

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A**  
**Minutes**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**  
**June 8, 2023**

**Present:** Commissioners Amber Gove, Keya Chatterjee, Mike Velasquez, Roberta Shapiro, Laura Gentile, and Steve Moilanen were present. Commissioner Dooling was absent.

The meeting was convened virtually via Zoom at 7:00 pm.

Chair Amber Gove called the meeting to order and noted the presence of a quorum. The minutes for the ANC May 2023 meeting were accepted. The agenda for the June 2023 meeting was accepted by unanimous consent.

**Community Presentations**

**Paul H. Smith, DC Taxpayer Advocate and Ninilola (Lola) Benson, Tax Policy Specialist, DC Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR), Office of the Chief Financial Officer**

DC Taxpayer Advocate Mr. Smith gave an overview of the fairly new Office of the Chief Financial Officer, noting that its mission is to ensure that all taxpayers are treated in a fair and equitable manner, consistent with their taxpayer rights and with DC tax law and policy. These rights include the right to be informed, the right to quality service, the right to pay no more than the correct amount of tax, and the right to challenge the District's position and be heard, among others. The Office of the Taxpayer Advocate exists to provide assistance and systemic advocacy to improve DC's tax system; the office provides one-on-one assistance as well as community education. If a taxpayer has tried unsuccessfully to resolve a problem through regular channels, or if there is undue delay, unresponsiveness, or a unique situation, OTA can step in and assist. The office cannot help taxpayers in active bankruptcy or those who have not made an attempt to work through "normal" channels, such as collection and revenue offices. For assistance, taxpayers can email: [taxpayeradvocate\[at\]dc.gov](mailto:taxpayeradvocate[at]dc.gov), call (202) 442-6348, or visit [www.taxpayeradvocate.dc.gov](http://www.taxpayeradvocate.dc.gov) and click the "request assistance" button. Mr. Smith can be reached directly at [Paul.Smith\[at\]dc.gov](mailto:Paul.Smith[at]dc.gov).

Ms. Benson gave an overview of the Healthcare Shared Responsibility Mandate, sharing that individuals in DC must have health insurance coverage throughout the entire taxable year or have an exemption to avoid paying a penalty. OTR is currently looking at the data of who is paying the penalties and trying to educate communities about the repercussions of the lack of health insurance and the options offered by the government.

**Consent Agenda**

The following items were adopted by unanimous consent:

## **Transportation and Public Space (TPS)**

- ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT that references all previous TSIs, as well as pending TSIs, on the 11th Street NE Corridor (Florida Avenue NE to East Capitol Street), stating that changing the signs from 25 to 20 mph would not be sufficient to ensure safety, and that ANC 6A would welcome more engagement from DDOT and a comprehensive safety analysis of 11th Street based on the safety walk that ANC 6A had conducted with DDOT, addressing a more extensive length of 11<sup>th</sup> Street NE rather than only the 11th Street and Constitution Avenue NE intersection.
- ANC 6A write a letter of support of the DDOT streetscape permit application for 1101 H Street NE.

## **Officer Reports:**

1. The June 2023 Treasurer's report by Commissioner Steve Moilanen reviewed the expenditures accrued in May: \$765.89 for webmaster services, \$250 for notetaking, and \$58.29 for Zoom Premium (checks #2063, #2062, and #206). Accounts payable include a security fund payment, webmaster services for April, notetaking services for April, and Zoom Premium for March-April (checks #2046, #2060, #2059, and #2058). The opening uncommitted funds available were \$30,868. After disbursements and accounts payable totaling \$2,148.36, the closing available checking balance is \$28,720. The savings account opened at \$100.05, gained no interest, and closed at \$100.05, and petty cash remained at \$25. The Treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent.

## **Standing Committee Reports:**

### **Community Outreach**

1. The May 2023 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Grant application and related information can be found here: <https://anc6a.org/other-documents/>
3. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, July 24, 2023 (4<sup>th</sup> Monday; no June meeting); this will be a public safety focused meeting and residents are encouraged to attend.

### **Alcohol Beverage Licensing**

1. No report. ABL did not meet in May 2023.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, June 27, 2023 (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday)

### **Transportation and Public Space**

1. The May 2023 committee report was accepted by unanimous consent.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, June 20, 2023 (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday; usually 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday)

### **Economic Development and Zoning**

1. No report. EDZ did not meet in May 2023.
2. Next meeting - 7:00 pm, June 21, 2023 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)

### **Single Member District Reports**

Commissioner Laura Gentile (6A05) is dealing with a partially vacant property on the corner of D and 12<sup>th</sup> Streets and trying to have the Department of Buildings do an

inspection. There is a similar possibly vacant property on the corner of D and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets. Neighbors have reached out reporting that Benning Road transfer station is no longer operating as a transfer station with nearly no notice. Fort Totten will not be taking household hazardous waste. DDOT is repaving the alley between the 1400 blocks of Duncan and E Streets.

