

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E
Virtual Public Meeting
Tuesday, October 5, 2021**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E convened via Zoom Video Conference and/or Telephone on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Michael Eichler, ANC 6E01
Alex Lopez, ANC 6E02
Frank S. Wiggins (Treasurer), ANC 6E03
Rachelle Nigro (Chair), ANC 6E04
Patrick Parlej, ANC 6E05
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 Lopez moved and Commissioner Wiggins seconded to approve the Agenda as amended. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

III. PSA REPORTS – 1D, 3D

1D (PSA 103): Lt. George Donigian reported on crime for the last 30 days and stated overall crime is down 27%. There were five (ADWs): stabbing in parking garage of Walmart, gun brandishment in 1200 block of North Capitol Street September 18, 2021; shooting on September 19, 2021 - 1100 1st Street, NW – did strike someone; non-life threatening; ADW knife inside 7-Eleven on K Street, NW; stabbing October 2nd at 5th and I Street, NW.

Commissioner Blackson asked where the video can be seen of the shooting at 1100 1st Street, NW. Lt. Donigian will email it to her.

3D (PSA 308): Capt. R. P. Small stated overall crime increased by 9%, but it is relatively small. Robberies are down 21%; Thefts from Auto decreased by 16%; Violent Crime: driven by domestic violence – three or four cases closed. Once again, the vast majority of Stolen Autos are opportunistic. He urged residents to turn off their cars and take the keys.

A question and answer period followed.

Commissioner Nigro asked if there were any updates on the carjacking/armed robbery and was informed it is still open and active. She expressed her appreciation for the officer on 4th & M Street, NW getting the one-way drivers.

Commissioner Lopez – **(1)** asked about a hit and run on September 17th at 5th and S Street, NW where a pedestrian was injured; has the driver been identified? He was informed it was still an open investigation; **(2)** stated he is receiving emails from constituents about ATV drivers and dirt bike drivers – do you have any guidance to residents? He was informed photos, videos, and tips are always helpful.

Commissioner Eichler expressed his appreciation to MPD for working with the French Street community on the vehicle break-ins. Capt. Small responded residential cameras have been extremely helpful in capturing videos of these crimes.

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

Talib Shakir, Ward 6 Liaison, stated he had no immediate updates. Commissioner Wiggins thanked Mr. Shakir for the sidewalk repairs that were recently made.

V. REPORT FROM COUNCILMEMBER ALLEN’S OFFICE

Naomi Mitchell of Councilmember Charles Allen’s Office reported the following:

(1) the first phase of the Sursum Corda redevelopment is ongoing; **(2)** the big thing is redistricting. Each ward will have a redistricting task force to make recommendations on redrawing ANC boundaries. Councilmember Elissa Silverman will chair a subcommittee to direct the Council’s redistricting work along with Anita Bonds and Christina Henderson. Using data from the 2020 Census, the subcommittee will make recommendations to the full Council on redrawing ward boundaries to ensure balanced ward populations and redrawing Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) boundaries to meet balancing goals. The first hearing was held last week. The first report will happen December 7th and a final report will go to the DC Council on December 21st. The Ward task forces will be under supervision of the subcommittee, report out their recommendations in February, and the Council will vote on final ANC boundaries in June.

VI. PRESENTATION BY THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DMHHS) ON THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE ENCAMPMENT AT THE NEW JERSEY AVENUE AND O STREET, NW PARK [6E04]

Representatives Present: Wayne Turnage, Deputy Mayor
Jamal Weldon, Program Manager
Ciana Creighton

Objective: The District’s encampment pilot seeks to provide intensive case management and behavioral health/substance use services to encamped individuals while working to connect clients to appropriate housing opportunities. In the circumstance that an individual is not interested in housing support, we will continue to engage with them and work to address any needs they have. It will also provide a significantly higher level of trash collection and restorative cleaning at the pilot sites, addressing some of the adjacent community concerns. Through these efforts we will determine whether the selected pilot encampment sites show a decrease in health and safety risks and an increase in meaningful service connections and stable housing. Three Sites: Site #1: NoMa; Site #2: Park at New Jersey Avenue and O Street, NW; Site #3: 20th/21st Street and E Street, NW

Pilot Strategies:

- o Create by-name lists for pilot locations and implement more robust data collection at these sites.
- o Increase outreach and behavioral health/substance use supports to improve residents’ connection to housing. Residents who agree to participate will be engaged in intensive case management services which will help them obtain vital and documents, complete housing voucher applications, provide housing navigation, and connect them to other vital services not previously available to the community.
- o Increase the overall cleanliness of the selected sites by reducing the amount of trash and biohazards that may be present.
- o Assist with building positive relationships between encamped residents, surrounding community members and neighboring businesses.

There are currently 32 residents out of 48 residents on the by-name lists for the New Jersey and O Street Park, leaving 16 not on the list.

Commissioners Q&A – Incidents at New Jersey and O and NoMa

Commissioner Nigro asked if residents have been informed that they are on the by-name list and have you captured them all? Yes, for the most part, daily attempts are being made. Commissioner Nigro asked to be kept informed as to what is happening.

The Deputy Mayor is working closely with the Park Service and the DC Fire and EMS Department and also working with the Department of Behavioral Health.

Commissioner Lopez asked whether the closing date of November 4th is firm and was informed it was tentative to make sure that all who are there receive services. How will you communicate this information to the public? Response: We are

working collaboratively with the Department of Human Services to put together a dashboard on their website. Commissioner Lopez' biggest concern about this pilot is the permanent closure of these three encampments. One in three residents will not qualify for the pilot. What about the 16 residents who do not and the upcoming winter season?

Commissioner Rogers stated mental health programs have been cut out and should be reinstated, especially the work programs.

Commissioner Blackson stated the city is not set up for encampments and that mental health services should be available in shelters.

Commissioner Parlej stated the city's increased focus for housing currently unhoused residents was a positive direction, and that every DC resident should have access to housing. However, he stated concerns about the way the city was implementing the program. First by calling out that an enrollment rate of 50% of encampment residents was insufficient to constitute a successful pilot. Second that the incident that took place during the NoMa encampment clearing where the city struck an unhoused resident with a bulldozer was not acceptable, and reflected a haphazard and callous implementation strategy. He then asked, how could the ANC support a program that was being implemented in such a callous way, and what does the city plan to do differently at the NJ and O St encampment located within ANC6E?

Response: The number of encampment residents enrolling in the program was closer to 66% rather than 50%. The city will implement additional processes and checks to ensure better safety measures in future encampment clearings.

Commissioner Eichler - thanks to the Mayor's team about short-term win-win solutions – agrees with the program; believes there are spaces in the city – such as near elementary schools -- where encampments should not be tolerated.

DMHHS: New protocols – will be more vigilant about checking the tents to make sure no one is inside them.

Community Q&A:

- Old programs need to come back; are you putting up fencing? Yes.
- Agrees with plan to remove by November 4th; would like to see progress being made.
- Can rat abatement be done continually during the removal and the construction? Yes, will take this to DC Health. Can target date of November 4th be moved up? November 4th is the earliest.
- Do you anticipate any delays and how will this be communicated?
- What does success look like for this program and how will you measure this? Outreach Engagement Team.

A conversation took place where Commissioner Lopez appealed to Chair Nigro that the time for the public Q/A period should be extended, because a number of people still had their hands raised in Zoom and wanted to ask a question. Citing time concerns, Chair Nigro proceeded on to the next topic area.

VII. APPLICATION OF S STREET VILLAGE LLC FOR A ZONING MAP AMENDMENT FROM RF-1 TO ARTS-2 FOR 614 S STREET, NW (SQ. 442, LOTS 88, 108, 110, 810 AND 811)

Representatives Present: Leila Batties, Attorney, Holland & Knight
Rev. Jim Dickerson
Sean Pichon, Architect

80 units of housing; 25 parking spaces underground; Permanent Supportive Housing (PSA)

Tony Brown, Chair of ANC 6E's Zoning Committee, stated the Committee met and recommended that the full ANC 6E support the Zoning Map Amendment for the S Street Village LLC at 614 S Street NW with a proviso that the developers communicate to the residents the restriction of Residential Parking Permit (RPP). Further that public art be incorporated into the façade or public space of the development, and a friendly amendment that the committee applauds the sensitive retention and preservation of the faces of these historic buildings on their properties.

Commissioner Lopez expressed his support for the project that will be enabled by the Zoning Map Amendment, citing the urgency to create new affordable housing in the Shaw neighborhood. However, Commissioner Lopez disagreed with the Zoning Committee's recommendation regarding RPP exclusion on the grounds that (1) it is procedurally inappropriate to make such a request during a Zoning Map Amendment and (2) there is an issue of fairness where new old neighbors get access to subsidized on-street parking while new neighbors are excluded.

MOTION: Commissioner Lopez moved and Commissioner Eichler seconded that ANC 6E **support** the application of S Street Village LLC for a Zoning Map Amendment from RF-1 to Arts-2 for 614 S Street, NW (Sq. 442, Lots 88, 108, 110, 810, and 811) and that said support be communicated in writing to the Zoning Commission. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

[Commissioner Rogers leaves the meeting at 8:07 p.m.]

VIII. 1251 4TH STREET, NW (HOAGIE HOUSE): REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD [6E04]

Representative Present: Mark Loganson
Maria Sanders

Tony Brown, Chair of ANC 6E's Zoning Committee stated the Committee met and recommended that the full ANC 6E support the Historic Preservation Concept of the Hoagie House 1, 2, and 3 with a recommendation that the balconies on the townhouses on lot #35 be restudied.

MOTION: Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Eichler seconded that ANC 6E **support** the concept design for 1251 4th Street, NW which increases lots 34, 35, and 36 owned by Hoagie House and that said support be communicated in writing to the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB). The Motion **passed** unanimously.

IX. DDOT TO DISCUSS FINAL CONCEPTS FOR THE H STREET, NW BUS PRIORITY PROGRAM

Representative: Spring Worth, Project Manager, DDOT

Spring Worth stated the purpose of her being here was to provide an overview of the Bus Priority Program and the H Street, NW project and to solicit feedback on the H Street, NW Selected Build Option.

A synopsis of her presentation follows:

Bus Priority Vision

- o Improve bus speeds and reliability for riders.
- o Faster and more reliable transit provides better access to more jobs and opportunities.
- o Almost half of District Metrobus riders make under \$30,000 per year.
- o Improve the entire rider experience.

Option 1: No Build

- o Make minimal/no changes to H Street, NW
- o Bus stop rebalancing.
- o Does not meet project goals.

Option 2: Selected Build Option

- o Bus stop rebalancing
- o Queue jump WB H St. NW and New Jersey Avenue
- o Midblock pedestrian improvements (H St. NW: 4th and 5th)

Option 3: Queuing and Impacts

Option 4: Full-Time Parking on One Side

Option 5: The Weave

*Full presentation will be uploaded to ANC 6E website.

Commissioner Eichler commented that the remaining build option was underwhelming and provides limited benefits to bus riders. He inquired whether this is simply a first step and possibly more bold action might come to H Street in the future.

X. DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION (DPR) PRESENTATION ON CURRENT DPR ISSUES IN ANC 6E

Representative Present: Christopher Dyer, Community Engagement Manager, DPR

Christopher Dyer provided a slide presentation highlighting the following: In-Person and Virtual Programs, Aquatics Update, Permits, Ready to Play Update, Pets in the Park, and Prohibited Activities.

Commissioner Parlej asked for an update related to Cobb Park in Mount Vernon Triangle. He was told that unforeseen delays related to the construction industry and supply chain issues had delayed DPR's progress on commencing work on the park.

Commissioner Eichler inquired about communications protocols for complaints or concerns regarding the skate park and dog park, asking that new 311 channels be created by the office of unified communication to support non-police or non-emergency requests for city attention to residents' issues regarding these parks.

Commissioner Lopez asked about the nature of the renovations to the Kennedy Recreation Center for which funds were allocated in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget. Commissioner Lopez additionally asked about whether the gate to the Kennedy Recreation Center at the corner of 6th Street and P Street NW could be unlocked to improve access to the park for neighbors approaching from the north and east. Mr. Dyer offered to follow up with Commissioner Lopez on both matters.

*Full presentation will be uploaded to ANC 6E website.

XI. TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

a. Public Space Application to Create a Curbside Loading Zone at 838 2nd Street, NW (Capitol Vista) [6E07]

Representative Present: Joel Patterson, Dantes Partners

Updated Project Timeline:

- o September 2018: Planned Unit Development Approval
- o October 2018: Construction Commencement
- o October 2020: Construction Completion
- o February 2021: 100% Residential Units Leased
- o October 2021 DTOPs Submission
- o November 2021: Public Space Committee Meeting

*Full presentation will be uploaded to ANC 6E website.

MOTION: Commissioner Lopez moved and Commissioner Eichler seconded that ANC 6E support Dantes Partners' Public Space Application for a curbside loading zone at 838 2nd Street, NW The Motion **passed** unanimously.

The applicant informed the ANC that the address may have changed from 838 2nd Street NW and the Commission informed the Applicant that the final resolution will reflect the correct address.

b. Public Space Application to Convert a Temporary Existing Unenclosed Sidewalk Café to an Enclosed Sidewalk Café at 640 L Street, NW (Rumi’s Kitchen) [6E04]

Representative Present: Stephen Kaplan

Tony Brown, Chair of ANC 6E’s Zoning Committee stated the Committee met and recommended that the full ANC 6E support Rumi’s Kitchen Public Space Application.

MOTION: Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Lopez seconded that ANC 6E **support** the Public Space Application of Rumi’s Kitchen, 640 L Street, NW, to convert the temporary sidewalk café to a permanent sidewalk café and that said support be communicated in writing to the Public Space Committee and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). The Motion **passed** unanimously.

c. Letter to DDOT Requesting Traffic Safety Improvements on the 400 to 600 Blocks of K Street, NW Protected Bike Lane [6E05]

Commissioner Parlej introduced the topic and stated that in order to create a safer environment in the 400 – 600 blocks of K Street, NW, the following letter should be sent to DDOT and DPW to urge them to:

- Update the Pick-up/Drop Off (PUDO) policy to clear up ambiguity about enforcing PUDO zones by clarifying under what conditions, and for what time duration, a vehicle may be present within a PUDO zone.
- Make PUDO zones distinct and easy to recognize because current signage is easy to miss. One recommendation is to paint the zones a different color – such as yellow – to match sign color – in the same way that handicapped spaces are painted blue.
- Devote resources to meaningfully enforce traffic and parking violations on the aforementioned blocks of K Street. Traffic violations on these blocks are frequent, and are often clustered in specific areas (such as alleyway entrances or parts of the bike lane not protected by flex posts). One recommendation is to implement automated enforcement methods.
- Install a raised bus platform for the bus stop at 504 K Street NW, as has been done for bus stops throughout K Street.

MOTION: Commissioner Parlej moved and Commissioner Eichler seconded that ANC 6E **support** the letter to DDOT titled “Traffic Safety and Parking Issues on 400 – 600 Block of K Street, NW” and that said letter be communicated to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the District Department of Public Works (DPW). The Motion **passed** unanimously.

XII. UPDATE FROM PEPSCO ON THE MOUNT VERNON CONNECTED COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

Representatives Present: Travoris Culpeper, Pepco
 Donna Cooper
 Susan Marinele

Travoris Culpeper provided a slide presentation and highlighted the following: Purpose, Stakeholder Approach, Roadmap Goals and Timeline, Community Benefits, Functionality of Proposed Solutions, and Next Steps.

Commissioner Lopez stated that residents should pay particular attention to this project and stay engaged. Pepco is actually investing in the community to accelerate the deployment of clean energy resources and the community needs to stay engaged in the process.

*Full presentation will be uploaded to ANC 6E website.

XIII. RETRACTION OF GRANT APPROVAL FOR THE JUDAH PROJECT

The Office of Neighborhood Advisory Commissions (ONAC) did not approve ANC 6E's previously approved grant for the Judah Project based on the premise that all grants must have broad direct community impact and that grant-funded activities must be available on an equal basis to everyone in the ANC area.

Commissioner Lopez questioned whether there might be an opportunity to appeal the OANC disapproval determination.

MOTION: Commissioner Eichler moved and Commissioner Wiggins to **retract** ANC 6E's support for the grant for the Judah Project per the conversation it had with the Office of Neighborhood Advisory Commissions (ONAC). The Motion **passed** 5 yeas (Commissioners Eichler, Wiggins, Nigro, Parlej, Blackson) – 1 nay (Commissioner Lopez) – 0 abstentions.

XIV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 PUBLIC MEETING

MOTION: Commissioner Eichler moved and Commissioner Parlej seconded to approve the Minutes of the **September 7, 2021 ANC 6E Public Meeting** with any edits to be submitted to the Recording Secretary. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

XIX. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Wiggins stated that the ending balance in the checking account as of September 30, 2021 is \$49,720.78.

MOTION: Commissioner Wiggins moved and Commissioner Blackson seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report reflecting the balance in the checking account as of September 30, 2021 of \$49,720.78. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

XX. APPROVAL OF QUARTERLY REPORTS

MOTION: Commissioner Wiggins moved and Commissioner Eichler seconded to accept the Quarterly Reports for FY 21 Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, finalizing the FY through September 30, 2021. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

[Commissioner Blackson leaves the meeting].

XXI. APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

- MOTION:** Commissioner Wiggins moved and Commissioner Parlej seconded to approve for payment the invoice in the amount of \$250.00 submitted by Karen Jehle for Minutes of the 10/5/21 meeting and website maintenance. The Motion passed unanimously.
- MOTION:** Commissioner Wiggins moved and Commissioner Eichler seconded to reimburse Commissioner Nigro for the Zoom invoice in the amount of \$164.29. The Motion passed unanimously.

XXII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Lopez stated on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 10:30 a.m., the DC Council will hold a hearing to consider the ceremonial re-naming of the Wiltberger Street NW alley complex. He will be introducing testimony in support at the ANC November meeting.

XXIII. NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021

XXIV. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Jehle
Recording Secretary
Cell: 703-606-2010
Email: karen-jehle@outlook.com