

# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E

Virtual Public Meeting  
Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E convened via Zoom Video Conference and/or Telephone on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Chris Hart, ANC 6E01  
George Viedma, ANC 6E02  
Kevin Rogers, ANC 6E03  
Denise Blackson, ANC 6E04  
Ahmad Abu-Khalaf, ANC 6E05  
Dylan Forest, ANC 6E06  
Davina Carson, ANC 6E07  
Dale Prince, ANC 6E08  
Ritanch Hans, ANC 6E09

Absent:

## 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Chair Chris Hart with a quorum of 9 out of 9 Commissioners present.

## 2. ANC 6E 2024 OFFICER ELECTION

Scott Lundberg, a 6E01 constituent, presided over the Election of Officers.

Position	Nominee,	Motion	Second	Voice Vote	
				Yeas	Nays
Chair	Chris Hart	Ritanch Hans	Dylan Forest	9	0
Vice Chair	Ritanch Hans	Chris Hart	Dylan Forest	9	0
Treasurer	Davina Carson	Chris Hart	Denise Blackson	9	0
Secretary	Ahmad Abu-Khalaf	Chris Hart	Dylan Forest	9	0

## 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**MOTION:** Commissioner Forest moved and Commissioner Blackson seconded to approve the Agenda as amended to table Item 15 – Approval of FY24 Q1 Financial Report. The Motion **passed** unanimously 9 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

## 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION:** Commissioner Forest moved and Commissioner Prince seconded to approve the Minutes of the December 5, 2023 ANC 6E Virtual Public Meeting as submitted. The Motion **passed** unanimously 9 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

**5. UPDATES FROM WARD 6 COUNCILMEMBER ALLEN’S OFFICE –**  
**POC: Jeanne Mattison, Constituent Services Coordinator,**  
[jmattison@dccouncil.gov](mailto:jmattison@dccouncil.gov); 202-724-8072

Representative Present: Erik Salmi, Communications Director

- o Councilmember Allen sent a letter to DPR, DDOT and DGS asking for an update on Cobb Park. He asked for an updated timeline and, if there are any issues, urged project managers to do the park bit by bit. He will share the response once received.
- o The Council met today and acted on two bills:
  - 1) STEER (Strengthening Traffic Enforcement, Education and Responsibility) Amendment Act passed the Council today on first vote. Provisions: **a)** creates a second point system that is tied to a vehicle and assigns points for speeding captured by traffic cameras. After accumulating a certain number of points, it makes the vehicle eligible for towing; **b)** it grants the DC OAG the right to bring civil suits against drivers inside and outside the District for unpaid speeding tickets and to suspend their driving privileges; **c)** closes loopholes around DUIs and DWIs; **d)** Supports carjacking victims by clarifying that driving tickets from stolen vehicles will not be sent to car owners.
  - 2) Gifting Initiative 71 Cannabis Shops: The Council unanimously approved today legislation that tasks DC’s Alcohol Beverage and Cannabis Administration (ABCA) with regulating cannabis businesses. The legislation gives ABCA the authority to issue warnings, fines and cease-and-desist letters to unlicensed weed shops.

A question and answer period followed.

- o Commissioner Carson asked about the delay with Cobb Park. Commissioner Hart stated that his understanding is that a portion of the lot on which Cobb Park is located is over the I-395 tunnel and there is some question of the need for additional waterproofing of the tunnel. He will circulate Councilmember Allen’s letter to the Commission.
- o Commissioner Prince asked about the STEER Amendment Act and civil suits against out-of-state drivers and whether there is a threshold to meet. Is it going to be all encompassing or for more serious offenses? Response: Applied equally to both – going after the most egregious cases.
- o Kenyattah Robinson – **(1)** stated MVT CID appreciates Councilmember Allen’s letter to the agency directors regarding Cobb Park. The waterproofing, because half of the park is located over the tunnel, is a threshold issue for us. There are two issues: 1) Bio Retention – he believes this has been resolved; 2) Traffic Study – MVT CID would like to get a crosswalk from the north side of H Street to the park. A conversation with the DDOT Director indicated they were able to figure out a way to waterproof it to minimize costs, so they will share the costs for that effort, and it will not come out of our budget. Councilmember Allen asking for an official timeline and other issues was fantastic; **(2)** expressed condolences to Councilmember Allen’s office on the passing of Chris Laskowski, Committee Director for the Transportation and Environment

Committee, who passed away over the weekend.

