

7E01 –Dawn Cook
7E02 – Aaron Harris
7E03 – Gail Perkins
7E04 – Natasha Dupee, Chair
7E05 – Vacant
7E06 – Ravi Perry
7E07 – Celeste Kato



Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 7E
Marshall Heights • Benning Ridge
3939 Benning RD NE
Washington, DC 20019
7E@anc.dc.gov
www.anc7e.us
Twitter: @ANC7E

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 7E

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025---Virtual and In-person

6:00 pm

PLEASE NOTE: In compliance with Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, 11th Edition, Section 48, page 468, the minutes of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7E are a record of the actions taken by the Commission, not a record of what people said during the meeting. Accordingly, comments made by commissioners or members of the public are not recorded in detail for the purposes of these minutes.

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at **6:10 PM** by **Chair Dupee**

ROLL CALL: 7E01 -- Dawn Cook; 7E02 – Aaron Harris; 7E03 -- Gail Perkins (virtual); 7E04 -- Natasha Dupee (Virtual); 7E05 -- VACANT; 7E06 -- ABSENT (Ravi Perry); 7E07 -- Celeste Kato

5 Commissioners were present -- 7E01, 7E02, 7E03, 7E04, 7E07

ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA: Motion to approve agenda with amendment to add FY25 Q3 (corrected) and Q4 quarterly financial reports. Approved: 5 Y – 0 N

PRESENTATIONS

1. DDOT - Southern Avenue Safety Project Phase 2

Presenter: Devon Jennings, DDOT Engineer

Project Overview:

- Phase 2 covers Branch to Pennsylvania Ave (.86 miles) and Benning Rd to 63rd/MLK (2.4 miles)
- Total of ~3 miles with 9 signalized intersections
- Southern Avenue identified as High Injury Network corridor
- 3 fatal crashes in last 3 years between Branch-Pennsylvania and Benning-Eastern

Key Safety Issues:

- Wide, irregular lane geometry (22.5 ft lanes causing confusion)
- Ambiguous parking/travel lanes
- Speeding issues
- High crash intersections: Pennsylvania Ave (60 crashes), East Capitol/Southern (47 crashes)

Proposed Improvements:

- Narrow lanes to standard 12 feet
- Add concrete refuge islands for pedestrian safety
- Clearly mark parking areas
- Install rapid flashing beacons
- Review bus stop placement for WMATA route changes
- Quick-build treatments using flex posts and temporary materials

Design Options Presented:

- **Option 1:** Parking on DC side only, bike lanes on Maryland side (Spanish track at Kelly Miller strand)
- **Option 2:** Parking both sides with median buffer
- Both options would have more defined lanes

Suitland Terrace Specific:

- Proposal to convert to one-way street (clockwise or counterclockwise)
- Counterclockwise preferred by DDOT (better sight distance, less queuing)
- Would reduce parking by 10-12 spaces but increase overall safety

Community Concerns Raised:

- Concrete medians currently marked only with orange cones - safety hazard
- No permanent markers/signage yet (still in construction)
- Concerns about emergency vehicle access (similar to Minnesota Ave issues)
- Questions about traffic studies conducted prior to construction
- Resident reported friend ran over curb at night

DDOT Responses:

- Construction phase temporary - permanent object markers/diamond signs planned
- Emergency vehicles can cross flex post median lines at intersections
- Turn radius designed for semi-trucks and fire trucks
- Traffic studies available on DDOT Hub website (Ms. Anderson to send directly)
- Will conduct additional site visit/ride-along with Commissioner Cook

Timeline: Construction phase planned for Fall 2026/Spring 2027

Next Presentation: February 2025 with finalized plans and options

2. Deputy Mayor for Education - Dual Language Feasibility Study

Presenter: DeAndra Brooks, Associate Director for Community Engagement

Study Background:

- Extension of 2023 Student Assignment and Boundary Study
- Council-mandated study for dual language middle school options in Wards 7 & 8
- Current programs: Stokes (Ward 7), Global Citizens (Ward 7 charter), Houston (Ward 7)
- **Ward 8 has NO dual language programming**

Study Components:

- Enrollment trend analysis
- Expert focus groups (DCPS, DCI, national models)
- Six Ward 7/8 community focus groups conducted
- Online poll available (QR code shared - can win \$100 gift card at EdFest)

Middle School Dual Language Model:

