

Minutes
ANC 6A Community Outreach Committee (COC) of Advisory Neighborhood
Commission (ANC) 6A
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Regular Meeting - Feb. 27, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

Quorum present.

COC members present: Adina Wadsworth (Chair), Kelsey Grimes, Clare Dougherty, Gail Sullivan, Stephanie Myers, Elizabeth Corinth, Angelique Dorazio Sanders

COC members absent: None

Commissioners present: Robb Dooling, Steve Moilanen

Panelists: Chibundo Egwuatu, HIPS; Commissioner Moilanen

A round of introductions were made.

Panel Discussion #1:

Chibundo Egwuatu, Sex Worker Advocate for HIPS, advised the Committee that there would be some initiatives to promote safety for sex workers coming to the neighborhood. Before listing the initiatives, she asked to address Committee and Commissioner concerns (and those of our neighbors.)

Commissioner Robb Dooling asked Ms. Egwuatu how to address the issue of used condoms left on sidewalks. Ms. Egwuatu informed him that any resident can call HIPS and have a biohazard team come to clean up the debris associated with sex work.

Chair Adina Wadsworth asked how HIPS addresses trafficking of sex workers, especially minors. Ms. Egwuatu explained that through deep connections with the workers, HIPS can redirect people who may be working against their will.

Committee member Gail Sullivan asked how to prevent sex workers from using private porches as their own (“after the clubs let out...”). Since it is not known whether those individuals are sex workers or club goers, it is tricky. But if they are known as sex workers, call the HIPS hotline (1-800-676-4477) and HIPS get someone there.

Ms. Egwuatu listed the initiatives HIPS will be undertaking very soon for community awareness and opportunities for neighbors to support HIPS:

- Deep canvassing in neighborhoods in support of passing decriminalization laws for sex work;
- Sex worker safety patrols to commence by the end of March 2023 (once training is finished) to include volunteer tables with biowaste disposal sites and snacks;

- Porch lights for safety - support residents who wish to make their porches safe havens for sex workers to install specific lighting.

Committee member Sullivan asked about the training HIPS volunteers go through. Are sex workers limited to an area (as K Street NE seems very popular)? Ms. Egwuatu said it was 40 hours of harm reduction training. The workers go to where the clients know to find them, which happens to be K Street NE.

The Committee thanked Ms. Egwuatu for the information and look forward to working with HIPS in the future to keep sex workers and our neighborhoods safe.

Panel Discussion #2: Commissioner Steve Moilanen revisited a discussion on how to honor a recently deceased, long-time member of our community, Mr. William Outlaw.

Commissioner Dooling suggested ANC 6A, though Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen, request a City Council resolution in honor of Mr. Outlaw. The motion was put before the Committee and passed unanimously. The motion will be referred to ANC 6A as a “Consent Agenda” item. Commissioner Moilanen accepted the action for writing the letter.

Community Comments: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.