Commissioner Moilanen (6A07) invites community members to stay safe and take care of each other while the smoke and haze continue affecting the district. The Commissioner sympathizes with those feeling an acute discomfort and anxiety about public safety, especially as his own car window was recently smashed. There is a private camera rebate program for residents as well as wheel locks for certain car models. The city has partnered with DoorDash to install dashcams on delivery vehicles in an effort to reduce carjackings. The comment period for the Better Bus redesign extends through June 18, 2023 and Councilmember Allen's community town hall meeting is next week on June 14, 2023.

Commissioner Roberta Shapiro (6A03) received data from DDOT about TSIs and 311 sidewalk-related inquiries and will analyze it before the upcoming TPS meeting, requesting that fellow Commissioners spot check some allegedly closed requests in their SMDs. The Sidewalk Survey has around 380 responses and progress is being made on sharing the Sherwood parking lot with SWS. The Commissioner has found that nobody will take responsibility for construction waste (signage, palettes, etc.) left by various DC agency contractors. The Commissioner attended a very successful and heartwarming fundraising event at Sasha Bruce House, a 49-year-old organization focused on providing shelter to abandoned, neglected, and abused children.

Commissioner Keya Chatterjee (6A01) reported a continued high amount of gun violence and noted that there are several community organizations, such as Sasha Bruce House and HIPS, which prevent future violence by providing mentoring, tutoring, jobs, and other services to those that need them. The Commissioner was joined by several other Commissioners and Councilmember Charles Allen on a Florida Avenue safety walk, noting several areas for immediate improvement.

Commissioner Mike Velasquez (6A02) attended the DDOT open house and made several contacts including some from the Division of Urban Forestry. The Commissioner was in touch with Capitol Hill Towers and will be working with the Avec building on trying to enforce slower, more mindful driving in the alley. 775 H Street redevelopment will be on June 2023 EDZ agenda and there was a drug arrest on 8<sup>th</sup> and H Streets NE. Several constituents would like to be proactive in terms of public safety and encourages everyone to attend COC meetings, especially the one taking place in July 2023 that will be focused on public safety. Finally, the Commissioner encourages the community to continue supporting minority-owned businesses along the H Street corridor.

Commissioner Gove (6A04) shares empathy with those increasingly concerned with public safety and notes that DC's police officers are available; they believe that

security cameras remain effective and encourage residents to take advantage of the rebate program. Car theft, carjacking, and jump-in incidents remain high and police urge drivers not to leave their cars idling or keys in vehicles. First District MPD meetings are the first Tuesdays of each month; the next Fifth District meeting is on June 22, 2023. The construction on C Street and North Carolina Avenue is nearly done and the National Park Service is interested in starting a volunteer Bark Ambassador program to encourage on-leash behavior at dog parks. The first DPR meeting about the Kingsman dog park redesign is on June 16, 2023.

### **Community Comment**

Ms. Jen DeMayo from Councilmember Allen's office shared that the final budget vote happened and includes funding for Sherwood renovations including a new splashpad and pickleball court. Rumsey Pool in ANC 6B will be modernized and Southeast Library is undergoing renovation. The Council also passed rent control legislation. Ms. DeMayo can be reached at: Jen DeMayo [jdemayo@dccouncil.gov](mailto:jdemayo@dccouncil.gov).

MOCRS Jake Stolzenberg is available for outreach to DC agencies and has been assisting on Florida Avenue and H Street safety concerns, among others. Mr. Stolzenberg can be reached at (202) 341-3659 or [jake.stolzenberg@dc.gov](mailto:jake.stolzenberg@dc.gov).

RSVP for Councilmember Allen's Better Bus meeting; for details: [https://www.charlesallenward6.com/ward\\_6\\_better\\_bus\\_network](https://www.charlesallenward6.com/ward_6_better_bus_network)

WMATA's Better Bus Project: <https://www.wmata.com/initiatives/plans/Better-Bus/index.cfm>

Camera Rebate Program: <https://ovsjg.dc.gov/page/private-security-camera-rebate-program>

Join the ANC 6A listserv: <https://groups.google.com/u/1/g/anc-6a>

Crime data in DC: <https://crimecards.dc.gov/>

For urgent traffic signal issues like lights that are out or pedestrian signals that are turned, community members should call this number: (202) 671-3368; is it the emergency DDOT hotline.

Several community members shared growing concern, anxiety, and frustration not only about public safety but about MPD's lack of action and transparency; they are looking for engagement opportunities to assist in violence prevention and intervention. MPD has increased presence in certain hot spots, such as 8<sup>th</sup> and H Streets NE, but non-police intervention and programming is also needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm.