide closed captioning at specific showings, a move toward more accessibility in the District. The motion passed 6-0. (Commissioner Shapiro had left the meeting.)

Commission Business

Single Member District (SMD) reports

Commissioner Dave Wethington (6A05) had Commander Hall and the First District team, as well as Ms. Jen DeMayo from Councilmember Charles Allen's office and Mr. Jake Stolzenberg, Ward 6 MOCRS, at his SMD and had a great discussion with residents about neighborhood incidents including robberies. The Commissioner reminded the community to be careful while crossing streets due to traffic safety issues in the District and has also been handling abandoned property concerns. The Commissioner is grateful to the Commission for sharing parking information to pass along to constituents.

Commissioner Mike Velasquez (6A02) noted increased narcotics enforcement at 8th and H Streets and is glad to see increased constituent safety and patronizing of H Street. The Commissioner testified in person at the transportation committee and made sure the Council understood that ANC 6A had passed letters of support. Together with Commissioner Dooling, he met with the representatives of where KitchenCray used to be to discuss what else could be at that location. There are concerns over deliveries at the Nike store as well as human waste in the alley; the Commissioner is looking for support in getting the city to handle it and be responsive - there is not ability to report an incident of human feces to 311, so the recommendation is to report it as animal feces, though this has not been historically effective.

Commissioner Moilanen (6A07) commends the city on the launch of the curbside compost program (the Commissioner's family is among the pilot program). This is part of the city's ambition and commitment to diverting 80% of solid waste by 2032. The Commissioner also offered a note of gratitude for all the work that went into maintaining the Fields at RFK. For Halloween there is no better place to be than East Capitol Street and the Capitol Hill neighborhood in general and he is looking forward to seeing neighbors in costumes.

Commissioner Dooling (6A06) had a productive meeting with representatives of the property where KitchenCray was located with Commissioner Velasquez and shared ways that ANC 6A can help tenants thrive. The Commissioner briefly met with the owner of the new H Street Country Club space, which is planning to open spring 2024 - the owner lives in the neighborhood. On Monday, October 16th there is a DC Streetcar event with three councilmembers at 3939 Benning Road NE in Ward 7: <https://tinyurl.com/dcstreetcar2023>. The Commissioner also met with the owner of H Street Liquors to provide resources on safety and how they can grow. All Traffic Safety Investigation (TSI) locations near Miner Elementary School were selected for deeper safety observation.

Commissioner Chatterjee (6A01) reported that there are finally visibility crosswalks painted in front of JO Wilson. There are many items coming up on the October 17, 2023 TPS agenda, including Florida Avenue issues, where DDOT is finishing the portion of 2nd - 7th Streets. Five commissioners participated in the walkthrough last month during which multiple safety issues were raised. She urges community members to be careful on Halloween as it is the night of the year with the most pedestrian fatalities, so have fun and be careful.

Commissioner Gove (6A04) highlighted appreciation for the recent MPD walk and Spiderman movie screening; there will be another movie on October 27, 2023, Coco. She attended the RFK virtual meeting; the stadium is still supposed to come down by the end of the calendar year, but the community would love to see more transparency from the Events DC team. The mayor will be at the October 18th meeting at 320 21st Street NE at 7:00 pm and community members can learn more and take a survey about RFK preferences at www.rfkfuture.org. Walk and Roll to school day was a great event, although there was also a hit and run on 12th and C Streets NE. Hill Family Biking is organizing a large group ride featuring a Hill is Home judge and there is a costume contest with prizes.

Community Comment

Jen DeMayo expressed appreciation to those that took the time to testify at the traffic and safety hearing. On Wednesday, October 18, 2023 there will be a hearing on the appointment of Mr. Hanlon as Director of the Department of Buildings,. There is a new program to extend certain incentives and benefits to 911 call takers. More information on RFK: <https://www.hailnorfk.com/>

MOCRS Jake Stolzenberg gave an update on MPD walks on Ward 6 and there might be more on H Street; it is helpful to hear concerns on specific items and alleys. There is a walk on Tuesday at 3:00 pm along H Street. Mayor Bowser has made several statements on cracking down on carjackings on Capitol Hill, which have decreased since summer has wound down. DC has several jobs available and many hiring events coming up.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.