**6. PUBLIC SPACE PERMIT: 555 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE NW -- NEW BIKE CORRAL ON 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET NW (MVT CID) [SMD 6E01]  
POC: Kenyattah Robinson**

Representatives Present: Kenyattah Robinson, President & CEO, MVT CID  
David Levy, Livable City Group

Kenyattah Robinson requested ANC 6E support for a Public Space Permit for a New Bike Corral at 555 Massachusetts Avenue NW. A slide presentation was provided. A proposed solution is to install a micro-mobility corral, flexposts and striping. This will include tree protection plus traffic control per DDOT standards. A professional auto turn analysis was done that confirmed no impediment to 555 Massachusetts Avenue Garage/Loading Access and Prost Streatery.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- o Commissioner Prince expressed skepticism about the proposal and wondered whether there is a different way to solve the problem. He stated if you prevent parking there, you will push it into the traffic lanes and probably lose one parking space. If we want to provide a micro-mobility corral, there is a perfectly good unused space farther to the south in that triangle between Massachusetts Avenue, 5<sup>th</sup> and I Streets which is on the opposite side that includes Capital Bikeshare and the pedestrian island could be expanded and a larger micro-mobility corral could be provided. The other parts of the plan are in conformity with the DC Bicycle Parking Guide of 2018 with the exception that the corrals should be close to business. Response: With respect to the traffic triangle, we can explore putting a corral there. Parking in front of those garage doors is a problem and presents a safety issue. Until we get license plate reader technology, we will not be able to have manned enforcement there 24 hours per day. We need a solution. The micro-mobility corral is a funding tool provided by DDOT.
- o Commissioner Viedma echoed Commissioner Prince's remarks.
- o Commissioner Hart asked if the installation of the micro-mobility corral does not work out, does MVT CID have the ability to modify the design? Response: Yes.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hart moved and Commissioner Blackson seconded that ANC 6E support the MVT CID's proposal for a new micro-mobility corral at 555 Massachusetts Avenue NW and that said support be conveyed to DDOT. The Motion **passed** unanimously 9 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

**7. NEW JERSEY AVENUE BIKE LANE RESOLUTION [SMDs 6E07/08]  
POC: Commissioner Prince**

Commissioner Prince drafted and presented a proposed resolution in support of proposed bike lanes on the 400-799 blocks of New Jersey Avenue NW.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Prince moved and Commissioner Carson seconded that ANC 6E adopt the draft resolution in support of the proposed bike lanes on the 400-799 blocks of New Jersey Avenue NW, the proposed creation of a plaza on First Street NW between

New Jersey Avenue and F Street, and the proposed change to First Street NW to one-way southbound from F Street to E Street, as well as encourage DDOT to consider whether to close the short segment of G Street between New Jersey Avenue and Massachusetts Avenue and that said support be conveyed to DDOT. The Motion **passed** unanimously 9 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

**8. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF KEEPING CAPITALS AND WIZARDS AT CAPITAL ONE ARENA**  
**POC: Christopher Hart**

Commissioner Hart drafted and presented a proposed resolution in support of keeping the Capitals and Wizards at Capital One Arena.

Commissioners Prince, Forest, and Carson expressed support for the resolution and the importance of keeping the Capitals and Wizards at Capital One Arena.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hart moved and Commissioner Viedma seconded that ANC 6E adopt the resolution in support of District action to keep the Capitals and the Wizards at Capital One Arena. The Motion **passed** unanimously 9 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

**9. PSA REPORT: METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT 1D (PSAs 101 and 102)**

Lieutenant Filip Simic reported on crime for the last 30 days per the following:

- o ADW: 1 – case closed.
- o Robberies: 3 robberies – 2 open; 1 closed with arrest
- o Property Theft is up, especially Motor Vehicle Theft – up 50%
- o Theft from Auto up 33%
- o Overall Crime down 16%
- o Biggest concern is Motor Vehicle Theft and we have stepped up with traffic crime patrols saturating the areas as well as CST units in the Chinatown area.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- o Commissioner Prince – **(1)** emailed a question in advance dealing with break-ins of tradesmen’s trucks. MPD is aware of this. Lt. Simic will follow up offline; **(2)** asked for an update on the armed robbery at the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial around November 12, 2023. Lt. Simic will follow up offline.
- o Jeanne Mattison asked if there were any updates on efforts to address concerns at Tyler House. Response: No major events happening over there now. Have two units assigned to Tyler House 24/7.
- o Nancy Rosen asked if there were any stats for PSA 102. Lt. Simic looked at the last 30 days – 2 robberies still open; one sex abuse – being investigated; theft from autos, retail theft, motor vehicle theft up. There is a lot happening at the parking garage at [address unclear from recording].

