

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E
Virtual Public Meeting
Tuesday, February 1, 2022**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E convened via Zoom Video Conference and/or Telephone on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Michael Eichler (Chair), ANC 6E01
Alex Lopez (Secretary), ANC 6E02
Frank S. Wiggins (Treasurer), ANC 6E03
Rachelle Nigro (Vice Chair), ANC 6E04
Patrick Parlej, ANC 6E05
Denise Blackson, ANC 6E06
Kevin M. Rogers, ANC 6E07

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chair Michael Eichler with a quorum present.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Wiggins moved and Commissioner Blackson seconded to approve the Minutes of the **January 4, 2022 ANC 6E Public Meeting** with any edits to be submitted to the Recording Secretary. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

IV. PSA REPORT: METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT 1D

1D (PSA 103): Captain Jonathan Dorrrough stated there were two (2) Violent crimes – one (1) ADW (7-Eleven, closed with an arrest) and one (1) robbery in the 500 block of New York Avenue – the victim was held up at gunpoint – suspects' vehicle involved in other incidents that night. Property Crime is trending up a bit – Stolen Autos in Mount Vernon Triangle; also at Walmart (99 H Street, NW – cars left running). Trying to get the message out there not to leave cars running unattended. Thefts from Auto trending up – Mount Vernon Triangle a hot spot.

A question and answer period followed. Commissioner Wiggins asked if the robbery in the 500 block of New York Avenue involved a cell phone. Captain Dorrrough will check.

Commissioner Parlej raised prior incidents in November of 2021, with the shooting at 4th & L Street and in December 2021 in the 400 block of K Street, NW. There is a sense in the community about public safety and is there going to be a change in posture. Captain

Dorrough responded that Chinatown has been hit harder recently and MPD is looking at how to deploy its resources. Thefts from Auto are driving the numbers. He hears the community's concerns.

Resident question and answer period followed. A resident asked about the arrest in Plaza West and was informed this was related to the carjackings. This is actually a 6th District case and the carjacking suspect was in the Apartments. He was arrested with a pistol. MPD has been having meetings in the community with the MVT CID. Crimes involving juveniles go to the Family Support Unit, a Federal agency. MPD does not get involved until they are convicted. Juvenile release conditions are not shared with MPD.

V. PSA REPORT: METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT 3D

3D (PSA 308): Captain Small reported on crime for the last 30 days: 11 Violent Crimes (rash of carjackings). There was one case that was reported in the wrong district. Most cases involved juveniles. In two instances, MPD was able to make arrests for carjackings (2-5 juveniles arrested). There was an ADW – was a brandishing – case closed – it was not a shooting, but a fender bender where a driver brandished a gun.

A question and answer period followed. Commissioner Nigro stated one of her constituents was pistol whipped and asked if there were any arrests. Captain Small will follow up. An Uber driver was ambushed and there was one arrest.

VI. REPORT OF MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SERVICES (MOCRS)

Kevin Pham (Ward 6) stated – **(1)** as of 1/24/22, 90% of residents vaccinated; residents must have at least one dose and be fully vaccinated by 2/15/22 and show proof of vaccination to enter restaurants, bars, nightclubs, etc.; **(2)** Christmas tree collection continuing until February 28, 2022 (leave at curbside); **(3)** there is a special employment fund for which 18-24 year-olds can apply and applications are being accepted until 2/28/22; **(4)** the Mayor and DMPED have launched a new \$40 million "Bridge Fund" Grant Program to support Small Businesses impacted by COVID-19 (with less than \$5 million in gross receipts in 2019, 2020 or 2021); **(4)** MOCRS was involved in Plaza West and participated in a walkthrough; Commissioner Rogers was also present. MOCRS is meeting weekly with the Apartment Manager.

VII. WARD 2 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKE PINTO

Councilmember Brooke Pinto introduced herself and thanked those who testified about Redistricting. She will work closely with Ward 5 and Ward 6. She provided the following background about herself:

- o Attended Cornell University and completed a degree in business and hospitality administration. Moved to Washington, D.C. to attend Georgetown University Law School where she earned a Juris Doctor in 2017.
- o Following Law School, worked for Attorney General for the District of Columbia Karl Racine through a one-year fellowship, after which he hired her as assistant attorney general for policy and legislative affairs. She helped with

- legislation to address hate crimes and deceptive charity practices. She resigned from this role after one year to launch her campaign for Council of the District of Columbia;
- o Public Safety – been on walks with MPD and ride-alongs; met with hundreds of neighbors on public safety; will continue to work with our public partners – need more foot and bike patrols, Violence Interrupter Programs, better street lighting, access to video footage;
 - o Advocates for Affordable Housing, Homelessness – budget included tens of millions of dollars’ worth of vouchers to move people into housing; focused on converting them to residential and affordable housing;
 - o Supports Students and Families – participated in school readiness tours – joined Commissioner Eichler and Commissioner Nigro in the ribbon-cutting at the new Banneker High School; supports a study for a new Shaw Middle School; making sure kids are safe in school and traveling to and from school; supporter of some safety bills; introduced the “Fairness in Use and Negotiation for All Recreational Property Act of 2021” to ensure that all residents have fair access to District-owned recreational property.
 - o Council passed the Student Access to Period Products Act, which provides free access to menstrual products in all public and private educational institutions in the District of Columbia;
 - o Ward 2 does not have a dedicated senior center – asking the Mayor to include this in the budget.
 - o Advocated for funding in the budget for LGBTQ.
 - o Support on Small Businesses – co-introduced legislation to expand streateries;
 - o Transportation and Environment: DC has a goal for Zero traffic fatalities – need strong DDOT community engagement; happy about the protected bike lanes; climate change;
 - o Redistricting: Ward 2 Task Force met twice – third meeting this Thursday at 6:30 p.m. – two 6E residents serving; will submit their recommendations on April 1, 2022.
 - o Advocates for Women’s Rights, Voting Rights, Equity and Inclusion; Conditions at DC Jail; Reducing Gun Violence;
 - o On Thursday, February 3, 2022, sending Budget priorities letter to Council. Thanks to those who attended the recent budget hearing.

A question and answer period followed.

Commissioner Nigro stated – **(1)** she and her constituents support having more MPD presence on the streets and foot patrols; **(2)** traffic on New York Avenue, New Jersey Avenue, and 4th Street; **(3)** Feedback for the Redistricting – how do we offer feedback on this? The meetings are open.

Commissioner Lopez stated – **(1)** thanks for including the funding for the S Street Revitalization project in the FY 23 Budget; **(2)** we will be discussing possible improvements at the Shaw Skate Park; **(3)** transportation: downtown bus only lanes (7th Street Bus Lanes Resolution) – excited about this; **(4)** community safety – encourages the Council to step up; Violence Interrupters Program; mental health – need a holistic public health approach.

Commissioner Eichler – **(1)** advocated for more street beats; **(2)** asked why can't police live in our community? Rents too high; **(3)** advocated for childcare for low income families.

Father DeRosa asked if there were any updates on the renewal of the Pat Handy Shelter on 5th Street. This has been slated for major renewal for over a year now; the Mayor has put off renovation about four (4) times now and the latest is this March. Response: This may be delayed, but there is a new 396-bed shelter that opened in Ward 8 and some of the men from Pat Handy will be moved there. However, there are supply chain issues. In the meantime, she has asked additional DHS staff and security to help with cleanup and modernization around the site and will follow up with an updated date.

Alex Padro, Director of Shaw Main Streets, raised the topic of Bus Priority Lanes on 7th Street. Mr. Padro conjectured that the future design of the 7th Street bus lanes would result in a loss of parking; all the businesses on 7th Street rely on that parking for customers and also for pickup/deliveries; it is very important that input from the business community is heard first before moving forward.

A resident asked if there were any updates on the senior center. Response: There is specific funding for the Kennedy Recreation Center to have dedicated senior programming. As far as a dedicated senior center, she has asked the Mayor to include funding in the budget. This will take a while.

VIII. REPORT FROM COUNCILMEMBER McDUFFIE'S OFFICE

No representative present.

IX. REPORT FROM COUNCILMEMBER ALLEN'S OFFICE

No representative present.

X. PRESENTATION ON 1707 8TH STREET NW DEVELOPMENT

Representative Present: Jamie Weinbaum, MidCity

Jamie Weinbaum provided a slide presentation and stated they are not seeking a vote tonight.

Project Facts:

- Site today has 4 garden-style buildings with 50 vacant units.
- Leasing stopped at the property several years ago.
- New building – 9 story rental apartment building designed by Eric Colbert.
- Concrete building with brick façade, large windows and plentiful balconies.
- Approximately 317 total units.
- 15% affordable (for people making up to 60% of median income). This will add approximately 48 affordable units where none existed before.
- 20% of units will be 2 and 3-bedroom apartments.
- One level of below grade parking (approximately 93 spaces).

- Parking/loading/trash accessed from public alley.
- Amenities include a rooftop pool, fitness center, and clubroom.

Project Timeline:

- Public outreach to neighbors, community organizations, and elected officials (CM Pinto, ANC etc.) (ongoing)
- Virtual Open House (1/6)
- Informational presentation to ANC 6E Zoning Advisory Committee (1/27)
- Informational presentation to full ANC 6E (2/1)
- Zoning relief application filed (last week of February)
- Zoning Commission Set Down Meeting (likely March/April)
- Second presentation to full AC 6E seeking formal support (late Spring)
- Zoning Commission Public Hearing (likely June/July)

A question and answer period followed.

Commissioner Lopez stated the proposed development, which is located immediately adjacent to the Shaw Metro station, exceeds the minimum parking requirements by 75% and that parking should be reduced in this transit-oriented development. Commissioner Lopez noted that the DDOT Staff Report for the Zoning Map Amendment at the S Street Village site was supportive of zero parking due to proximity to the metro station and asked if the 1707 8th St developer might consider eliminating parking due to proximity to the Metro station. Commissioner Lopez also noted that the amount of affordable housing proposed for this consolidated PUD and Zoning Map Amendment is less than what would have been required by IZ-Plus if this were to proceed as a Zoning Map Amendment without a PUD.

Commissioner Nigro spoke in support of preventing residents of the new building from participating in the Residential Permit Parking program.

Commissioner Wiggins asked if there was zero parking, where do people go who drive cars? He asked that parking not be taken away and to include as many parking spaces as possible. If the red bus lane is installed on 7th Street as some have proposed, where there are 7-9 apartment buildings, where will people park?

Commissioner Eichler noted that the local community around the proposed development are concerned about more cars on the street and traffic getting worse, and more parking means more cars, and more cars means more traffic. He stated that there are competing interests and finding a solution that works for everyone will be challenging but that a solution is possible.

A resident asked whether the people displaced will be able to come back. She was informed that no residents were displaced. They were given the opportunity to move across the street. Affordable units pursuant to the inclusionary zoning program, DHCD oversees a list of folks who are interested in inclusionary zoning units. He noted the developer has no say over who gets to move into the new units. Another resident asked how the developer thought about the tradeoff between the number of housing units and the number of parking spaces. He was informed they engaged with traffic engineers

who study the traffic demand and parking demand around similar buildings to identify the appropriate amount of parking. Commissioner Lopez asked whether they have engaged with WMATA and was informed yes.

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

XI. SUPPORT FOR H STREET NW BUS PRIORITY PROJECT NOI

MOTION: Commissioner Lopez moved and Commissioner Eichler seconded that ANC 6E adopt the Draft Resolution in Support of the Notice for the H Street NW Bus Priority Project as circulated to the Commission. The Motion **failed** by a vote of 2 yeas (Commissioners Lopez and Eichler) – 2 nays (Commissioners Wiggins and Rogers) – 3 abstentions (Commissioners Nigro, Parlej, and Blackson).

XII. SUPPORT FOR THE WALK WITHOUT WORRY AMENDMENT ACT OF 2021 (BILL 24-566) AND THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL EXPANSION REGULATION AMENDMENT ACT OF 2021 (BILL 24-565)

MOTION: Commissioner Lopez moved and Commissioner Eicher seconded that ANC 6E adopt the Draft Resolution in Support of the Walk Without Worry Amendment Act of 2021 (Bill 24-566) and the Safe Routes for School Expansion Regulation Amendment Act of 2021 (Bill 24-565) as circulated to the Commission. The Motion **passed** 6 yeas – 1 nay (Commissioner Rogers) – 0 abstentions.

XIII. REQUEST FOR FUNDING OF S STREET NW REVITALIZATION PROJECT IN THE FY 2023 BUDGET

MOTION: Commissioner Lopez moved and Commissioner Eicher seconded that ANC 6E adopt the Draft Resolution Requesting Funding for the S Street NW Revitalization Plan in the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget as circulated to the Commission. The Motion **passed** 5 yeas – 2 nays (Commissioners Wiggins and Rogers) – 0 abstentions.

XIV. SUPPORT FOR FUNDING OF PUBLIC RESTROOM AT THE SHAW SKATE PARK IN THE FY 2023 BUDGET

MOTION: Commissioner Lopez moved and Commissioner Eicher seconded that ANC 6E adopt the Draft Resolution Requesting Funding for the Design and Construction of a Public Restroom at the Shaw Skate Park in the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget as circulated to the Commission. The Motion **passed** unanimously 7 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

XV. PRESENTATION: PEPSCO CAPITAL GRID AND MOUNT VERNON DISTRIBUTION

Representatives Present: Jamaal Jordan, Pepco Holdings
Braden Hause, Pepco Holdings
Jeff Miller, Exelon Corporation
Travis Culpepper, Pepco Holdings

Pepco representatives narrated a slide presentation and provided a status report on the Mount Vernon Substation. The following is a synopsis of topics covered:

Upcoming Activity:

Structure

- o November 2021-January 2022
- o Installation of steel structure
- o Mobilization of mobile crane/forklift

Precast/Envelope

- o February 2022 – March 2022
- o Installation of facade precast panels
- o Dismantle tower crane, set up mobile cranes
- o 6-8 trailer loads of material per day
- o Concrete trucks and tractors trailers – 3 per day
- o Delivery of mechanical, electrical material/equipment – 1-2 trucks per day

Construction Schedule

- o Scheduled for February 2022 – June 2022
- o Transmission Construction scheduled for February 2022
- o Construction will begin P Street NW and New Jersey Avenue NW
- o Door hangers will be placed on resident doors
- o Coordinate activity with other utilities and with Walker Jones Education Campus

Community Meetings

- o February 28, 2022 and March 3, 2022

A question and answer period followed.

Commissioner Lopez had the following questions: **(1)** what is the focus of the February 28 and March 3rd meetings? Response: These are follow-up meetings with the community and stakeholders; **(2)** what is DOE's role in the feasibility study? Response: The partnership with DOE is a pilot program and it was really related to the Capital Grid Project. We agreed to enter into a partnership with them based on some of our feedback and that is how Connected Communities started; this is the first project of many that we want to partner on; **(3)** Is there a formal case at the Public Service Commission related to Connected Communities? Response: No; **(4)** he saw that Pepco filed its Five Year Climate Solutions Action Plan with the Public Service Commission and it does not mention the Connected Community Roadmap. Can you elaborate why it was not included? Response: Will have to follow up on the specifics of this.

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

XVI. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

MOTION: Commissioner Wiggins moved and Commissioner Blackson seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report reflecting a closing balance in the checking account as of January 31, 2022 of \$56,907.25. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

XVII. APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

1. **MOTION:** Commissioner Wiggins moved and Commissioner Eichler seconded to reimburse Commissioner Nigro in the amount of \$27.14 for copying expenses for the Agenda. The Motion **passed** unanimously.
2. **MOTION:** Commissioner Wiggins moved and Commissioner Blackson seconded to reimburse Commissioner Eichler for the Zoom invoice in the amount of \$99.63. The Motion **passed** unanimously.
3. **MOTION:** Commissioner Wiggins moved and Commissioner Blackson seconded to approve for payment the invoice in the amount of \$250.00 submitted by Karen Jehle for Minutes of the 2/1/22 meeting and website maintenance. The Motion **passed** unanimously.
4. **MOTION:** Commissioner Wiggins moved and Commissioner Nigro seconded to approve the FY 22 Q1 Report as submitted. The Motion passed unanimously.

XVIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Commissioner Nigro stated she is holding her Single Member District meeting via Zoom on February 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. One of the topics to be covered will be to close the lower half of 4th Street, NW between M Street and New York Avenue NW.
2. Commissioner Parlej stated the Mount Vernon CID will be doing its Perception Survey and will share the survey results with the ANC. For a copy of the survey, please contact Commissioner Parlej at: 6E05@anc.dc.gov

XIX. NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022

XX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Eichler moved and Commissioner Wiggins seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The Motion **passed** unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Jehle
Recording Secretary
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