- Typically 20-25% instruction in second language (not 50-50 like immersion)
- 1-2 content classes per week in second language
- Need to accommodate varying proficiency levels (Language tracks 1-4)
- Requires 50-75 students per grade level per language to sustain program

Four Concept Options Explored:

1. **Kelly Miller Strand Program (Ward 7)**
 - Spanish track only
 - Cohort model within existing school
 - Feeds from Houston Elementary
2. **Jefferson Middle School Strand (Ward 6)**
 - DCPS planned Spanish track
 - Feeder for Chisholm families
3. **Centralized Hub (Ward 7 or 8)**
 - Could offer all three languages: Spanish, French, Mandarin
 - Models existing ATC (Advanced Technical Centers)
 - Open to both DCPS and charter students
4. **New Dual Language Middle School at Winston Building**
 - Top of Ward 7 (Naylor Road area, behind Safeway/Skyland)
 - Building vacant since 2014

Feasibility Considerations:

- Facility and operational costs
- Staffing requirements (concerns about federal visa changes)
- Impact on nearby school enrollment
- Support for English Language Learners
- Transportation needs
- DCPS conducting separate comprehensive dual language study

Community Concerns Raised:

- Special education services in dual language programs (resident shared negative Chisholm experience)
- Students behind grade level - need for high-impact tutoring, Saturday school
- Why not expand to other schools like Burrville Elementary?

DME Response:

- Special education legally required but specific supports not detailed in this phase
- Study focused on feasibility and demand assessment first
- Burrville not included in this study but may be part of DCPS comprehensive study
- Principal interest required (SUSE declined - focused on CTE program)

Next Steps:

- Online poll open now through January
- Final virtual meeting scheduled for January (TBD)
- Meeting with ECEs (Educare, potentially C.W. Harris Early Childhood)
- **EdFest:** Saturday, December 13th at Kraken Courts (415 Rhode Island Ave NE)

STANDING REPORTS

Executive Office of the Mayor - Ward 7 MOCR

Presenter: Latisha Atkins, Ward 7 MOCR Manager

Major Announcements:

- Mayor Bowser will not seek re-election
- Administration continues serving through January 2, 2027
- Ward 7 Liaison: Amber Wright (contact info shared)

Key Updates:

- **Hypothermia Season:** Nov 1 - March 31
 - Shelter hotline: 202-399-7093 or call 311
- **Snow Team Volunteers Needed:** Serve DC recruiting for senior snow removal
- **EdFest:** Saturday 12/13, Pre-K3 through 8th grade focus

Benning Park Apartments Update:

- Water issues dating to September water main break
 - Property management issues, not DC Water
- 

- City purchased hot water heaters (installed 12/9)
- Property transfer to new owner in progress
- Councilmember Felder and Robert White leading coordination
- Meeting held 12/6 at Woody Ward Rec Center

Councilmember Felder's Office (Ward 7)

Presenter: Sean McKing

Recent Events:

- November 12: DDOT Education Town Hall on East Capitol Mobility Project
- November 14: Elmore Friendship Court street naming
- December 5: Office Hours at Denny's on Benning Road (1st Friday monthly)
- December 6: Fort DuPont Ice Arena ribbon cutting
- November 21: Turkey Drive (250 turkeys + gift cards distributed)

Upcoming Events:

- **December 17:** Ward Wednesday open house at new DGS office
- **December 19:** Holiday party at The Strand, 6-9 PM
- **December 19:** Gift card pickup at MCHDO office, 10 AM-12 PM (registration required)

Ongoing Initiatives:

- Ward Wednesdays: New office at DGS for constituent services
- Two more DDOT town halls scheduled (dates TBA)
- Constituent Services Fund: Finalizing regulations to support Ward 7 residents
- Project RESPECT and RFK advisory board work continues

Benning Park Meeting Details:

- December 6 at Woody Ward Rec Center
- Purpose: Property conditions, management transition, tenant rights
- Connected residents with government agencies and support organizations
- **Note:** Commissioner Gail Perkins (7E03) was not notified of meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT

Presenter: Commissioner Dawn Cook (7E01)

Current Balance: \$62,796.58
Previous Balance: \$62,817.25
Disbursements: \$20.67 (MailChimp)
Allotments: \$0 (as of this date)

Quarterly Financial Reports - Q3 & Q4 Corrections

Issue Identified:

- Administrative errors in Q3 report
- Bills dated at month-end (e.g., 4/29) were incorrectly recorded in that month instead of rolling to next month (May)
- Example: October bills incorrectly included in Q3 (July-Sept) report

Corrections Made:

- OANC Program Analyst Dawn Dickerson corrected Q3 report
- Removed bills that didn't reflect correct quarter dates
- Q4 report submitted with accurate date ranges

Discussion:

- Commissioner Harris requested to see original Q3 report with errors for comparison
- Treasurer to request original from OANC
- Corrections reflect actual bank statement posting dates, not mail receipt dates

Motion: Accept corrections to FY25 Q3 report and approve FY25 Q4 report

Vote: 4 Ayes (Cook, Dupee, Perkins, Perry), 1 Nay (Harris)

Motion carries

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

Chair's Report (Commissioner Dupee)

- **Hampton East BZA Hearing:** Postponed to February 2025
 - **Health Insurance Changes:** DC Health Link/Medicaid qualifications changing December 31
 - **Senior Holiday Party:** December 17 at Southeast Tennyson Learning Center
 - **Resolution Requests:** Process clarification - commissioners can forward concerns directly to agency partners
 - **January Recess:** No commission meeting in January
 - **Next Public Meeting:** February 10, 2026
 - **Executive Meeting:** Week before public meeting at 6:30 PM on Zoom
- 

Commissioner Reports

7E01 (Commissioner Cook):

- Chair of Transportation Committee
- Attended East Capitol Road traffic study meeting with Ms. Anderson (DDOT)
- Major concern: Four turning lanes proposed for elimination
- Texas Ave onto East Capitol turn is critical thoroughfare - requested it remain
- Arranged ride-along with DDOT (as government official, liability resolved)
- Ms. Anderson coordinating with Director for ride-along
- Traffic study being sent to Anita Marsh (Traffic Committee member) for review
- **Benning Ridge Civic Association Holiday Party:** Saturday 1-4 PM at Ridge Road Community Center (\$10 membership)

7E02 (Commissioner Harris):

- Thanks attendees for participation
- Encourages residents to reach out with quality of life concerns
- Hold commissioners accountable

7E03 (Commissioner Perkins):

- Expressed feeling disconnected from commission
- Did not receive Benning Park meeting notifications
- Did not receive executive meeting reminders
- Requests better communication and coordination among commissioners
- Emphasized need for commission unity to serve community effectively

7E04 (Commissioner Dupee):

- Shared Horizon update: 10 families transitioned from shelter to permanent housing
- Horizon partnered with MPD for coat/hat distribution
- Donation opportunities: Contact krosenborough@coredc.org

7E06 (Commissioner Perry):

- Not present for report

7E07 (Commissioner Kato):

- New commissioner, first in-person meeting
- Looks forward to helping community

COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED

DDOT/Traffic Issues:

- Minnesota Avenue design causing major traffic backups and EMS access issues
- Resident's friend's house hit by speeding driver; EMS couldn't access due to road design
- Southern Avenue concrete medians difficult to see at night (only orange cones currently)
- Request for more bicycle lane usage data (questioned frequency of use vs. parking loss)
- Parking loss concerns on Southern Avenue
- 47th Street SE speeding concerns off East Capitol (no traffic calming)

Communication Issues:

- Multiple commissioners reported not receiving executive meeting notifications
- Questions about quorum requirements for executive meetings
- Request for better inter-commissioner communication

Housing:

- Benning Park Apartments ongoing hot water issues (resolved 12/9)
- Property management transition underway

ACTION ITEMS

DDOT:

- Send traffic studies to Commissioner Harris and Anita Marsh
- Schedule ride-along with Commissioner Cook
- Add reflective paint or diamond signs to Southern Avenue medians
- Return February 2025 with finalized Phase 2 options

Deputy Mayor for Education:

- Continue community engagement through January
- Promote online poll (gift card raffle at EdFest)
- Final virtual meeting in January (date TBD)

Commissioners:

- Review communication protocols for meeting notifications
 - Ensure all commissioners receive calendar invites and text reminders
 - Follow up on Benning Park residents' concerns
- 

ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at **7:53 pm** by Chair Dupee

NEXT MEETING: February 2026

Prepared by Commissioner Celeste Kato

Approved on: January 27, 2026

Attested by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Natasha Dupel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'N' and 'D'.