

Minutes
ANC 6A Community Outreach Committee (COC) of
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Regular Meeting - August 24, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.
Quorum present.

COC members present: Roni Hollmon (Chair), Stefany Thangavelu, Gladys Mack and Jason Gresh
COC members absent: None

Commissioners present: Amber Gove, Phil Toomajian, Marie-Claire Brown, Michael Soderman, Stephanie Zimny, Sondra Phillips-Gilbert and Brian Alcorn

Community members present: Kris Garrity, Sam Deluca, Stephanie Deluca, Niq Clark, Colin Alford, Madeline Gitomer, Marc Friend, Kia Chatterjee, Damiana Dendy, Chris Deutsch, Rachel Alford, Rico Dancy, Katie Ali, Robb Dooling, Emma Taylor (interpreter) and Ashley Pigliavento (interpreter)

The meeting began with a Community Listening Session regarding the letter ANC 6A sent to the DC Council in support of MPD funding and that constituents were not provided with opportunity to submit input regarding the letter. Commissioner Sondra Phillips-Gilbert noted that, due to technical issues, she did not vote on the letter. Chair Veronica Hollmon requested that community members who made comments send written copies of those comments to her. The Committee will forward all comments received. A synopsis of the listening session begins below.

Synopsis of ANC 6A COC Community Listening Session

Timeline of events

June 11, 2020, the ANC Commissioners voted 7-0 to approve to send a letter to the Mayor in support of MPD.

June 14, 2020, ANC 6A letter was sent to the DC Council.

July 6, 2020, Hill Rag published an article regarding ANC 6A support of MPD

July 9, 2020, July 9, 2020 ANC 6A meeting - time expired before residents could speak at the ANC meeting regarding the MPD letter.

August 3, 2020, Change.org petition posted online.

July 29, 2020, Email with attached letter sent to Commissioners.

August 7, 2020, Commissioner Gove responded to the email.

August 10, 2020, Follow up email from constituents.

August 14, 2020, Commissioner Gove responded to the email.

August 24, 2020, COC Listening Session, 7 of 8 Commissioners present.

Actions proposed by community members

- Recommendations for action by ANC 6A be distributed to the community prior to the Commission's meetings.
- Residents of ANC 6A be recognized and allowed to comment upon the Commission's actions at all future meetings of the Commission.
- Residents of ANC 6A be given ample time during the ANC 6A September 2020 meeting to voice their concerns about the MPD.
- ANC 6A support strong investment in funding programs like violence interrupters, housing, school counselors, support for students, child care and mental health care instead of a budget increase for the police.

- ANC 6A examine the effects of gentrification on the community as a whole and engage the community to address those effects.
- Steps that ANC 6A plan to take to address the serious and valid concerns raised in their citizen letter to restore the trust of concerned citizens.

COC Suggestions to address concerns

As stated at the meeting, the original letter cannot be retracted since the DC Council has acted upon the budget. If the budget is revisited by the Council, the COC suggests writing a letter with a heavier focus on the societal issues facing ANC 6A. Though these societal issues were included in the original letter sent, perhaps the ANC can come up with a formula or amount for each area that is far more equitable. The COC will supply a draft letter as is the standard when recommendations are proposed to the Commission.

ANC 6A may wish to consider writing a letter apologizing that constituents felt slighted by the inability to have their voices heard prior to the submission of the letter. In the future, ANC 6A will make best efforts to ensure community feedback is received prior to a vote, but the Commission should also ensure that the community understands that when an issue has a short time frame for response or is added to the agenda at the beginning of a meeting, they may not have the opportunity to weigh in on the issue; remind them they can always contact their Commissioner with any issues at any time.

If the Commission decides to send a letter, the draft should be distributed to the community with a 30 day comment period for constituents. As of September 3, 2020, 99 constituents have signed the change.org petition regarding this issue. (ANC 6A represents approximately 16,000 constituents.)

The COC suggests that any individuals who testified at the ANC 6A COC Community Listening Session and submitted their written testimony, need only add comments which were not previously shared during the September 10, 2020 ANC 6A meeting.

Recommendation: ANC6A add this issue to the September agenda and provide adequate time for Commissioners to comment on input from residents pertaining to the ANC6A Letter to Council dated June 14, 2020. For further consideration, ANC6A to draft a follow up letter to the Council which includes comments from ANC 6A residents (attached here) and allows for a 30 day comment period for other residents to share any written comments related to this topic and outlines what investments should be prioritized by Council for any funding adjustments in the coming month.

During the community listening session, it came to the Committee's attention during the testimony of Rico Dancy that MPD officers that responded to him on a call, were not inclined to contact an interpreter for Mr. Dancy, who self-identified as being deaf/hard of hearing. In addition, Mr. Dancy and others have said officers have not been wearing face masks when interacting with the public.

Recommendation: ANC6A write letters to Commander Morgan C. Kane, First District and Commander William Fitzgerald, Fifth District to raise concerns about reports from constituents that MPD are not in compliance with current health and safety guidelines and other regulations pertaining to ensuring reasonable accommodations for all community members, including sign language interpretation.

The Committee discussed the issue that the opening of DC Parks and Recreation Facilities is included in Phase 3 rather than Phase 2 of COVID guidelines. The Committee expressed concern regarding longstanding events, such as the Halloween Celebration held at Rosedale Recreation Center, which is sponsored by Commissioner Sondra Phillips-Gilbert, being in jeopardy and wanting

guidance for how the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) plans to ensure this event occurs and how to hold this event safely for the community.

Recommendation: ANC 6A write a letter to DPR inquiring how they plan to ensure access to recreation centers and facilities for the community going forward.

Finally, the Committee had a discussion about the myriad problems faced by schools for the coming 2020-21 school year. After a robust discussion, a decision was made to poll the schools to see what needs have not been met and any other concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

The next regular meeting of the ANC 6A COC will be September 28, 2020 at 7:00 pm