

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E
Virtual Public Meeting
Tuesday, March 2, 2021**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E convened via Zoom Video Conference and/or Telephone on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Michael Eichler, ANC 6E01
Alex Lopez, ANC 6E02
Frank S. Wiggins, ANC 6E03
Rachelle Nigro (Chair), ANC 6E04
Patrick Parlej, ANC 6E05 (joined by phone at 6:43 p.m.)
Denise Blackson, ANC 6E06
Kevin M. Rogers, ANC 6E07

Absent:

None

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Rachelle Nigro with a quorum present.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Wiggins moved and Commissioner Lopez seconded to approve the Agenda as presented. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

III. PSA REPORTS – 1D, 3D

1D (PSA 103): Lt. Alderman stated that the biggest issue has been Stolen Autos – there has been a tremendous increase, however, he has good news – in the last 30 days, there has been a significant decrease in Stolen Autos – 50% decrease. Violent Crime is low. The issue now is Thefts from Auto. Other property stats are stagnant. Violent Crime is low. Some of the trends we see are that Stolen Autos will decrease and officers are being proactive in our task forces to bring Stolen Autos down. We really need to get the word out to folks to not leave their vehicles idling. As the Pandemic gets under more control, we will see less Stolen Autos because of less deliveries.

3D (PSA 308): Lt. Dae reported that in the last 30 days there have been three (3) Violent Crimes and two (2) Robberies. Made a significant arrest in the 600 block of O Street NW; several drug arrests; brief update about 1300 block of 9th Street, NW - there was a press release – in the last two days made two arrests. For information on the Camera Rebate Program, go to: mpd.dc.gov; Contact Info: M.dae@dc.gov. Text tips to: 50411 or call: 202-727-9099.

Commissioner Nigro stated MPD needs to pay attention to the Paradise Garden complex. Commissioner Wiggins stated there are a lot more car break-ins on 6th Street and asked where this activity is coming from. Lt. Dae responded, unfortunately, these are crimes of opportunity. Commissioner Wiggins also reported a black Suburban truck in the 1200 block of 6th Street, NW that has been sitting there for months and has not moved.

IV. REMARKS FROM DIRECTOR LINDA HARPER, DC DIRECTOR OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Ms. Harper thanked ANC 6E for the opportunity to speak and stated this is the first time DC has had this position. She stated she is a native Washingtonian, has witnessed multiple shootings, and has lost many friends. She has most recently served as Senior Deputy Department Director of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services. Experiencing the loss of young people she was emotionally invested in has been tragic, but they all deserve to be with us. Her role is to coordinate the District's services. This position was placed in the Office of the City Administrator to provide support to the Building Blocks DC Office. It is a 3-pronged approach – a focus on people, a focus on places, and focus on the process. The office will work with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which is new to her. She has a social services background. Gun crimes are going up. Intend to focus on those people and identify them. Also have focus on community – focus on programs that are the most violent – start here – engage with communities and help to co-create safety for their neighborhood. She believes the solution is in the communities. She has been in the office for one month. She has set up an email address: buildingblocks@dc.gov

A question and answer period followed. Commissioner Nigro asked what is the difference between the ONES and what you are going to do? Ms. Harper responded ONES is not engaging with the population and often times when trying to address their needs, they face reduced programs and services. Commissioner Lopez stated he was happy that the Mayor has set up the Emergency Operations Center, wished her the best with the pilot program in Anacostia, and hoped that the program can expand to ANC 6E. A resident stated she thinks the guns are coming from Maryland and Virginia and asked whether you will be partnering with their police. Ms. Harper responded we are not law enforcement. We need to manage the influx of guns, but also engage with those who are exhibiting dangerous behavior that can turn to gun violence, so approaches are needed to solve these issues. Another resident asked her how the MPD partnership is working and if the program is going to look at community-based solutions.

V. REMARKS FROM WARD 6 COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES ALLEN

Councilmember Charles Allen stated the following: **(1)** he chairs the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety – he created the position in which Ms. Harper is currently sitting. There is a lot of friction between the agencies. Unless we are willing to work on the root causes of violence, we just go round and round like a merry-go-round. He knows Ms. Harper well – she has a lot of credibility – engages with stakeholders. Public Safety is more than just the police. For minor issues such as noise and fireworks, armed police are sent, but other cities are using a different approach. We need to have

a more tailored response; **(2)** COVID-19 vaccines portals are on-line – call centers. It is not just volume – 30,000 people tried to log on and the system crashed. On Thursday, there will be a hearing with the CDC and Vincent Gray. Need to create a one-time registration system and then as doses become available, get people scheduled; **(3)** Having Oversight hearings and some are moving into Public Hearings – Budget hearing now in April; on paper, budget will not look that bad; CFO identified \$500 million surplus last year that we could have put toward good use for DC residents; getting \$2.2 billion from the Federal government. This pandemic/recession has hit the city in a non-equitable way.

