

ANC6a Public Safety Committee  
NOTES  
Sherwood Recreation Center  
February 19, 2008

**Committee members present:** Dr. Stephanie Nixon (Chair, Commissioner ANC6a08), Ms. Annie Swingen, Mr. Joe Bellino, Mr. Daniel Wolff

A quorum was achieved.

Dr. Nixon called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Letters to be submitted:

1. Annie Swingen to draft a letter to the head of OUC on behalf of ANC6A

Action items:

1. The committee voted unanimously to recommend that ANC6A accept the 2008 updated goals.
2. The committee voted unanimously to recommend that the head of the Office of Unified Communications attend a full ANC 6A meeting.
3. The committee voted unanimously to support the nomination of Darlene DeGraffenreidte to the Public Safety Committee.
4. The committee voted unanimously to shift to quarterly meetings, however, agreeing to meet separately as needed.

Discussion of Office of Unified Communications (OUC)

Dr. Nixon continued to the discussion regarding the inconsistent coding of calls made to the police. Committee members agreed that improper coding can lead to life or death situations and we cannot conduct an objective review of the responsiveness of MPD due to the unreliable coding of calls. In addition to the committee vote to invite the head of OUC to a full ANC meeting, the following recommendations were presented:

- Request for publicly stated guidelines/criteria used by OUC operators
- Committee members and Commissioners draft quests for OUC
- Establish how OUC determined the reliability and validity of calls taken (i.e., is there some sort of quality control? Do they review calls and cross-check with how they are categorized?)
- Can callers receive tracking numbers (similar to how 727-1000 calls were tracked)? This would increase the level of accountability on the part of OUC/DCPS
- Can OUC/DCPS introduce a web-based method of reporting (again, with tracking/reference numbers) similar to other DC municipal services?

Crimestoppers and texting in Boston

Mr. Bellino introduced information to the committee regarding “texting” of police tips in Boston. Boston PD routes texts to a specific account and can be done anonymously. According to Boston PD, they will not look into who sent a text, however, as tips are assigned a tracking number, those who text in information can receive a \$1000 reward if their tip leads to an arrest.

Given that the program began in 2007, more research needs to be conducted regarding the efficacy of this new method of communicating tips to the police, however, the committee agreed to this is program that deserves more exploration. Specifically, this might be useful to MPD regarding high and low profile cases.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.