

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Special Meeting on Redistricting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
December 2, 2021**

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

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

Commissioner Amber Gove called the meeting to order and announced the presence of a quorum. The agenda for the Special Meeting on Redistricting was accepted by unanimous consent.

New Business:

Commissioner Brian Alcorn moved and Commissioner Laura Gentile seconded the motion that ANC 6A send a letter to all DC Councilmembers in response to the Redistricting Subcommittee's map proposal and report.

Commissioner Alcorn recognized the difficulty of redistricting and Councilmembers Silverman, Henderson, and Bonds for keeping so many competing priorities in mind throughout the process. However, the map proposed by the subcommittee does not meet the six guiding principles of redistricting and fails ANC 6A08, ANC 6A, and Capitol Hill as a whole. While the ANC unanimously agreed in its November meeting that all of Capitol Hill should remain in Ward 6, the proposed map reassigns roughly 7,500 Capitol Hill residents to Ward 7 and draws an arbitrary line on 15th Street NE and SE. The proposed map may be minorly tweaked but not wholly adjusted, therefore Commissioner Alcorn urges all ANC 6A Commissioners to turn to more temperate and practical solutions that still bring equality to and resonate with their constituents. Among these recommendations is adjusting the border between Wards 6 and 7 southward to keep all of ANC 6A within Ward 6. The current proposed border along 15th Street not only splits a community of interest but is geographically illogical and crosses a census tract, failing three redistricting principles. The recommended redrawn boundary should be either East Capitol Street SE or Independence Avenue SE, as these provide more natural boundaries than 15th Street. While one of ANC 6A's proposals - reunifying Kingman park wholly in Ward 6 - is represented in the proposed map, Commissioner Alcorn argued that the exchange of Kingman Park residents, some of whom do not want to rejoin Ward 6, for 1,100+ ANC 6A08 residents is unnecessary and volatile. These recommendations allow Capitol Hill residents who attend Maury Elementary, Miner Elementary, Eliot-Hine Middle, and Eastern High to share the same State Board of Education member, providing more stability to students and their families throughout the different stages of education. Commissioners Sondra Philips-Gilbert, Phil Toomajian, and Mike Soderman voiced strong support for these recommendations and gratitude for all Commissioners and community members for their continued involvement. The motion passed 7-0.

Community Comments

Several community members expressed their gratitude to the Commission for their continued work in voicing community interests to the Subcommittee. Chris Downie articulated concerns about residential and retail zoning and how new residential properties will further change the populations of Wards 6 and 7.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.