

ANC6A Public Safety Committee
November 19, 2009 Meeting Minutes
Sherwood Recreation Center
640 10th Street NE

Meeting called to order at 7:12 p.m.

Committee members present: Commissioner Kelvin Robinson (Co-chair), Rebecca Sibilias (Co-chair), Todd Hames

Committee members absent: Brandon Lumm, Dan Wolff

Commissioners present: David Holmes (6A03)

Community members present (sign-ins only): Anwar Saleem (Executive Director, H Street Main Street), C. Stewart (Investigator, ABRA), Joshua Hopkins (Outreach and Services Specialist, Executive Office of the Mayor), Dana Wyckoff, Brit Wyckoff, Del McFadden, (Columbia Heights Shaw Family Support Collaborative), Clif and Nyika Humphries (Martini Lounge), Lieutenant Gary Durand (MPD).

- I. Community Discussion: H Street Crime: There has been much concern related to recent crime activity on H Street, particularly within the "Arts and Entertainment" district, which spans from approximately 12th Street NE to 14th Street NE.
 - A. Anwar Saleem, Executive Director of H Street Main Street, presented to the committee ideas related to how the H Street business community can, as part of a coordinated community effort, contribute to crime reduction. He indicated that H Street Main Street is pursuing the following as initial steps:
 - i) Reimbursable security detail. This would be funded partially by businesses along the corridor, and partially by the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration. The purpose of the detail is to establish a greater security presence that would be dedicated specifically to this area of H Street, and during peak utilization hours (evenings and weekends). Vendors are currently working with ABRA on these details. *The chair recommended that this item be referred to PSA 102 as part of the police-specific tactical recommendations that could be considered to address this problem.*
 - ii) Creating a Technical Assistance Workshop Program. Because there are many security requirements that businesses must comply with, and enhancements related to security that can be addressed through policies and procedures of businesses along the corridor, Main Street staff would like to offer technical assistance workshops to H Street business to promote greater attention to the issue, increase knowledge about security and specific hospitality-related suggestions to increase visitor, worker, community and proprietor safety. *The Committee recommended that Main Street consider submitting a grant request to the ANC to support this initiative and indicated support for seeking targeted District funding to support the same.*
 - iii) Creating a H-Street Hospitality Group comprised of businesses, community and the District to meet on a regular basis to discuss issues along the corridor, as well as to

consider how to promote visitor safety, diversity in commerce and the ongoing positive development of H-Street, as a community friendly destination.

MOTION: The Rebecca Sibilia offered a motion, seconded by Todd Hames, that the ANC either partner with H-Street Mainstreet or seek to spearhead the initial creation of an H-Street Hospitality Group to promote visitor safety, diversity in commerce and the ongoing positive development of H-Street, as a community friendly destination. The motion passed unanimously.

B. C. Stewart, ABRA Investigator, presented to the committee ideas related to how voluntary agreements and other policies put forth by the ANC and vendors alike could enhance security along the corridor. Specifically:

- i) Require security plans in Voluntary Agreements: The ANC should consider mandating a security plan, similar to those required for “night clubs” in current regulations, which specifically address security in venues where alcohol is served in a “nightlife” setting. He noted further that some ANCs have gone so far as to automatically deny support for renewals of licenses until such time as security plans are included in the VA. Security plans allow ABRA Investigators to respond in a more clear-cut manner to issues related to crime prevention when specifically included in a VA. He added further that the ANC consider adding elements specifically passed by the ABC Board related to enhanced security plans, such as incident logs, industry standards related to ID checks, checking bags at the door, etc. *The Chair indicated that this suggestion will be referred to the ANC ABL Committee for consideration and offer the committee’s assistance as needed regarding the same, particularly for considering new venues on H Street.*
- ii) Strongly support a reimbursable detail. Investigator Stewart supported H Street Main Street’s pursuit of a reimbursable detail for peak hours, and provided a broader explanation of ABRA’s direct role in approving and covering costs of an MPD detail to H Street. Again, *the Chair indicated that this recommendation will be referred to PSA 102 for consideration.*

C. Josh Hopkins, Ward 6 Outreach Specialist with the Executive Office of the Mayor, requested feedback from the community related to how EOM could support increased crime prevention aspects of H Street. The following was recommended and supported by Mr. Hopkins:

- i) An immediate DDOT lighting survey, which will specifically review lighting of the corridor with the intent of providing temporary additional street lights during the current H Street construction phase.
- ii) Deploy a special “Economic Development, Hospitality-Focused Core Team” to look at what the District can do to expedite additional anchor development options in the area to diversify offerings and visitor traffic.
- iii) A review, in conjunction with DDOT, the placement of current construction barriers, and how they may be increasing opportunities for crime by creating blind spots in poorly lit areas along walking corridors.
- iv) Review parking options, specifically to review the former commitment of allowing eight additional parking spaces on each intersection along the corridor that would enhance parking options for visitors to improve safety (by prohibiting long walks

down dark sections of the corridor) without impeding parking options available to residents.

- v) Support H Street Main Street in finding and enabling creative uses of vacant spaces that would encourage greater evening activity and fewer "hot spots" for crime. These may include support for artist use of vacant spaces for temporary work spaces and display areas, installations on vacant plots, etc.

MOTION: Todd Hames moved, and Rebecca Sibilia seconded, a motion that the ANC submit a formal request for a lighting survey and other core team efforts along the corridor. The motion passed unanimously (letter attached).

II. Community Discussion: Juvenile Crime Prevention

- A. The Committee took up the issue of juvenile crime by once again discussing its long-standing policy paper related to juvenile crime prevention tactics that communities and neighborhoods can deploy in order to reduce juvenile crime. (attached)
- B. The Committee discussed these policies and approaches with those present at the meeting, many of whom were interested in assisting in the creation of committees and work products suggested by the paper.
- C. In addition, Josh Hopkins, in his personal capacity, specifically offered assistance in the creation of an "Activities Map" that would assist our residents in identifying positive programming available in the immediate vicinity of our neighborhood to increase and support collaboration related to prevention programs.

MOTION: Todd Hames moved, and Rebecca Sibilia seconded, a motion that the ANC adopt these proposed policies (attached), and that the Committee begin work on the six described tactics in the plan immediately upon passage. The motion passed unanimously.

- III. Based on robust community discussion, the meeting adjourned following these agenda items at 9:05 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 17, 2009, 7:00 p.m. at Sherwood Recreation Center