

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E
Virtual Public Meeting
Tuesday, February 27, 2024**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E convened via Zoom Video Conference and/or Telephone on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Chris Hart, (Chair), ANC 6E01
George Viedma, ANC 6E02
Ahmad Abu-Khalaf, (Secretary), ANC 6E05
Dylan Forest, ANC 6E06
Davina Carson, (Treasurer), ANC 6E07
Dale Prince, ANC 6E08
Ritanch Hans, (Vice Chair), ANC 6E09

Absent:

Kevin Rogers, ANC 6E03
Denise Blackson, ANC 6E04

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chair Chris Hart with a quorum of 7 out of 9 Commissioners present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Carson moved and Commissioner Hans seconded to approve the Agenda as submitted. The Motion **passed** unanimously 7 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Prince moved and Commissioner Carson seconded to approve the Minutes of the January 9, 2024 ANC 6E Virtual Public Meeting as submitted. The Motion **passed** unanimously 7 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

4. UPDATES FROM WARD 6 COUNCILMEMBER ALLEN'S OFFICE –

POC: Jeanne Mattison, Constituent Services Coordinator,
jmattison@dccouncil.gov; 202-724-8072

Did not join the call.

5. UPDATE FROM MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SERVICES (MOCRS) – Marcus Manning, Ward 6 Community Liaison, 202-538-1241, marcus.manning@dc.gov

- Mayor Bowser has been hosting Budget Engagement Forums as of last Saturday. Two others scheduled are:
 - February 28, 2024, 11:00 a.m. – Senior Tele Town Hall Budget Forum – to join, call: 844-881-1314
 - February 28, 2024, 5:30 p.m. – Second citywide Budget Engagement Forum, Brooklyn Middle School, 1150 Michigan Avenue NE.
 - February 29, 2024, 5:30 p.m. – Youth Budget Engagement Forum – join online at: mayor.dc.gov/live
- Summer Youth Employment Program: Registration started February 6th and closes on March 6, 2024.

Commissioner Hans asked about the ANC Town Hall with the Mayor and was informed it is scheduled for Saturday, March 2, 2024.

6. PSA REPORT: METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT 1D (PSAs 101 and 102)
Captain Hrebenak; Lt. Alali

Captain Hrebenak reported on crime for the last 30 days per the following:

- H Street NE: Shots from vehicle at some individuals in the area – fortunately no one hurt. In response, MPD continuing to have a high presence at North Capitol, New York Avenue, and H Streets, especially around Tyler House. Looking for a black color Acura sedan.
- Stolen Vehicle – 800 block of 1st Street – vehicle left running out in front of business – owner of vehicle pursued the stolen vehicle – shootout occurred in the 800 block of 1st Street by Walmart parking lot. Stolen vehicle remained on the scene. Still actively investigating this case. This incident did not originate in 6E.
- Property Crime has seen a decrease but has seen an increase in Stolen Vehicles – don't leave vehicles running!

Lt. Alali – **(1)** reported on the first Safe Commercial Corridor Hub and stated this has proven to be a successful resource in bringing city services to the Chinatown area. They have taken in lot of referrals. Officers have been really proactive – their presence matters; **(2)** Chinatown Crime Stats: In the last 14 days, Violent Crime declined by 67% and 100% in the last 7 days.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Chat: How often is the 800 block of 3rd Street being patrolled? There has been an increase in vehicles being broken into. Response: MPD will focus more in this area.
- Chat: Daycare facility at 3rd & K Street NW – parents' vehicles are being ticketed while dropping off and picking up their kids. Response: Commissioner Hart stated 6E is in conversations with DDOT about this. This used to be a Pickup/Dropoff. ANC 6E is in conversations with DDOT to bring it back.
- Chat: Can the Safe Commercial Corridor Hub be implemented in the Union Station area? Response: Yes, will be looking into this.

7. PSA REPORT: METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT 5D (PSAs 501/502)

Did not join the call.

8. UPDATE ON ROCK 'N ROLL HALF MARATHON ROUTE AND ROAD CLOSURES IN ANCE 6E
POC: Diana Romo Thomas

- o Name: Rock 'n' Roll DC Half Marathon and 5k
- o Organizer: Ironman/St. Jude's Hospital
- o Date: Saturday, March 16, 2024
- o Beginning and ending times:
7:45 a.m. – 9:00 am **5k** Start and Finish at 4th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue NW
8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Half Marathon** Start and Finish at 4th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue NW
- o Event Public Notice: <https://www.runrocknroll.com/washington-dc>
- o Expected Attendance: 16,000 participants

9. CONSIDERATION OF LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FOR 2fifty BBQ, 414 K STREET NW (SMD 6E01)
POC: John Williams, Debby and Fernando Gonzales

- o Applicant has been operating in Riverdale Park, Maryland for the past four years.
- o Applying for a beer and wine liquor license; will not have a bar.
- o Hours of Operation: Sunday to Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 pm (Closed Tuesdays).

MOTION: Commissioner Hart moved and Commissioner Carson seconded that ANC 6E **support** the Class "D" liquor license application for 2fifty BBQ, 414 K Street, NW, and that said support be conveyed to ABCA. The Motion **passed** unanimously 7 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

10. RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT HISTORIC DESIGNATION OF THE ACACIA BUILDING, 51 LOUISIANA NW (SMD 6E08)
POC: Commissioner Prince

Commissioner Prince provided an overview per the following of two of four potential criteria for inclusion of the Acacia Building on the National Register:

Criteria 1: Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

It was the home of one of the most important and successful insurance companies of the late 19th and 20th centuries which is the Acacia Mutual life Insurance Company and that it embodies the company's values and expresses its values through the architecture. The building reflects the civic pride, a sense of social responsibility, prudence, fiscal restraint, etc.

Criteria 2: Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high

artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

It is an exceptional example of a privately-owned office building embracing Federal Washington's design parameters and it is an excellent example of the Stripped Classical Style of the 1930s. It is one of the few private buildings to face the Capitol grounds. It was designed by the same prestigious New York firm that designed the Empire State Building in New York City. The building features two monumental limestone statues of griffins flanking its entrance.

The DC Preservation League has nominated the Acacia Building and expresses support for the designation.

MOTION: Commissioner Prince moved and Commissioner Hans seconded that ANC 6E **support** the Historic Designation of the Acacia Building and that this support be conveyed to the Office of Planning through the resolution circulated to members of the Commission. The Motion **passed** unanimously 7 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

[Commissioner Viedma drops from the call.]

**11. CONSIDERATION OF MEDICAL CANNABIS LICENSE APPLICATION FOR RELVA, 311 H STREET NW (SMD 6E08)
POC: Marcus Jennings, Relva**

- o In business at this location for about four years.
- o Have applied for a retail location with a consumption lounge where customers can have a safe space to consume the product. They have never had an issue with the city.
- o The hours on the placard notice are incorrect. He filed today to correct the hours to the following:
 - Hours of Operation for Retailer: Sunday through Saturday: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
 - Hours of Retailer Sales Open to Public: Sunday through Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
 - Hours of Operation for Safe Use Treatment Facility: Sunday through Saturday: Noon to Midnight.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- o Commissioner Abu-Khalaf asked about the intended uses of the consumption lounge and whether the hours can be adjusted. Response: The Midnight time came from ABCA. The area is pretty much a dead zone at around 9:00 p.m, and the business currently closes at 9 p.m. He is waiting to hear from DOH. There will be cannabis edibles, food, and soft beverages. The capacity of the lounge will be no more than 50 people. The space will provide a safe consumption space for customers who are not able to consume cannabis in their buildings due to property requirements or generally due to federal requirements.
- o Commissioner Prince – **(1)** asked if the safe use is only on the ground floor? Response: Yes; **(2)** what are the plans for security if you reach capacity? Response: 1 to 2 security guards on staff; will check IDs; **(3)** Music/noise abatement: No loud noises; **(4)** Trash: Response: 6' dumpster will be locked; **(5)** Odors: Response: Fume hood already installed from prior business; will also install carbon filters; outside

- consumption not allowed; **(6) Parking:** Response: Owner of former nail salon will lease 8-9 parking spots to us. He recommends that patients place their orders online. They do not allow people to park in front of the store; **(7) Signage:** Response: Will remove paraphernalia from the window.
- Commissioner Carson asked whether security would walk outside the building. Response: Security guards are able to walk employees or customers to their cars if needed. They have an agreement with a private security service providers and guards work under back-to-back shifts. The area does not have major security issues.
 - Commissioner Forest asked Mr. Jennings if the application is for a medical cannabis license and was informed yes. He also asked if the Safe Consumption Lounge is akin to a cigar shop smoking lounge and was informed yes.
 - Commissioner Hans – **(1)** asked if there will be security cameras. Response: Yes, have 14 up now; will have triple that amount when renovations are completed; **(2)** asked if the Safe space is for medical customers only. Response: Yes.
 - ANC 2G Commissioner Nigro asked if there is a Settlement Agreement for the application.
 - Santina: Lives at The Sonata. Residents there are already dealing with noise and safety concerns. She has concerns with the perceived public safety implications of the business model in regards of people who congregate at the Cobb Park across the street and asked if the the consolidated buildings be enhanced? Response: Yes, everything will be totally renovated.
 - Chat: Do you own or lease the buildings? Response: Lease for all three locations.
 - Chat: Relva website does not mention medical cannabis. Response: This will be updated if the application is approved. We want to make sure we have a safe product.
 - Chat: Online orders? Response: 20% of customers will order online – hope this will increase – will pick up and go.
 - Q. Hatoff stated he lives at The Sonata. Opined that creating a treatment center surrounded by residential buildings is inappropriate.
 - General consensus among 6E commissioners regarding pursuing the ABCA protest path to buy more time to hash out the details of the operations of the proposed safe consumption space rather than opposing the opening of the business.

MOTION: Commissioner Prince moved and Commissioner Hans seconded that ANC 6E pass the proposed resolution to **protest** the Medical Cannabis License Application for Relva, 311 H Street NW, and that the protest be conveyed to ABCA. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

12. PRESENTATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES ON PLANNED NON-CONGREGATE/TRANSITIONAL HOUSING AT 25 E STREET NW (SMD 6E07)

POC: David Ross, Chief of Staff, DHS, david.ross@dc.gov

Representatives Present: Anthony Newman, Deputy Administrator,
anthony.newman@dc.gov
Lauren Kinard, Interim Legislative Affairs Liaison,
lauren.kinard@dc.gov

Slide presentation provided – highlights below:

- **DHS Mission:** To provide District residents with connections to work opportunities, economic assistance and supportive services.

o **Differences between Low Barrier Shelter (LBS) vs. Non-Congregate Shelter (NCS)**

	LBS	NCS
Admission	Clients offered beds subject to availability – first come, first served.	Clients issued a bed subject to admissions criterion such as medical vulnerability, unable to serve in current shelters, or matched to housing.
Bed Configuration	High Density – Several clients in same area including some bunkbeds, shared bathrooms.	Pairs – Two to a room with a bathroom for each individual suite.
Case Management	Clients not required to participate.	Clients required to participate.
Gender	Single Sex (*except LGBTQ)	Men, women, and non-conforming genders will be served.

- o **Advantages of Non-Congregate Sites:** Offers privacy, clinic services, require case management, includes built-in exit timelines, supports Mayor’s commitment to making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.
- o **Who Will Be Served at E Street?:** Medically vulnerable (chronic conditions), specialty beds (work beds or senior beds), clients who are matched to a housing resource through CAHP, individuals who cannot be served in other shelters.
- o **Overview of Operations:** Length of Stay: 6-12 months; Client Services: Consistent medical services, intensive case management; Provider Selection: Anticipated Nov/Dec 2023.
- o **Summary of Renovations:** Painting interior spaces, construction of warming kitchen, dining/lounge area, laundry room and storage, upgrading security and IT infrastructure.
- o **Clients Moving In?** Fall of 2024.
- o **Who to Contact?** David J. Ross, Chief of Staff, david.ross@dc.gov; Lauren Kinard, Interim Legislative Affairs Liaison, lauren.kinard@dc.gov.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- o Commissioner Forest – **(1)** asked if residents will be able to store food in their units or some other area? **Response:** Will have warming kitchen and dining lounge; **(2)** asked about curfews? **Response:** Yes, there will be rules and accommodations made regarding work requirements.
- o Commissioner Abu-Khalaf asked clarifying questions regarding the difference between traditional congregate shelter and the proposed facility in which tenants won’t be required to leave with their belongings daily and return to seek shelter, and that the only difference between a traditional supportive rental housing and the facility is that bedrooms and facilities will be shared inside the building. DHS representatives confirmed that the facility will function under those conditions. Commissioner Abu-Khalaf stated he is in support of the housing facility.
- o Commissioner Carson asked about curfews (see above).
- o Leonardo: **(1)** Lives next door – how are you going to run the facility with the shortfall in the budget? **Response:** This expense is included in our budget for this year; we are still negotiating with the provider; **(2)** Security: **Response:** Will have security inside the building.
- o Tasha Thorne: How is the case management different from other shelters? **Response:** We are not a healthcare facility; we only do case management; no substance abuse treatment; provide referrals for these.

