

ANC6a Public Safety Committee
NOTES
Sherwood Recreation Center
July 18, 2007

Committee members present: Stephanie Nixon (Chair, Commissioner ANC6A08), Annie Earley, Daniel Wolff

Committee members absent: Laura Brown, Mark Laisch, Joe Bellino

Commissioners: Gladys Mack, ANC6A07

Police officers – Sgts Weaver and Martello (MPD-1D)

Government representative(s): Alicia Washington – Office of the Attorney General (Neighborhood and Victims Services)

A quorum was not achieved

Ms. Nixon called the meeting to order at 9:07 PM

Letters to be submitted:

1. Any letters not submitted from last months meeting. All should be sent out prior to September meeting.
 - a. Committee member Laura Brown researching how many agencies accept email requests (e.g., OAG, DCRA, Chief of Police, etc.)
 - b. Laura Brown volunteered to write a letter to the DC Dept. of Health regarding nuisance properties on Gales Street

Action items:

1. Discuss cooperation opportunities on the proposed Graffiti Reduction Act with ED&Z Committee Chair Drew Ronneberg.
2. Laura Brown researching DC agencies availability (24 hours/day?)
3. Dan Wolff to report on preferred format for online DC Community Resource guide

No ANC 6a PSC meeting in August

A. Office of Unified Communications (OUC)

1. The committee will continue to work with the OUC in an effort to schedule a visit to a PSC meeting.
2. The committee would like to better understand the validity and reliability for the coding of calls for service – what is the procedure?
 - a. Ms. Nixon noted that when calls for service are placed, they are routed to the OUC.
 - b. She also noted that some neighborhoods track time and reason calls are placed and follow up to see what OUC reports.

- c. OAG uses calls to determine what, for example, is a drug nuisance property. So if community reports are not coded properly, they are not helpful in making a case- OAG needs to be able to identify drug-related nuisance properties.

B. Office of the Attorney General – Alisha Washington, Chief of the Neighborhood and Victims Division

- A. Criminal section: prosecute adult traffic offenses, quality of life offenses (e.g., drinking in public, public fighting, etc.)
- B. Juvenile section: prosecutes all juveniles under 18 for all criminal offenses. If he/she is 16 and commit serious offenses, he/she can be charged as an adult and prosecuted by the US Attorney’s Office.
- C. Neighborhood and victims’ services section: Deal with civil litigation, nuisance properties, drug nuisance properties (with US Attorney), prostitution, housing code violations, slum lords, lead base paint abatement cases, etc.
 - a. OAG provides attorneys for core teams in various wards
 - b. Cases cannot be papered by OAG if US Attorney General’s office is to pick up case (e.g., 16 year old criminal offenses)
 - c. **Nuisance properties:**
 - i. OAG works with DCRA, DHS and MPD when dealing with nuisance properties. Thus, it is important to have consistent coding and reporting of complaints of nuisance properties to increase efficiency and effectiveness in prosecuting true nuisance properties.
 - ii. The OAG focuses on the TOP 24 nuisance properties in DC.
 - iii. House seizure is the last option. Only occurs when there exists significant drug problems in a house and the owner is involved. Most problems are related to absentee owners.
 - d. Ms. Washington promised to send the committee juvenile crime statistics and quality of life charges for 2007
 - i. Such information may be of use when dealing with issues such as the H Street single-sale moratorium
- D. Questions from the committee:
 - Q. What is the threshold to get police to visit a suspicious house?
 - A. *MPD has no threshold. If they believe that suspicious activity is occurring, they will send a vice unit to monitor the property. Problem lies in limited resources*
 - Q. How do the police choose what properties on which to follow-up?
 - A. *If MPD receives multiple complaints regarding a nuisance property, they are more likely to investigate.*
 - Q. Often OAG decides not to prosecute – what does USAO pick-up?
 - A. *USAO picks up cases concerning minors who have been accused of committing serious crimes. DC statute gives US attorney power to prosecute minors as adults – so have to “no paper” such cases.*

C. Graffiti Reduction Bill (Daniel Wolff)

- 1. The bill was introduced on June 29 by Councilmember Vincent Gray and is directed at neighborhood clean-up.

2. Mayor Fenty and his delegates have committed to enforcing a clean-up of graffiti around the city regardless of whether property owner is responsible.
3. The bill proposes that property owners are warned and granted a certain amount of time to clean-up property. If they do not respond or clean-up graffiti, they will receive a citation,

D. Public Safety Research

1. Commissioner Nixon introduced the work of sociologist Debra Furholden.
 - a. Ms. Nixon is currently in contact with Ms. Furholden in an effort to conduct a trial study of DC's neighborhood demographics and public safety issues.

E. Old Business

1. Concerns regarding repeat offenders
 - a. Definitions: probation – not sentenced to jail, but penalized. If violate probation, they must return to court and potentially be sentenced to serve time.
parole – served time in jail and released. Regularly monitored.
2. Motorbikes – police officers present at the PSC meeting clarified questions brought up at our June meeting
 - a. Anything 49 CCs or under is considered a moped
 - b. No motorized vehicle may be driven on the sidewalks (with the exception of segways) and it is illegal to drive recklessly
 - c. Police officers confirmed that they cannot chase bike riders
 - d. If motor bikes are parked on private property, police cannot confiscate them
 - e. All motorcycle riders must wear helmets.

F. Updates

1. DC Guide – committee exploring online options (google,yahogroups etc.)
2. Teen Summit LIVE – 40 days of peace
3. National Night Out – First Tuesday of each month. Each PSA plans on organizing events
 - a. PSA 103 is meeting at Rosedale Recreation Center
 - b. PSA 102 is walking down H St NE
4. School supply donations are needed for schools in ANC6a
5. Community fight back– community fight back at 18th and D Streets, NE. Food will be provided. Details forthcoming.
6. DC School Beautification Day – August 25, 8AM-1PM. Contact Naimah Beyah at (202) 727-0488 to register or for more information visit:
www.k12.dc.us/community/beautificationday2007.htm

G. Community Comments

1. Property damage at 17th and Gales Street, NE. Neighbor (victim) is requesting a police report. The committee recommended that the neighbor go to the 1D substation and speak with police about the incident and her request.
2. Community members can now track requests made via 727-1000 or online at the DC Service request center

- a. The PSC suggested that illegal construction and photo functionality be added to the site. It was added that this would help contest parking citations

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM