

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E
Virtual Public Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 2023**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E convened via Zoom Video Conference and/or Telephone on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Chris Hart (Chair), ANC 6E01
George Viedma, ANC 6E02 (joined at 6:50 p.m.)
Kevin Rogers, ANC 6E03
Denise Blackson, ANC 6E04
Ahmad Abu-Khalaf, ANC 6E05
Dylan Forest (Secretary), ANC 6E06
Ritanch Hans, (Vice Chair & Treasurer), ANC 6E09

Absent:

None

(Vacant), ANC 6E07
(Vacant), ANC 6E08

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Chris Hart with a quorum of 6 out of 7 Commissioners present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Abu-Khalaf moved and Commissioner Forest seconded to approve the Agenda as amended. The Motion **passed** 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Forest moved and Commissioner Blackson seconded to approve the Minutes of the **February 7, 2023 ANC 6E Public Meeting** as amended. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

4. COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES ALLEN REMARKS

Councilmember Charles Allen thanked the new ANC commissioners for their

leadership as well as Commissioners Rogers and Blackson for their return to service. His remarks focused on the following:

- The Council is about to begin the Budget season. The proposed budget is broken apart into different committees, hearings are held, and then the budget is put back together and the Council will vote on it in May.
- The city's economic growth continues to grow but the pace has slowed a bit due to an expected decrease in downtown property assessments.
- Holding our annual Ward 6 Budget Town Hall on Thursday, April 6, 2023, School-Within-School at Goding, 920 F Street, NE, in person and virtually – open mic night for resident input.
- School Budgets: Large number of Ward 6 schools facing budget cuts from the Mayor. Also have a significant loss of our teacher retention. In DCPS, 30% of our teachers did not come back. In Charter schools, 38% of our teachers did not come back – this is not a good number. Ideas being advanced are allowing flexible schedule for teachers, getting more mental health support into the schools, and better pay.
- Doing a school lunch tour every year – went to four different schools – two elementary schools and two middle schools. DCPS Food Service contract comes to the Council for approval.
- He chairs the Council's Transportation and Environment committee – priority areas are: (1) traffic safety – how are we enforcing our rules around traffic safety? Rather than write a bill and introduce it, he is going to hold a hearing on the issue of traffic safety with the goal of having that hearing lead into legislation; (2) Traffic Safety Investigation (TSI) process – DDOT did not do a good job of communicating this effectively. (3) Passed legislation relating to Safer Streets/Safer Intersections, but most of those have not been funded and have not been implemented – working to get these funded.
- WMATA Recovery – he is currently the Vice Chair of the region's Council of Governments (COG). Next year he will be the Chair. We are mapping a 2-year strategy to work with the WMATA General Manager to help WMATA recover and restore confidence. But then we are also facing a fiscal cliff with WMATA next year and we have to work as a region and partnership to come with some shared strategies for success between DDOT and DOEE. Also seeing a lot of Federal dollars coming in - \$3.5 billion coming into DC – so we are really working on setting up how are we planning for these dollars, what projects are we prioritizing, and oversight.
- Climate Change – **(a)** introduced legislation to expand EV charging stations. **(b)** how do we help to convert our fossil fuel burning appliances to electronic appliances? How do we use incentives? The Federal legislation really looks at using tax incentives/rebates – this works well for households where they can front the money to buy water heaters, furnaces, ovens, etc., but working or low income families do not have the money to buy these upfront, so we are going to be thoughtful about this legislation. There is a huge potential here for DC jobs.

- Downtown Planning: How are we incorporating these priorities into all the work that we do.
- Public Safety: Need to have effective policing and accountability when harm is done and making sure we are investing in people and communities at risk on prevention strategies. MPD and community organizations are working well together to identify what is a trend, what is a risk, and then working to intervene, and in the event harm did happen, to hold individuals accountable for what took place.
- Libraries, Rec Centers and Community Service Resources: In his budget letter to the Mayor, he asked to put money into the budget to determine what we want in the Walker Jones /Northwest One community – have a lack of recreations services there. Need a community-driven process to identify what the residents need – hoping to see some funding in there.
- DPR: About a month ago, he introduced legislation to require recreation centers to stay open on weekends. The Mayor announced this past week with the DPR that all of DC’s rec centers using a phased approach are going to be staying open on Saturdays. We also need to make sure that DPR has the resources.
- April 1, 2023: Hosting Ward 6 Spring Clean.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Commissioner Hart stated he saw in the Councilmember’s Budget Letter mention of the 400 block of K Street – there are issues with congestion, enforcement of the PUDOs, safety with the bike lanes – can you elaborate on what you put in the letter and how we can move forward to find a solution for this? Response: We are experiencing a challenge in MVT here – the city does not do well with curbside management. He wants to work with the community and businesses to see if we can put additional investment here. A pilot effort could be anything from education to outreach to increased enforcement. But we have to also be willing to try different ideas and be able to learn from it.
- Commissioner Forest asked what you are expecting to get out of these anticipated investments in Metrobus and Metro Rail? Trains arrive every 15 minutes – impediments to buses coming every 30 minutes. What are your plans to address these and other systemic problems with Metro? Response: WMATA is an independent entity, but he has the power to bring in the General Manager to address issues. We need to get more of our 7000 series trains back online. Metro for DC proposal: By taking fares out of the equation – fare-free system – our buses will start running more efficiently. Affordability and better service are the goal.
- Commissioner Abu-Khalaf asked how can we collectively work toward systemic changes when it comes to pedestrian and safe streets – unsafe sidewalks – and how are these being addressed with the new system? Response: DDOT’s Traffic Safety Investigation (TSI) had an overwhelming number of requests coming in, so they restructured their TSI system to make it more equitable. The system is heavily dependent on resident input. He wants to see DDOT be more proactive rather than reactive.

- Commissioner Rogers stated the MOCRS Ward 6 Spring Clean is Saturday, March 18, 2023.
- Rachelle Nigro stated the intersection of 4th and New York Avenue is very dangerous in terms of the median. DDOT needs to put signage as well as striping and maybe a light where the median is. Response: He is making a note of this and will reach out to DDOT.
- Terry LeFavors stated she lives at 400 Massachusetts Avenue and the Walmart there is going to close. Have any other big box stores expressed interest in coming to that space and what precipitated the closing of the store? Response: There is probably going to be another big box store there. There was poor management at the store and shelves were not stocked. Walmart is closing several stores nationally.

5. PSA REPORT: METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT 1D

Crime Cards Report provided by Lt. Sprague – February 14 – March 14, 2022/2023

Overall Crime decreased from 68 to 67

Violent Crime down from 8 to 7

One Homicide (2022)

Sexual Abuse up 2 from 0

ADW – unchanged

Robberies decreased from 5 down to 3

Property Crime flat

Burglaries 2

thefts from auto Increased from 14 to 15

Theft increased from 32 to 34

Motor Vehicle Theft decreased from 12 to 9 due to Kia and Honda Challenge

Kia – Honda Challenge – wheel locks provided to residents.

Captain Justin Roth joined the call at 7:30 p.m. and reported:

1 Robbery, 1 Sexual Assault, 1 ADW (stabbing) – all occurred near the shelter at 2nd and D Streets, NW – the complainant and suspects were all unhoused in around the area of the shelter. The robbery was part of a patterned robbery turned over to carjacking task force – believes there is a suspect in this case. Stabbing at the shelter – arrest made; sex abuse case is between known parties.

There were robberies at 3rd & K and 200 block of F Street – occurred in the early morning construction workers on their way to work. Occurred in the early morning.

What he has done is moved one of his robbery overtime units down to the shelter all the way to Union Station so there should be an officer throughout the day.

Burglaries in MVT – similar MO - throwing bricks through windows – not the same suspects – targeting alcohol and electronic devices.

Burglary arrests in NE along H Street corridor – same MO – bricks through windows.

MVT thefts trending in right direction now. Kia and Hyundai gave us 1,000 wheel locks to provide to residents. More signage from BIDS to food delivery drivers to not leave their vehicles running.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Commissioner Hart stated there is a patrol car parked on the driveway to Museum Square. Are they on regular patrol or doing enforcement?
Response: Robbery prevention.
- Jeanne Mattison – **(1)** asked if Captain Roth can talk about our safety group and where you see that going? Response: Having conversations with construction companies and they are fruitful. Thinks some progress is being made there. He spoke about Tyler House at Commissioner Blackson's last meeting – brought the OAG in to have it declared a nuisance property. Everything we get, we forward to OAG. Thinks we have a pretty good impact between MPD, construction companies, Commissioner Blackson, and the Violence Interrupters. Trying to keep two units there around the clock; **(2)** Are there some Spring activities planned in activating that public space and can we help in terms of getting some things going there?
Response: Will get with Officer Lewis to see what is planned.
- Commissioner Blackson stated she works with Officer Mohammed and is looking to do things this coming spring.

6. PSA REPORT: METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT 5D

Lt. John Sprague reported the following: (1) ADW with gun unit block of M Steet NE – closed with an arrest; (2) investigating a sexual/criminal assault at 1100 block of 1st Street – case still open. Did see some significant improvements in Motor Vehicle thefts over the past 30 days.

In NoMA, businesses have experienced big increases in Thefts from Auto over the last year, but over the past 60 days have seen decreases in both Thefts and Thefts from Auto.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Commissioner Hart stated he ran into Officer Green who stated there has been a spate of break-ins around the 400 block of K Street NW and 5th

Street businesses. Response: Theft from Auto and regular theft in the 300 block of K in the past 30 days. 2 burglaries at 5th & K: no info;

- Commissioner Viedma asked about a window broken at the CVS at 600 K Street, NW.
- Commissioner Blackson asked if there were any updates about a 2/28/23 incident in the 1100 block of 1st Street. Response: A shooting occurred and then the shooters lost control of their vehicle and then bailed out of their car. No other updates right now.

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

Marcus Manning reported the following:

- On February 9, 2023, the Mayor announced that grant opportunities are available through the Office of Gun Violence Prevention and Department of Parks and Recreation.
- DPR announced its open lottery program for summer camps for youth and children – deadline April 5, 2023.
- Mayor Bowser announced she is proposing a 5.05% increase in the amount of money allocated for each student in the city's public and charter schools, amounting to an additional \$144 million in funding.
- Thanks to Commissioner Rogers for the Community Clean Up Day at 45 K Street, NW on March 18, 2023, 10:00 am to Noon

8. ABRA APPLICATION: ROYAL SONESTA, 20 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NW

Representative Present: Matt Minora, Mallios & O'Brien

Matt Minora stated the licensee is a hotel with a total of 280 rooms. They are asking for four summer gardens with 85 seats and a total occupancy of 300. The Licensee is requesting an Entertainment Endorsement to provide live entertainment and Dancing inside the premises and outside in the Summer Gardens. The Licensee is also requesting an Alcohol Carry-out and Delivery and Holiday Extension of Hours Endorsement. He reviewed the Hours of Operation for the licensee.

Commissioner Hart stated the Central Union Mission has lights out at 10:00 p.m. and asked whether there will be any amplified sound after 10:00 p.m. Mr. Minora stated he followed up with the hotel and is waiting for a response.

MOTION: Commissioner Hart moved and Commissioner Blackson seconded that ANC 6E *protest* the Class C Hotel License for Royal Sonesta Capitol Hill, 20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, and that ANC 6E request a response from the hotel regarding amplified sound after 10:00 pm in the Summer Gardens. The

Motion ***passed*** 7 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

9. PRESENTATION ON UNION STATION EXPANSION PROJECT

Representatives Present: Alexis Robinson, Justice Sustainability Associates
Laurent Cartayrade
Drew Morrison, VHB

A PowerPoint presentation was presented that covered the following:

Timeline

- Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): November 1, 2015
- Publication and Review of the Draft EIS: June-September 2020
- Public Hearing on Draft EIS: July 14, 2020
- EIS Pause and Development of Refined Preferred Alternative: October 2022 – June 2022
- Resumption of Process and Preparation of Supplemental Draft EIS: July 2022-Present (Ongoing)

Overview of Preferred Alternative

- Reviewed Concept Drawings
- Parking and PUDOs provided below ground.

Impact Areas Considered in SDEIS

- Environmental Justice, Water, Solid Waste Disposal, Transportation, Air Quality, Noise and Vibration, to name a few.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Commissioner Abu-Khalaf asked – **(1)** will there be a residential component to the project? Response: No; **(2)** what are the potential traffic implications? Response: The project does include 550 spaces below ground.
- Commissioner Forest asked – **(1)** what are the plans for facilities for bike parking and storage? Response: 900 bikes slot near the H Street side; 100 bike share spots; **(2)** Will there be EV charging stations in the parking area? Response: Yes but no confirmed number yet.

10. PRESENTATION FROM OFFICE OF THE TENANT ADVOCATE (OTA)

Cancelled, will appear at a future meeting.

11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SMD 6E07 SPECIAL ELECTION

Commissioner Hart reviewed the Special Election Procedures to fill the vacancy in SMD 6E07. Voting will be in person and staffed by the Office of

Neighborhood Advisory Commissions (OANC). A quorum is needed at 5:00 pm and then again at 9:00 pm to accept the results. There are two candidates: Devina Carson and Graham Steinberg.

MOTION: Commissioner Forest moved and Commissioner Hans seconded that ANC 6E schedule the Special Election to fill SMD 6E07 for March 21, 2023 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm and adopt the draft Special Election policies with the caveat that 6E will reach out to the OANC regarding the procedure for provisional ballots. The Motion **passed** 6 yeas – 0 nays – 1 abstention (Commissioner Rogers).

12. OPEN FORUM

- o Mark Randolph stated the DC Code calls for a FOIA presentation for ANC members through the OANC. Did this happen? He was informed a training session was offered in February.

13. APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

- a. **MOTION:** Commissioner Forest moved and Commissioner Hans seconded to approve the payment of the invoice in the amount of \$250.00 submitted by Karen Jehle for Minutes of the March 14, 2023 ANC 6E Public Meeting/Website Updating. The Motion **passed** unanimously 7 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.
- b. **MOTION:** Commissioner Forest moved and Commissioner Hans seconded to approve the reimbursement of \$99.63 to Commissioner Hart for the March Zoom invoice. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 1 abstention (Commissioner Hart).
- c. **MOTION:** Commissioner Forest moved and Commissioner Hans seconded to approve the reimbursement of \$167.88 to Commissioner Hart for GoDaddy Linus Hosting renewal for the ANC 6E website. The Motion **passed** 4 yeas – 0 nays – 2 abstentions (Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Hart).

14. NEXT MEETING: APRIL 4, 2023

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Forest moved and Commissioner Hans seconded to adjourn the meeting. The Motion **passed** unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:43

p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
(Transcribed from Recording)

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