- Nancy Rosen stated her apartment building faces 25 E Street NW and she has issues with the site selection when there are three existing shelters within a three-block radius of the building. Response: 25 E Street NW site works well for non-congregate shelter model. This will be the only DHS-run facility in the area although there are shelters run by other providers nearby, including the CCONV and Central Union Mission.
- John: Resident of Capital Plaza next door – concerns about the location – what are the security plans outside the building? Response: This model has very tight requirements for clients to live inside the shelter. Our model will remedy what is happening outside the building. We work very closely with MPD.
- Chat: DHS and DGS oversight? No current work permits posted; who is responsible for trash pickup in the back of the building? Response: The work is being performed by the owner of the building. Please contact David Ross or Lauren Kinard with concerns. We have a partnership with MPD and DBH re security. Will have in-house security. DHS works with DGS' police force. Outside security: Will work with MPD. DBH comes in on a regular basis.
- Chat: Litter on the property? Response: Will have maintenance and janitorial providers. Will have deep cleaning exercises and pest control.
- Chat: Communication with neighbors? Response: Regular communication with ANCs, set up forums with condo associations and apartment associations. Providers are highly engaged with people in the community.
- Chat: If client misses curfew, where do they go? Response: Program will outline what expectations are and there is an appeals process that is outlined in the program rules.
- Chat: Will the hair salon and boutique be open to the public? Response: Both are designed to serve the residents of the facility. The boutique receives donations of clothing from "Dress for Success," for example.
- Chat: What about folks with chronic conditions? Response: Residents will not be tested for drug use prior to being accepted into the program and we do not discriminate, in line with the nationally implemented Housing First model. The program gives proper referrals for necessary treatment services.

Commissioner Hart stated ANC 6E voted to support this proposal at its July 11, 2023 meeting. This model has proven to be a very effective and evidence-based program. If we want to address the homelessness crisis in our city, we have to be willing to implement these innovative programs. He thanked Commissioner Carson for her communication to residents on this topic.

The DHS representatives thanked ANC 6E for inviting them to speak. They are happy to come back to any future meetings and want to be good neighbors.

13. RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT ONE-WAY CONVERSION OF ALLEYWAY ADJACENT TO 655 K STREET NW (SMD 6E01)
POC: Commissioner Hart

MOTION: Commissioner Hart moved and Commissioner Forest seconded that ANC 6E **support** the proposal to convert the alley in Square 451 to one-way southbound operations and that this be conveyed to DDOT. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

14. OPEN FORUM

- Commissioner Nigro raised the matter of the potential conversion of 501 New York Avenue NW to a cellblock (Commissioner Nigro previously stated that she has seen government document referring to the cell block as a “jail”) and stated the appeal hearing with BZA is on March 13, 2024 against their construction permit on the grounds the permit should not have been issued in the first place because the area is not zoned for a “jail,” as persons held will be staying at the cellblock for long periods of time and that requires a different zoning treatment. She will be seeking signatures from businesses in the area on the petition.

17. NEXT MEETING: MARCH 26, 2024

18. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Forest moved and Commissioner Prince seconded to adjourn the meeting. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
(Transcribed from Recording)

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