

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Minutes
Zoom Meeting
October 9, 2025**

Present: Commissioners Jeff Giertz, Stephen Kolb, Paul Spires, Roberta Shapiro and Mike Velasquez were present. Commissioners Dave Wethington and Amber Gove were absent.

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

Commissioner Mike Velasquez called the meeting to order and noted the presence of a quorum. The minutes for the ANC September 2025 meeting were accepted subject to any minor or technical corrections approved by the Secretary. Commissioner Velasquez moved to amend the order of New Business items on the agenda to move Commissioner Roberta Shapiro's items to the beginning; the motion passed 5-0. The agenda for the October 2025 meeting as amended was accepted by unanimous consent.

The community received meeting notice via listservs, the Hill Rag, ANC website, X, and Facebook.

Community Presentation

Commander Colin Hall, MPD First District

Commander Colin Hall from MPD First District gave an update on crime in DC, noting that crime is down 11% in the city and 12% down in 1D from last year. Violent crime is 17% down in 1D and while robberies and carjackings continue to happen, they are down 28% and 41%, respectively, from last year. The team handling the H Street Corridor made over 150 arrests in the area last year and the area continues to be a priority. There was a stabbing at H & Chicken and a fight spilled onto the street; the victim is in stable condition. There was also a firefighter shot on the 500 block of H Street; the suspect was caught and is being prosecuted. If residents have concerns about specific areas, they can reach out to Lieutenant Matthew Romeo at (202) 597-2028 or Matthew.Romeo[at]dc.gov. In terms of working with the federal government, MPD has always had a relationship with DC federal agencies, but now these agencies are patrolling streets alongside MPD with the mission of reducing crime and increasing safety. ICE is separate and MPD is not engaging with ICE activities.

Consent Agenda:

The following items were adopted by unanimous consent:

Economic Development and Zoning (EDZ)

- ANC 6A send a letter to BZA in support of a special exception to construct a second-story accessory dwelling unit to an existing, detached, accessory garage, in the rear of an existing, attached, two-story with basement, principal dwelling unit at 1231 F Street NE in the RF-1 zone.

- ANC 6A send a letter to BZA in support of a time extension 1207 H Street NE; Square 1004, Lot 342; (BZA 20943A): Submitted by WCP 1207 H Street, LLC, to extend for an additional two years, Board of Zoning Adjustment Order Number 20943, raze an existing structure, and to construct a new, detached, six-story with below-grade parking and penthouse, 184- 210 dwelling unit, mixed-use building in the NMU-7B/H-A zone
- ANC 6A send a letter to BZA in support of a special exception to construct a two-story with basement rear addition, and a garage with second story accessory dwelling unit, to an existing, attached, two-story with basement, principal dwelling unit at 307 15th Street NE in the RF-1 zone.

Transportation and Public Space (TPS)

- ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT requesting replacement of the blinking stop sign at 9th and K St NE and to consider additional safety improvements to the intersection and to 10th and Mass Ave NE.

Officer Reports:

1. The October 2025 Treasurer's report submitted by Commissioner Shapiro reviewed the expenditures accrued in September: \$516.19 for August administrative services. The balance on September 1st was \$31,282.29, and after this distribution of \$516.19, the ending September balance is \$30,766.10. The savings account has a balance of \$100.05. The Treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent.
2. Commissioner Velasquez moved and Commissioner Stephen Kolb seconded the motion that ANC 6A approve the FY2025 4th Quarter report. The motion passed 5-0.
3. Commissioner Shapiro presented a memo about a potential bank change, noting that the Commission currently has about a \$30,000 balance with National Bank but would like to have an interest-bearing account. The Commissioner has researched PNC and Truist and found that Truist seemed more accessible and has a location right outside the ANC. Both would yield about \$700-\$800 of annual interest. The change cannot be made electronically and the balance will need to be physically moved with a check. Commissioner Shapiro moved and Commissioner Velasquez seconded the motion that ANC 6A authorize Commissioner Shapiro to move the ANC's funds to a bank with at least a 3% APY. The motion passed 5-0.

Standing Committee Reports:

Community Outreach (COC)

1. The Committee did not have a quorum for its September 2025 meeting.
2. Next meeting: 7:00 pm, October 27, 2025 (4th Monday) in person at the old AutoZone.

Alcohol Beverage and Cannabis (ABC)

1. No report. ABC did not meet in September 2025.

2. The May 2025 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent subject to any minor or technical corrections approved by the Secretary.
3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, October 28, 2025 (4th Tuesday)

Transportation and Public Space (TPS)

1. The September 2025 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent subject to any minor or technical corrections approved by the Secretary.
2. ANC 6A authorized TPS to provide comment on a plan to install benches in a pocket park near West Virginia Avenue and 8th Street.
3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, October 20, 2025 (3rd Monday)

Economic Development and Zoning (EDZ)

1. The September 2025 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent subject to any minor or technical corrections approved by the Secretary.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, October 15, 2025 (3rd Wednesday)

New Business:

- Commissioner Shapiro moved and Commissioner Kolb seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to the DC Council, Director Brian Hanlon DOB, and Director Sara Benjamin Bardin with copies sent to Utku Aslanturk, CEO of Dila Developments, Attorney General Brian Schwalb and ANC 6C regarding real estate developments by Dila Developments (ANC 6A at 1000-1014 H Street NE and ANC 6C at 901 3rd Street NE) and to request that ANC 6C consider sending a similar letter to the cited parties.

Dila Developments owns the property and has come before the Commission a few times over the past years seeking exceptions to guidelines. The building is now vacant and a negative presence in the neighborhood. The Commission is concerned and distressed about the developer's mismanagement of the building and worried it will bring the same attitude to other projects. The motion passed 5-0.

- Commissioner Shapiro moved and Commissioner Kolb seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter in support of after-hours permit for Goding Elementary School - 920 F Street NE, Washington DC 20002 for work on Sundays and holidays. The letter is to be sent to Andrew Walker at DCPS with copies to John Burst at SWS, Alan Karnofsky at DGS and Nicole Rogers at DOB. Permission is also requested to sign and send a copy of the letter below immediately following approval.

The school has a water infiltration and mold problem and would like to expedite work to fix the problem by November, after which it will be too cold to complete the project. The contractors are willing to work on weekends and holidays but need a special permit from DOB. The motion passed 5-0.

- Commissioner Velasquez moved and Commissioner Shapiro seconded the motion that ANC 6A take no action on the Renewal of a class C tavern license for Paste

& Rind, LLC dba Paste & Rind, 904 H Street NE (ABRA-122723). The motion passed 5-0.

- Commissioner Velasquez moved and Commissioner Paul Spires seconded the motion that ANC 6A take no action on a Renewal of a class C tavern license with sidewalk cafe endorsement for Hoost, LLC dba Nomad Hookah Bar, 1200 H Street NE (ABRA-087558). The motion passed 5-0.
- Commissioner Velasquez moved and Commissioner Spires seconded the motion that ANC 6A take no action on a Renewal of a class C tavern license with summer garden endorsement for Queen Vic, LLC dba The Queen Vic, 1206 H Street NE (ABRA-083930). The motion passed 5-0.
- Commissioner Velasquez moved and Commissioner seconded the motion that ANC 6A protest the medical cannabis license for Proper Exotic at 313 8th Street NE (ABRA-128697), unless a settlement agreement is reached and that the Chair, Vice Chair, ABC Chair and Commissioner Kolb represent ANC 6A in negotiations.

Commissioner Velasquez noted that the ABCA facilitator said that, in all her years at ABCA, she has never seen an applicant willing to change their trade name, which this applicant is willing to consider as a gesture of working with the community. Mr. Musa Al-Najah, the applicant, spoke about the security protocols - first, nobody will enter without an ID and a medical card. There is a two-door system that customers need to be buzzed through. Once customers are in the waiting room, their credentials are verified and they are then allowed into the sales room which is similar to a pharmacy - nothing is visible and all products are securely locked away. Neighbors continue to express concern about the safety and location of this establishment. The ANC is prohibited from engaging lawyers to clarify whether Petit Scholars should indeed count as a preschool, but neighbors can hire a lawyer independently. The motion failed with a 2-3 vote; Commissioners Spires, Shapiro, and Kolb voted nay.

Single Member District reports

Commissioner Kolb (6A07) appreciates neighbors making their voices heard and watching democracy in action. He is sorry we cannot achieve what we want but will keep trying.

Commissioner Jeff Giertz (6A06) gave an update on Preventative Measures, who hosted a community meeting on October 1st to talk about neighborhood concerns and work towards constructive solutions. The conversation was helpful and productive and there are follow-up steps to come; the Commissioner is glad to be making progress and excited to see what's to come.

Commissioner Shapiro (6A03) reported a spate of very unusual vandalism incidents along F street and around Sherwood Park. Two neighbors woke up to find Lime scooters on the roofs of their cars leaving dents and scratches; this has been reported to MPD. There has also been rock throwing at cars and houses and playground equipment, clothing, and debris has been set on fire at the playground at Sherwood.

The Commissioner is hoping to find the individuals involved. The community has felt that Sherwood is not optimized in terms of the services it provides and the Commissioner sent out a survey that received responses from 289 households. The preliminary analysis was shared with DPR and DGS and will be shared with Councilmember Allen before widely distributing the results. There is a hunger for more programming at the facility and there is concern about loitering, drug, and alcohol use, cleanliness and safety, and a general unwelcoming attitude.

Commissioner Spires (6A01) noted that pizza is temporarily closed but they did not properly discard their trash so there have been complaints about rodents in the area; MOCRs are aware and making a plan to address the issue. There was an impromptu gathering in the alley near Wiley Street after the H Street Festival. The Commissioner continues to enjoy the neighborhood Sunday morning cleanup and encourages neighbors to get involved.

Commissioner Velasquez (6A02) announced with mixed emotions his resignation from the ANC at the end of this month after deep reflection about what is best for his community and family. The Commissioner is proud of the work this ANC has done, including sidewalk repairs, traffic calming, and welcoming new bars and restaurants to H Street.

Community Comment

Ms. Jen DeMayo from Councilmember Allen's office recognized Commissioner Velasquez's service and shared some announcements - the DC Streetcar is going to discontinue service at the end of March. The corridor will need excellent options to connect Union Station, Benning Road, and the new RFK campus. The Council granted the mayor power to issue marriage licenses during the shutdown. For neighbors affected by the shutdown, there is a list of resources available at www.CharlesAllenWard6.com. Attorney General Schwalb has secured the first successful judgment in civil court against a dangerous driver with more than \$77,000 in tickets. The DMV has announced that at the beginning of this month, someone who is convicted of criminal reckless driving will have a speed governor installed for a year. DC has seen a dramatic drop in traffic deaths this year. Last week, the Council held a hearing to create a bottle redemption program, which could be a great way to reduce litter.

MOCR Noah Glasgow sent an update, noting that starting January 1st, 2026, DC is projecting that 25,000 residents will lose Medicaid eligibility based on income. To combat this loss, the DC Health Benefits Exchange has created the Healthy DC Plan, which has no cost to the enrollee and will start as soon as Medicaid ends so there will not be a gap in coverage. The only change is that the Healthy DC Plan does not cover adult vision, adult dental, non-emergency housing, and community behavioral supports. Last week, Mayor Bowser previewed four pieces of legislation as part of the growth agenda and also announced nine recipients of DC's Vitality Fund.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.