

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

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E convened via Zoom Video Conference and/or Telephone on Tuesday, March 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

Absent:

Kevin M. Rogers, ANC 6E07

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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 Nigro moved and Commissioner Wiggins seconded to approve the Minutes of the **February 1, 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

Lt. George Donigian stated in the last month Property Crime is trending upward. Violent Crime: South of New York Avenue there were four (4) Robberies which included an attempted robbery at Busboys and Poets on K Street; the other three (3) robberies involved knives – most likely juveniles – around 1st Street, H to K Streets.

A question and answer period followed. Commissioner Parlej commented regarding the 2/7/22 incident at Busboys and Poets and stated Councilmember Charles Allen did a walkthrough there and stated we would be getting an additional 12 officers in Mount Vernon Triangle. Response: Lt. Donigian stated he was not aware of this, but noted there are tons of police out here for the State of the Union Address, including officers from Philadelphia. MPD is awaiting the arrival of the trucker convoy.

Commissioner Eichler stated he saw a police vehicle with its lights on blocking the bike lane at the 7-Eleven.

Community Q&A:

- o Is there any correlation to the rise in crime to when the homeless shelter on 5th Street switched from a women's shelter to a men's shelter? No known correlation.
- o Anonymous: ANC 2C has been monitoring the homeless situation on 5th and discussed last month. The agency said it will be closing the shelter in spring/summer for renovations and then it will go back to a women's shelter. Captain Dorrough and the agency are well aware of the crime issues coming from the shelter. The Downtown BID has also committed to cleaning up all the trash and other items from the shelter.

V. PSA REPORT: METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT 3D

Captain Ryan Small reported on crime for the last 30 days. 5 reported Violent Crimes; 2 ADW and 3 Robberies. Slight increase from last year. Substantial decrease in Robberies from last year. Stolen Autos – in the last week, 18 vehicles reported stolen, 13 of which were opportunistic crimes, i.e., delivery drivers leaving their vehicles running. MPD has been doing traffic enforcement in school zones.

A question and answer period followed.

Commissioner Nigro stated she was reporting live from Ward 5 and just feet away from where the homicide took place – what is the status? Response: People involved in that incident were known to each other. Commissioner Nigro asked whether MPD spoke to any of her constituents about footage from their Ring doorbell cameras? Response: Captain Small responded he cannot discuss this.

Commissioner Lopez stated this past Sunday there was a shooting at 7th & S Street NW – shell casings found; was this incident people shooting at each other? Response: This is an active investigation. There were two vehicles exchanging gunshots with each other.

Commissioner Eichler thanked Captain Small for the update on school traffic enforcement. **(1)** In this regard, can you publicly state which schools officers are stationed at? Response: There are Special Operation Divisions (SODs) that deploy officers at different locations. They try to hit the school safety zones; they make their decisions based on data on a rotating basis; **(2)** asked if U-turns are illegal. He saw a vehicle making a U-turn across a double yellow line by Banneker High School.

Community Q&A:

- o A resident stated she just moved to 1110 6th Street, NW and there have been 4 attempted burglaries in the last 10 days; another burglary last night. How are you addressing this? Response: When you make the call, let them know you want to talk to the officer. Dispatch did not assign officers until 30 minutes after the call

came in. Commissioner Nigro raised issues with the Office of Unified Communications.

- o A resident was looking for contact info of who is in charge of 3D and who can we ask about past crime events. Response: Contact Captain Small at: Ryan.Small@dc.gov.
- o John Shaw: What do we know about the barrage of gunfire early Monday morning on the 600 block of S Street? See response to Commissioner Lopez's question above.
- o One of the most dangerous traffic violations is speeding. How exactly does MPD focus on enforcement for those who are speeding? Response: Speed cameras, ticketing, radar guns, "Unreasonable Speed" not well received by hearing examiners.
- o Bernie – car windows on Kirby Street are being busted and broken into often. How is this being addressed? How can we be protected? He keeps his car clear of everything and on a daily basis he comes out and sees that another neighbor's car window has been broken.

VI. REPORT OF MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SERVICES (MOCRS) Kevin Pham, kevin.pham@dc.gov, 202-341-3659

Kevin Pham (Ward 6) stated: **(1)** as of today, DC's mask mandate has been dialed back, but masks will still be required at schools, child care facilities, healthcare/medical facilities, libraries, nursing homes, shelters, correctional facilities, and public transit; starting tomorrow, the DC Covid center in Ward 6 will be making available free KN 95 masks for children; **(2)** DPW's street sweeping program is resuming today; there is a grace period from March 1-15 where vehicles parked in locations that are slated for cleaning will be given warnings; **(3)** the Mayor is still crafting her budget – budget expected to be submitted to the Council in late March or early April.

A question and answer period followed.

Commissioner Parlej asked if there is anything that can be shared publicly on MOCRS efforts with respect to Plaza West? Response: Have a small working group made up of MVT, CID, Councilmember Allen and Housing Management at Plaza West. The working group is meeting bi-weekly with community members. There had been concerns about connecting persons with mental health issues to the right resources. They have invited the Director of DBH to come and speak with the group and put him in touch with Plaza West. Plaza West has been in communication with FEMS to make sure their fire safety regulations are up to date. There were also concerns about unauthorized people parking in the Plaza West garage; new parking permits issued.

Commissioner Eichler asked about the gun violence at 7th and O and 8th and O and City Market. There are bullet holes everywhere. What is the Mayor doing to address this block of O Street and what can be done to reduce the shootings? Any structural changes being considered, i.e., closing the street. Response: MPD plays a role; have Violence Interrupters; please contact him off line after the meeting.

Commissioner Nigro stated she is done with this violence.

Commissioner Lopez suggested inviting ONES and OAG to a future ANC 6E Meeting. He also asked when ANC 6E has a resolution, for example, the budget, where should these resolutions be directed and should we expect a response? Response: Submit resolutions to the Executive Office of the Mayor (EOM).

Community Q&A:

- o John Shaw: So after March 15, if cars are mis-parked on street cleaning day and block a street, will they be towed? Response: They will be subject to a \$45 fine.

VII. REMARKS FROM WARD 5 COUNCILMEMBER KENYAN MCDUFFIE

Councilmember McDuffie welcomed thee folks that are part of Ward 5. He provided a brief background on himself:

- o Re-elected in 2018 to the Council.
- o Did Government Relations work for two years;
- o Chaired the Public Safety Judiciary Committee in 2015/2016;
- o Chaired the Committee on Business and Economic Development in 2017.

The last Performance Oversight Hearing was held on Thursday. Does the Commission have any priorities it would like him to share?

In regard to Redistricting, Commissioner Nigro asked whether certain blocks on New Jersey Avenue and New York Avenue are proposed to be part of Ward 5. She does not want these two blocks to be ignored. The heads of the Ward 2 and Ward 5 Committees have come together about this option. Response: He did not choose these blocks to be part of Ward 5, but he embraced it. He would like to be able to work together with Commissioner Nigro and the other commissioners.

Commissioner Eichler asked what is the status of the Ward 5 Redistricting Task Force and have you considered the possibility of those two blocks being included in Ward 5 in what may be 2G? Response: He has empowered the co-chairs of the Task Force to do their work and he does not want to preempt their decision.

Commissioner Lopez stated he knows the Councilmember has in the past supported the Violence Interrupters Program. It was recently announced OAG's Cure the Streets will have a new focus on splits between Ward 6 (Northwest One and Sursum Corda area) and Ward 5 (Ivy City). These two neighborhoods are not contiguous, but will you push for funding in the FY 2023 Budget so that OAG can set up Cure the Streets programs focused on these neighborhoods separately? Response: He was not aware of this, but he has been a huge proponent of the Cure Violence model. Some of you may be familiar with the Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results (NEAR) Act. The NEAR Act is on a parallel track with law enforcement. OAG's Cure the Streets implements the cure violence model which is part of the NEAR Act. The ONSE also implements aspects of the NEAR ACT. He would like to see better coordination between these two entities. He is advocating for more funding for Violence Interrupters.

VIII. REPORT FROM WARD 2 COUNCILMEMBER PINTO'S OFFICE

bpinto@dccouncil.us; 202-724-8058; <https://www.brookepintodc.com/>
Brian Romanowski, Constituent Services Director, bromanowski@dccouncil.us

Mr. Romanowski stated the following: **(1)** Our office has completed SMD walks with Commissioner Lopez and Nigro and is looking forward to scheduling same with Commissioners Eichler and Wiggins; **(2)** He is happy to see many of you at the groundbreaking at Parcel 42 on Saturday; **(3)** end of Agency Performance Oversight Hearings – Mayor Bowser will submit her budget on March 16, 2022. Any budget requests can be sent to Ella Hanson at: ehanson@dc.council.us; **(4)** He knows the Commissioners will be receiving updates later in the meeting on Redistricting; **(5)** The Reopen DC Alcohol Amendment passed its first vote today. The important thing to note is that this amendment extends streeteries until 2023 and allows them to stay up year round; **(6)** there is a new speed camera at 9th Street between N and O Streets NW; **(7)** improving public safety is the Councilmember's top priority – she requested additional funding for Violence Interrupters; **(8)** expanding bike and foot patrols; **(9)** After March 15, 2022, any vehicles parked in areas slated for street cleaning will be subject to a \$45 fine.

A question and answer period followed.

Anonymous: Now that Councilmember Pinto is overseeing Shaw, what is her focus when comes to supporting our neighborhood and what does she see as the most pressing issues? Response: **(1)** Public Safety; **(2)** Addressing Homelessness; **(3)** Business Recovery and growth; **(4)** Safe routes to school; **(5)** Bicycle safety.

IX. REPORT FROM WARD 6 COUNCILMEMBER ALLEN'S OFFICE

Naomi Mitchell stated the following: **(1)** Ward 6's overall territory has increased significantly over the past 10 years which will mean we will probably wind up with some very large ANCs. In regard to mixed ANCs between two wards, Ward 6 and Ward 8 Councilmembers have tentatively agreed to a mixed joint commission for the Navy Yard area. This is a unique situation; **(2)** Violence Interrupters – Councilmember Allen is proposing a significant increase in the budget for this; **(3)** We are experiencing pain with the losses in the Wards; **(4)** Legislation passed today that will allow DC teachers and staff to run for the State Board of Election; **(5)** Legislation passed allowing certain people who qualify to get vouchers for housing.

X. SUPPORT FOR dLENA REQUEST TO EXPAND SIDEWALK CAFÉ [6E05]

Representative Present: Matt Minora, Mallios & O'Brien

Alex Padro stated the ABC Licensing Committee met and voted unanimously to support both Stipulated and Permanent liquor licenses.

Matt Minora stated the Placard Notice of Public Hearing incorrectly stated 35 to 80 seats when it should have been 45 to 80 seats. And furthermore that dLena has been operating with 80 seats on their sidewalk café since they opened because their temporary

sidewalk café allowed for it. This request formalized / made permanent the 80 seats in the sidewalk café.

Commissioner Parlej stated a Settlement Agreement was previously reached and was happy to report that there have been no complaints about noise.

MOTION: Commissioner Parlej moved and Commissioner Nigro seconded that ANC 6E support the request for support from dLena, 476 K Street, NW, for the substantial change to its Retailer’s Class “CR” Restaurant license to expand the sidewalk café seating to 80 patrons and for a stipulated license and that said support be communicated in writing to the ABC Board. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

XI. SUPPORT FOR UPDATING PUD LANGUAGE CHANGE FOR CAPITAL VISTA TO PERMIT DAY CARE [6E07]

This item was stricken from the Agenda.

XII. SUPPORT FOR SPEED HUMPS ON THE 400 BLOCK OF WARNER STREET NW [6E02]

Commissioner Lopez drafted a letter to DDOT. The Transportation Committee met and recommended support for speed humps on the 400 block of Warner Street, NW due to drivers speeding, using Warner Street as a vehicle cut-through, and failing to come to complete stops at stops signs and pedestrian crossings.

MOTION: Commissioner Lopez moved and Commissioner Nigro seconded that ANC 6E requests that DDOT install vertical speed control devices, such as speed humps, on the 400 block of Warner Street, NW and that said support be communicated in writing to DDOT. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

XIII. CALL FOR SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS IN PUBLIC SAFETY IN FY23 DC BUDGET

Commissioner Parlej drafted a letter addressed to Mayor Bowser, Attorney General Racine, Metropolitan Police Chief Contee, and ANC 6E Councilmembers to urge them to make significant investments in public safety funding this year. Commissioner Eichler asked Commissioner Parlej to include the citation that he had emailed to him in the draft letter.

MOTION: Commissioner Parlej moved and Commissioner Wiggins seconded that ANC 6E support the resolution entitled “Call for Significant Investments in Public Safety in the FY 23 DC Budget and that said resolution be communicated in writing to Mayor Bowser, Attorney General Racine, MPD Chief Robert Contee, and Councilmembers Allen, Pinto and McDuffie. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

XIV. RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE COLUMBIAN HARMONY CEMETERY IN SQUARE 475 AND SUPPORTING A COMMEMORATIVE WORK AT THIS SITE [6E02]

Commissioner Lopez drafted a resolution to Mayor Bowser calling for the recognition of the Columbian Harmony Cemetery in Square 475 and Supporting a Commemorative Work at this Site.

Shaw Main Street's Alex Lopez and Gretchen Wharton expressed support for the resolution.

Community Q&A:

- o Berin Szoka: Lived on the block where the Columbian Harmony Cemetery was. We are all very supportive of the memorial. What will the ANC do to advocate for raising awareness of the cemetery in DC? Having a memorial is not enough. We should lobby the city to include this in materials about DC history.

MOTION: Commissioner Lopez moved and Commissioner Wiggins seconded that ANC 6E adopt the resolution recognizing the Columbian Harmony Cemetery as circulated to the Commission and communicate that resolution to Mayor Bowser. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

XV. UPDATE FROM WARD 2 ANC REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE

Representatives Present: Gretchen Wharton and Ankit Jain, Members of Ward 2 ANC Redistricting Task Force

Gretchen Wharton and Ankit Jain provided a slide presentation and discussed three (3) proposed maps.

A question and answer period followed.

Commissioner Eichler stated he likes the mission statement of Map #2.

Commissioner Lopez stated it is important the SMDs carry the same weight.

Community Q&A:

- o Anonymous: It looks like there are some presumptions that Shaw/Mt. Vernon will be in an ANC together (north of K and east of 9th/11th Streets) and the only discussion is modest alternatives to SMD boundaries. When were those decisions made? For example, what about North Logan/North Shaw being an ANC, and South Logan/Mt. Vernon (just as an example)? What are the restrictions for proposed maps?
- o Berin Szoka: Is it common practice for ANCs to have an even number of commissioners? Odd numbers would avoid regular deadlocks.
- o John Shaw: Do we assume that Ward divisions are now absolutely set?
- o Wiltberger as a Ward boundary/division is not very appropriate. 7th Street and Florida would be more reasonable.
- o Philip May: I want to voice support for Gretchen's map. Keeping the area north of Rhode Island Avenue together is great.
- o Pleasant Mann: On taking a different approach to Mount Vernon, there was an earlier proposal to incorporate parts of downtown, but the people in ANC 2C didn't like it.

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

XVI. UPDATE FROM WARD 6 ANC REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE

Representative Present: Ivan Frishberg, Amalgamated Bank

Mr. Frishberg referenced a presentation on Councilmember Allen's website. Page 5, 6E06 largely unpopulated; Ward 6/Ward 8 joint ward Navy Yard commission.

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

Commissioner Parlej noted that the new proposed 6E02 was a very small geographic area. He also noted that the 400 block of K Street should stay united within a single Single Member District (SMD) rather than being split between two new proposed SMDs (6E05 & 6E01).

XVII. ROCK AND ROLL HALF MARATHON UPDATE

Diane Thomas did not join the call.

XVIII. 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 February 28, 2022 of \$56,081.48. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

XIX. APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

1. **MOTION:** Commissioner Wiggins moved and Commissioner Parlej seconded to reimburse Commissioner Nigro in the amount of \$18.66 for copying expenses for the Agenda. The Motion **passed** unanimously.
2. **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 3/1/22 meeting and website maintenance. The Motion **passed** unanimously.
3. **MOTION:** Commissioner Wiggins moved and Commissioner Nigro seconded to reimburse Commissioner Wiggins \$12.00 for the increase in cost for the Post Office Box (\$424.00 was previously approved, but the actual cost was \$436.00). The Motion **passed** unanimously.
4. **MOTION:** Commissioner Eichler moved and Commissioner Blackson seconded to reimburse Commissioner Eichler for the Zoom invoice in the amount of \$99.63. The Motion passed unanimously.

XX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

XXI. NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022

XXII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Eichler moved and Commissioner Blackson seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The Motion ***passed*** unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Jehle
Recording Secretary
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