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

Lt. Sprague reported on crime for the past 30 days for the period December 10 to January 9 compared to the same period last year.

- o Overall Crime Down from 60 in 2022 to 54 in 2023
- o Violent Crime – same
- o ADW dropped from 4 to 0
- o Robberies went from 2 to 5
- o City-wide averages: Violent Crime has not increased.
- o Property Crime up everywhere
- o 6E down almost across the board
- o MVT up 18 from 14
- o Businesses in NoMa working with MPD re retail theft and enforcement
- o Robberies:
  - One in unit block of L Street – juvenile robbed of his shoes by other juveniles.
  - McDonalds at 1<sup>st</sup> and New York Avenue NW – robbery of shoulder bag from scooter rider.
- o Incredible increase of Robberies at Metropolitan Branch Trail – trying to steal bikes, phones, etc.

**11. UPDATE FROM MAYOR’S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SERVICES (MOCRS) – Marcus Manning, Ward 6 Community Liaison, 202-538-1241, [marcus.manning@dc.gov](mailto:marcus.manning@dc.gov)**

- o Gallery Place and Chinatown Task Force: Mayor made the announcement on Monday, January 8, 2024.
  - Four priority areas:
    - Visioning: Develop a strategic vision for the future of the two city blocks that make up the Capital One Arena and Gallery Place, and reimagine the potential for amenities, activities, and new uses for this vibrant neighborhood.
    - Activation: Identify temporary and permanent activation programs, including special events, to generate foot traffic and increase visitation to Gallery Place/Chinatown. The Task Force will identify and coordinate activities to enhance public safety, cleanliness, and public health resources in and around Gallery Place/Chinatown.
    - Investments and Incentives: Source, evaluate, and recommend investment tools to support stabilization of existing businesses, prioritize critical capital investments, and reposition real estate assets into new productive uses.
    - Community Engagement and Marketing: Promote community activations and provide updates about changes and planning for the future of Gallery Place/Chinatown. Capitals and Wizards: Send comments to DMPED at be downtown at dc.gov
- o On Monday, January 15, 2024 at 11:00 a.m., the Mayor is hosting the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Walk and Parade, 2730 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue SE.

**12. ANC 6E WEBSITE UPDATE  
POC: Commissioner Abu-Khalaf**

Commissioner Abu-Khalaf stated he reached out to the OANC for an update about the timeline. They are looking toward April or May to have ANC commission websites. The models would allow the ANCs to use these websites at no cost, so OANC would bear the cost. They are trying to make them as unified as possible, but each commission would

have some flexibility in having their own commission website customized somewhat. Accordingly, it would probably make sense to wait until then. If not, we could pursue getting a private website developer. As we get closer to spring, he will reach out to the OANC for an update and then a decision can be made. Another option is hiring a part-time communications officer if 6E has the budget for it. They would be responsible for updating the website. On a separate note, another commission is exploring using mailed postcards to introduce the ANC to residents and provide notice about meetings.

Commissioner Carson stated other forms of communication are needed to publicize commission meetings. Commissioner Blackson was in support for another form of communication and to have a communications officer run the website and get the information out. Commissioner Prince agreed that communication is important and asked if ways can be found to develop content that we can all use like a newsletter or a newsletter drawn from those with an online presence to make it easier for commissioners to connect with constituents and to report our activities. Commissioner Hart stated a draft newsletter has been started and perhaps we could come up with a better strategy for the listserv.

[Commissioner Viedma drops from the call].

**13. APPROVAL OF ANC 6E 2024 MEETING CALENDAR**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hans moved and Commissioner Rogers seconded that ANC 6E adopt the 2024 Meeting Schedule as presented. The Motion **passed** unanimously 8 years – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

**14. ANC SECURITY FUND 2024 PARTICIPATION**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hans moved and Commissioner Forest seconded that ANC 6E participate in the 2024 ANC Security Fund and that the \$50 fee be authorized. The Motion **passed** unanimously 8 years – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

**15. APPROVAL OF FY24 Q1 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Tabled.

**16. OPEN FORUM**

- o Commissioner Hart expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Forest for his service as Secretary over the past year. He thinks it would be helpful in the next week or so to set up a meeting with the new officers to go over roles and division of labor.
- o Nancy Rosen stated she represents the tenants' association of 35 E Street NW, a 120 unit building which is immediately adjacent to the new proposed non-congregate shelter at 25 E Street NW for which ANC 6E voted on a resolution in support in July. She is here tonight to take exception to the fact that they were not officially notified by either ANC 6E, their SMD representative, or Councilmember Allen's office. Her bottom-line statement is "just because it may be legal to not reach out does not make it right" and she stated that "the irony is that by law, the ANC has to notify neighbors

when an establishment applies for a liquor license, but a shelter can be put next door to us and we get crickets? How can that be possible?”. [Note that there is no legal requirement for ANCs to provide notification of liquor license applications. That responsibility belongs to ABCA. See DC Code Section 25-421.] She noted that the tenants association is not unsympathetic to the plight of the unhoused, however there are already three homeless shelters within a three-block radius of their building that house 1,700 shelter beds. To her, that is over saturation in a three-block radius. Their tenant association has been working more than two decades with their former ANC 6B, Councilmember Allen’s Office, Pepco, and everybody on the block to “clean up the block of people who are drugs, urinating, defecating, and even having sex in full view of their apartment building.” She pointed out that MPD and the Capitol Police already respond to incidents on their block every day and every night, and noted that many of their building’s residents “have been physically assaulted and are afraid to do their laundry or throw trash out after dark for fear of encountering these homeless persons.” She also questioned whether “any of this considered before the location of this new shelter was selected?” and she really feels they should have been consulted. She asked if anything can be done at this point and noted that any help that can be offered would be appreciated. Response: Commissioner Hart stated he knows Commissioner Carson has been having conversations with Ms. Rosen and DHS and 6E is committed to getting more information shared with the residents in the building either through a dedicated meeting or an update at a future meeting.

Commissioner Carson apologized to Ms. Rosen about the lack of notification. She reached out to DHS and is still waiting for a meeting date in January or having another public meeting.

Commissioner Hart stated the July meeting was noticed through the typical public process and apologized that the agenda was not shared specifically with the residents of her building. The proposal was discussed for 20-25 minutes in a public meeting with DHS followed by several questions. ANC 6E did follow up on concerns related to security and felt the city had a good plan in place. The presentation is available on 6E’s website. He wanted to emphasize that the non-congregate shelter model is different from the typical congregate shelter model. What is proposed is more of an apartment style model paired with wraparound case management services so folks can receive the services they need. It eliminates some of the safety concerns that folks have in large congregate shelters. ANC 6E is committed to working with DHS and her to make sure their residents are informed on what this proposal is.

Commissioner Forest reiterated that 6E did have quite a long conversation with DHS and this is not a typical congregate shelter – this is a long-term supportive housing model – it is their apartment that they come back to every night to their own belongings. There are also plans to provide job training and services to the community. You can also watch the presentation on 6E’s YouTube channel (Link: [\(9\) ANC 6E July 11, 2023 Meeting - YouTube](#))

- o Leonardo Cappelli, General Manager of Kimpton George Hotel, 15 E Street NW, stated they were never notified of the proposed shelter either. He urged ANC 6E and DHS to schedule an in-person meeting as soon as possible to show the area to

make them understand why they are objecting to the proposed shelter. Response: Commissioner Hart stated Commissioner Carson will continue to work with the affected stakeholders to address those concerns.

- o Kate Kahle reiterated Ms. Rosen's concerns.
- o [Note that, subsequent to the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, ANC 6E coordinated with DHS to provide an update to the community during the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ANC.]
- o Commissioner Hans suggested it might be worthwhile for residents to push out their concerns about the non-congregate shelter to Councilmember Allen's office. He usually does town halls with buildings and might be a good person with whom to schedule a meeting.
- o Kenyattah Robinson wanted to remind the community that MVT CID has its annual Neighborhood Perception Survey covering CY 2023. They are looking to get as much feedback and participation as they can, as the CID uses a lot of stats and data in active advocacy efforts with the city. Most recently he testified at the Council on the Safe Commercial Corridor Hub legislation. He requested residents to complete the survey by going to: <https://www.mountvernontriangle.org> They have also included an Open Forum where comments can be submitted about, for example, what is happening with Capital One Arena, etc. The survey closes January 31, 2024.

**17. NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 27, 2024**

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Forest moved and Commissioner Blackson seconded to adjourn the meeting. The Motion **passed** unanimously 8 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Jehle  
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