A question and answer period followed. Commissioner Nigro stated in regard to the vaccine rollout, the city needs to hire someone who can handle it.

Commissioner Lopez stated that in regard to the FY 22 Budget, **(1)** he testified at the DDOT hearing about traffic safety on North Capitol Street; can you put money into the FY 22 Budget to fund a redesign study? Yes; **(2)** Can you help the ANC by decoupling the issues of the Eckington Library and the Northwest One Library? Councilmember Allen stated the current Northwest One site lacks an ability to grow. Councilmember Allen will work with the ANC on this; **(3)** can you support expanding the Violence Interrupters to Shaw? Yes; **(4)** full funding for the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Participation in Planning and Development Amendment Act of 2020; Yes.

Commissioner Parlej asked: **(1)** how do you see Cobb Park developing? Councilmember Allen responded there is not a lot of green space there, there is no timeline for the Council on this, and it is not currently in the budget; **(2)** Maglev Train. Councilmember Allen responded he is skeptical about it. He would like to see improvements at Union Station.

Commissioner Eichler stated: **(1)** he appreciated his comments about the vaccine issue; **(2)** we need a long- and short-term plan for addressing the homeless encampments – need to find a way out and a vision. Councilmember Allen responded that stable housing is needed; **(3)** street safety – having problems with speeding and traffic violations – need street improvements from DDOT.

VI. REPORT FROM THE MAYOR’S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SERVICES (MOCRS)

Talib Shakir had audio issues and could not be heard.

[Commissioner Rogers leaves the call.]

VII. 950 3rd STREET, NW: REQUEST OF SUPPORT FOR SPECIAL RELIEF FOR A RESIDENT-ONLY CAFÉ IN THE PENTHOUSE OF A NEW MULTI-FAMILY BUILDING [6E07]

Representatives Present: Christopher Cohen (Holland & Knight)
Troy Balkena (Quadrangle Development)

Anthony Brown, Chair of ANC 6E's Zoning and Planning Committee, stated the development team is seeking support for a special exception for a residents-only café in the penthouse of a new residential building. The team has not yet made a final determination on the patron capacity, however it is anticipated that it will range between 20-25 persons.

The development team outlined that this development is a matter of by right which will house approximately 96 units. Also, there is a heritage tree on this lot that the developers are diligently working to preserve.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the full ANC support the special exception for the rooftop café at 950 3rd Street, NW.

Commissioner Parlej stated he had heard that the building was for sale. Mr. Balkema responded that no offers have been accepted and that they are committed to continuing the project.

MOTION: Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Lopez seconded that ANC 6E **support** the request for a special exception for a residents-only café in the penthouse of a new residential building at 950 3rd Street, NW and that said support be communicated in writing to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA). The Motion **passed** unanimously.

**VIII. 512 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NW (ADBHS, LLC, ELECTRIC COOL-AID):
REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN THEIR CLASS "C"
LICENSE OPERATIONS FOR HOURS AND FOR AN ENTERTAINMENT
ENDORSEMENT [6E02]**

Representative Present: Benjamin Schwartz

Mr. Schwartz stated they are looking to extend hours on week days until Midnight and weekends until 2:00 a.m. as well as an Entertainment Endorsement (live trivia nights); they have done noise abatement;

Alex Padro stated Electric Cool-Aid is only one of two businesses with outdoor facilities. For the other business, Dacha, ANC 6E chose not to grant 10:30 pm and midnight on weekends. No entertainment endorsement either. ANC 6E spent \$7,500 on legal counsel and the ABC Board did restrict their hours until 10:30 p.m. and denied the Entertainment Endorsement. Mr. Padro did state, however, that despite the past experiences with noise concerns with Dacha, ANC 6E's ABC Licensing Committee voted 4-1 to support the application from Electric Cool-Aid for a substantial change in their operations and an entertainment endorsement. Commissioner Lopez had spoken with two residents whose properties bordered Electric Cool-Aid and neither expressed objection to the substantial changes sought by the Applicant. Commissioner Eichler noted that Dacha is located in a much more densely populated corner of the neighborhood and Electric Cool-Aid has few neighbors. Additionally, he noted that Electric Cool-Aid has erected a fence to reduce noise and that the business has

activated a corner property that has long been vacant.

MOTION: Commissioner Lopez moved and Commissioner Eichler seconded that ANC 6E **support** the request for support of ADBHS LLC, Electric Cool-Aid, 512 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, for a substantial change in their Class “C” license operations for hours and for an Entertainment Endorsement, and that said support be communicated in writing to ABRA. The Motion **passed** 5 yeas – 1 nay (Commissioner Wiggins) – 0 abstentions.

IX. 209 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW (ANDY’S CARRY OUT): REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR THE RENEWAL OF THEIR CLASS B LICENSE [6E04]

Alex Padro stated the ABC Licensing Committee reviewed the history of the establishment and there were no enforcement actions taken. The Committee did recommend support for the renewal.

MOTION: Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Lopez seconded that ANC 6E **support** the request for support of Andy’s Carry Out, 209 New York Avenue, NW, for renewal of their Class “B” license and that said support be communicated in writing to ABRA. The Motion **passed** 5 yeas – 1 nay (Commissioner Wiggins) – 0 abstentions.

X. PRESENTATION ON THE DC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION’S 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND 2021 PLANS

Representative Present: Andrew DeFrank, Community Engagement Specialist (Ward 6) DDOT

Mr. DeFrank provided a slide presentation on DDOT’s 2020 Accomplishments and 2021 Plans and highlighted the following:

DDOTs FY20 Accomplishments

- o Completed Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge arches;
- o Set the default speed limit to 20 MPH;

Ward 6 FY20 Highlights

- o Substantial completion of the New Jersey Avenue, NW Project;
- o New car-free lanes installed;
- o Launched the advisory bike lanes pilot project

DDOT Services – Safety, Infrastructure & Assets, Move DC, Quality of Life, Public Space and Curbside Management

DDOT’s Response to COVID-19

- o Re-Imagining Public Space
- o Slow Streets ad Streateries

Current Ward 6 Projects – Capital Projects; Protected Bike Lane Projects

moveDC

Service Level Agreement Timeline for DDOT Services

Traffic Safety Assessment (TSA) Process

A question and answer period followed. Commissioner Wiggins stated he reported a dead tree six (6) months ago and it is still there.

Commissioner Eichler provided feedback to DDOT on the following topics: **(1)** Reserved lanes for buses at all times; **(2)** Slow Streets; **(3)** When will short-term improvements along S Street (500 and 600 blocks) be implemented? **(4)** Service Level Agreement – Timelines; **(5)** Traffic Safety Assessments – is there an easy way to get a history of TSAs (traffic safety assessments) and what the results were?

Commissioner Parlej raised the following: **(1)** K Street Bike Lanes; **(2)** 4-1/2 Street converted to one way southbound.

XI. PRESENTATION ON ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS BY THE DC DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Representative Present: Jennifer Johnston

Jennifer Johnson provided a PowerPoint presentation and highlighted eight (8) assistance programs per the following: **(1)** Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program; **(2)** Utility Discount Program; **(3)** Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge Residential Relief Program; **(4)** Weatherization Assistance Program; **(5)** Emergency Mechanical System Program; **(6)** Lead Pipe Replacement Assistance Program; **(7)** Lead Reduction Program; and **(8)** Solar for All.

XII. UPDATE ON MOUNT VERNON SUBSTATION BY PEPSCO

Representative Present: Jamal Jordan, Pepco

Jamal Jordan provided a PowerPoint presentation with an update on the new Mount Vernon Substation and highlighted the following: **(1)** Constructing the New Mt. Vernon Substation; **(2)** Site Preparation; **(3)** Excavation & Foundations; **(4)** Remaining Construction Activity; **(5)** K Street View (Night View); **(6)** Building a Networked System; **(7)** Construction Schedule; **(8)** Stakeholder Engagement Commitment; **(9)** Upcoming Virtual Meetings.

XIII. ANC 6E TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE – RECOMMENDATIONS TO DDOT REGARDING THE NEAR NORTHWEST III SAFETY & MOBILITY STUDY

Committee Chair Alex Lopez stated ANC 6E's Transportation Advisory Committee met on February 23, 2021 and heard a presentation on the MAGLEV high speed train and also discussed the Near Northwest III Safety & Mobility Study. The Committee developed a resolution in response to the Study that it requested be sent to Everett Lott, Interim Director of DDOT. Commissioner Lopez read the following out loud:

“BE IT RESOLVED that the scope of the Near Northwest III Safety and Mobility Study is narrowly focused on tactical improvements to intersections and therefore fails to meet the high standards of previous DDOT livability studies, which have included recommendations for long-term corridor redesigns, modal improvements, and green infrastructure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 6E believes that transportation safety and mobility must be planned for at the neighborhood and corridor level and that the

approach of the Near Northwest III Safety and Mobility Study to recommend spot treatments at 40 intersections will not achieve real improvements to transportation safety and mobility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 6E urges DDOT to commit to making permanent the tactical safety improvements recommended in the Near Northwest Safety and Mobility Study through capital improvements to the physical environment. Permanent capital improvements include, but are not limited to, upgrading flexpost curb extensions to concrete curb extensions with bioretention facilities and concrete medians for left turn hardening.”

MOTION: Commissioner Lopez moved and Commissioner Eichler seconded that ANC 6E adopt the above-noted Resolution in response to the Near Northwest III Safety and Mobility Study and that said Resolution be communicated in writing as soon as possible to the Interim Director or DDOT. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

XIV. GRANTS DISCUSSION

A. Serve Your City

Hannah Jacobson presented the grant application submitted by Serve Your City in the amount of \$3,000.00.

If approved, the grant money will be used to: **(1)** continue to distribute food, masks, and public health information to support the elderly, unhoused, and other vulnerable populations living in ANC 6E; **(2)** purchase and distribute educational materials, hotspot devices and Chromebooks to DC Public School students living in ANC 6E; **(3)** support the training and placement of tutors for students in ANC 6E; **(4)** print an additional 2,000 culturally informed public health flyers providing important information to members of the population vulnerable to COVID-19.

MOTION: Commissioner Lopez moved and Commissioner Parlej seconded that ANC 6E **support** the Grant Application submitted by Serve Your City in the amount of \$3,000.00, subject to approval by the Office of Neighborhood Advisory Commissions. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

B. Deeds of Kindness Outreach Services

Elleecia Washington presented the grant application submitted by Deeds of Kindness Outreach Services in the amount of \$3,000.00.

If approved, the grant money will be used to: **(1)** deliver vital school supplies, household supplies, personal protection equipment, and a day of community engagement to at-risk youth and their families in a safe environment; **(2)** promote a culture of health, wellness, and personal empowerment for all attendees; **(3)** provide both at-risk youth and their parents with direct access to community stakeholders and partners to promote self-improvement, personal empowerment, and to engage in community and family camaraderie; **(4)** promote and foster a foundation of trust for future interaction and community engagement.

MOTION: Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Wiggins seconded that ANC 6E **support** the Grant Application submitted by Deeds of Kindness Outreach Services in the amount of \$3,000.00, subject to approval by the Office of Neighborhood Advisory Commissions. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

XV. RESOLUTION CONCERNING U. S. CAPITOL FENCING

MOTION: Commissioner Eichler moved and Commissioner Lopez seconded that ANC 6E pass a resolution that mirrors the resolution of ANC 6B describing the negative impact on local transportation of fencing around the U.S. Capitol and that said resolution be communicated in writing to the District Council Members, the Mayor, and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, with a copy to the Architect of the Capitol. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

XVI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2021 PUBLIC MEETING

MOTION: Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Wiggins seconded to approve the Minutes of the **February 2, 2021** ANC 6E Public Meeting with any edits to be submitted to the Recording Secretary. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

XVII. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Wiggins stated the balance in the checking account as of February 28, 2021 was \$50,059.80.

XVIII. APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

- A. **MOTION:** Commissioner Wiggins moved and Commissioner Eichler seconded to approve for payment the Zoom Invoice in the amount of \$68.89 submitted by Commissioner Nigro for videoconference services. The Motion **passed** unanimously.
- B. **MOTION:** Commissioner Wiggins moved and Commissioner Eichler seconded that Commissioner Parlej be reimbursed in the amount of \$17.00 for business cards. The Motion **passed** unanimously.
- C. **MOTION:** Commissioner Wiggins moved and Commissioner Eichler seconded to approve for payment the invoice submitted by Karen Jehle in the amount of \$250.00 for recording services for the **ANC 6E March 2, 2021 Public Meeting** and website maintenance. The Motion **passed** unanimously.
- D. **MOTION:** Commissioner Wiggins moved and Commissioner Eichler seconded to approve the payment of \$410.00 to the United States Postal Service for renewal of the ANC 6E Post Office Box. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

- XIX. ANNOUNCEMENTS - None**
- XX. NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021**
- XXI. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Eichler seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The Motion *passed* unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Jehle
Recording Secretary
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