

District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013



July 2, 2007

Chief Cathy Lanier
Metropolitan Police Dept.
Government of the District of Columbia
300 Indiana Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chief Cathy Lanier:

At our regularly scheduled meeting on June 14, 2007 with a quorum present, our Commission voted unanimously to respectfully respond to your letter regarding locating a station for the First District in Northeast DC and staffing for Patrol Service Areas (PSA) 102 and 103.

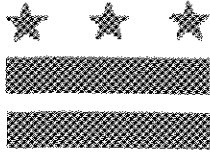
We appreciate your response and understand that there are limits to every budget and the explanation of the formula planned for determining officer allocation. We again respectfully request that either the main First District station be moved to Northeast or that PSA 102 and 103 be provided a substation in Northeast. We feel that the benefits to public safety far outweigh the costs. Most of PSA 102 and 103 was originally part of the Fifth District that has a nearby station. When this territory in Northeast was transferred to the First District, it expanded the space and residents that officers in the First District cover.

When the plans to move the First District station were created that involved moving the station to Virginia Ave, SW, it further emphasized the distance placed between our police officers and the community of Northeast DC. We would appreciate you reconsidering the location of the First District Main Station. At minimum, PSA 102 and 103 should be housed in the same station to facilitate a smooth and safe transition for the Benning Road / H Street corridor. This is critical as these two PSAs share three borders, Ninth Street, Maryland Avenue, and Benning Road.

We appreciate the calculations that have completed with regards to staffing. We want to ensure that PSA 102 and 103, along with the rest of the First District, will have enough officers to remain proactive rather than reactive. We are concerned that 2004 and 2006 calls for service and crime numbers will not accurately predict future criminal activity in an area. First District Commander Diane Groomes is terrific at ensuring that areas are staffed; however, it is important that our officers do not have to move to a reactive position.

When determining staffing levels, calculations need to include the projected increase in residents, visitors, and tourists to both PSA 102 and 103. In both PSAs there are many vacant commercial and non-commercial properties that are being developed for housing, entertainment and retail uses. Over the next few years, we anticipate that there will be a significant increase in new residents to both PSAs as well as more visitors/tourists seeking the Benning Road / H Street corridor. Both items should increase calls for service in these PSAs and criminal activity.

As your statistics indicate, PSA 103 had the second highest number of homicides in 2006. Crime is most likely to increase before it decreases again. We strongly request that any officer detailed



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from a PSA to a tactical unit no longer be counted as among the officers available to the PSA. Both PSAs have significant ongoing drug activity despite the efforts of MPD. This activity leads to violence. It is of utmost importance that PSAs 102 and 103 have ample staff to handle the increased demands of the neighborhoods and the Benning Rd/H Street Corridor.

In close, we appreciate your response and your honesty. We appreciate the work of First District Commander Diane Groomes. We would appreciate a commitment to maintain the officers allocated to these PSAs as well as consideration of placing either the Main First District Station in Northeast DC, and to consider the need to house PSAs 102 and 103 at the same facility. We believe the tactical situation warrants a police station in Northeast. If MPD concurs, then the community can work with the Council to seek additional funding to meet the tactical requirements.

We look forward to your response.

On behalf of the Commission,

Joseph Fengler
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

CC: 1st District Commander Diane Groomes
Councilmember Tommy Wells, Ward 6
Councilmember Kwame R. Brown, At-Large
Councilmember Carol Schwartz, At-Large
Councilmember David Catania, At-Large