



# ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 7F

## Government of the District of Columbia

**One Commitment, Our Community.**

### General Commission Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, June 23, 2026 6:30p**

**Via Zoom**

The June 2026 General Commission Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7F was called to order by Chairperson Tyrell M. Holcomb at 6:43 p.m. Chairperson Holcomb opened the meeting by asking those present to pause for a moment of silence.

### **Roll Call**

Commissioners present at roll call:

- Commissioner Thompson-Wright
- Commissioner Edwards
- Commissioner Orendoff
- Commissioner Ruff
- Chairperson Holcomb

Commissioners not present at initial roll call:

- Commissioner Cunningham
- Commissioner Hughes
- Commissioner Nelson

Chairperson Holcomb initially noted that the Commission did not have a quorum. Commissioner Ruff then joined the meeting, establishing a quorum of five commissioners.

### **Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was made to adopt the evening's agenda.

Moved by: Commissioner Thompson-Wright

Seconded by: Commissioner Orendoff

Vote: Approved unanimously, 5-0

During discussion, Commissioner Orendoff raised a question regarding the date listed for a future meeting. It was clarified that the date referenced was for a future meeting and not the current agenda. Chairperson Holcomb also noted that the need for a special call meeting would be discussed later in the agenda.

### **Ward 7 Councilmember Update**

Councilmember Wendell Felder provided an update on constituent services, legislative priorities, economic development, public safety, education, and FY2027 budget matters affecting Ward 7 and ANC 7F.

Councilmember Felder shared that his office closed close to 130 constituent service requests in the past 30 days, including requests related to illegal dumping, public safety, and utility assistance. He encouraged residents to continue engaging with his constituent services team and noted that his staff remains active in the community.

The Councilmember discussed the Ward 7 leadership roundtable recently hosted by his office and noted plans to convene another roundtable in August. He stated that the purpose of the roundtables is to make sure ANC commissioners, civic association leaders, and other community leaders have access to information, resources, and a shared vision for improving quality of life across Ward 7.

On economic development and transportation, Councilmember Felder discussed the ongoing RFK redevelopment process and noted that the Office of Planning is expected to complete the RFK master plan soon. Once released, residents will have a 45-day public comment period. He also discussed a recent transportation study that included proposed improvements at Stadium-Armory Metro Station and a proposed Gold Line extension. Councilmember Felder stated that Minnesota Avenue, Benning Road, and Deanwood Metro stations must also be included in early investment conversations and not left behind.

Councilmember Felder also highlighted Project Respect, an initiative focused on addressing vacant and blighted properties and improving neighborhood cleanliness. He stated that his office has worked with the Office of the Attorney General and Department of Buildings to hold negligent property owners accountable. He also noted recent community cleanups in the 7F area and encouraged continued resident participation in cleanup efforts.

As Chair of the Council's Subcommittee on Local Business Development, Councilmember Felder discussed legislation aimed at strengthening enforcement and accountability within the Certified Business Enterprise program. He also discussed pending legislation related to iGaming and consumer protections.

Councilmember Felder reviewed several FY2027 budget items benefiting Ward 7, including:

- \$62 million for AO East redevelopment
- \$75 million for the Correctional Treatment Facility by 2032
- \$6 million for Central Cellblock repairs
- Funding for a youth activation grant
- Funding to revitalize Butterfly Park
- Funding to establish a Benning Road Main Street
- Enhanced funding for Project Respect clean teams
- Funding for a planning study to extend bus rapid transit from Minnesota Avenue to Benning Road

During public questions, a resident asked about the Sand Lot project on Minnesota Avenue and the future of the Safeway site. Councilmember Felder stated that the Sand Lot owner remains interested in activating the site but is still seeking funding. He also noted that Safeway is included in the Northeast Heights redevelopment plan, though redevelopment will not happen immediately.

Commissioner Thompson-Wright raised concerns regarding the condition of the Minnesota Avenue corridor, including overgrown tree boxes, poor lighting caused by tree overgrowth, rodent activity, trash, and the continued lack of clarity around which agency or contractor is responsible for maintenance. She also raised concerns about economic development and whether businesses will be willing to invest in the corridor given the proposed halfway house, the jail, and ongoing public safety and quality-of-life challenges.

Councilmember Felder acknowledged those concerns and stated that Ward 7 has faced decades of inequity. He emphasized the importance of RFK as an anchor for future investment, while also acknowledging the unfairness of asking residents to carry multiple burdens while still waiting for long-promised economic



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development. He stated that his office would continue pushing for investment, infrastructure improvements, small business support, and accountability from clean teams and Main Street organizations.

Chairperson Holcomb added that the Commission has raised Minnesota Avenue tree box and maintenance concerns for several years. He noted that, based on the Commission's understanding, the clean team has not historically been responsible for tree box maintenance and that the Commission has previously been told the Department of Energy and Environment contracts that work. Councilmember Felder requested prior correspondence so his office could follow up with the appropriate agencies and partners.

Chairperson Holcomb also noted the Commission's continued interest in ensuring a comprehensive community benefits agreement is in place for the Northeast Heights project.

#### **Department of Behavioral Health Update**

Anthony Hall, Director of Public Engagement and Outreach for the Department of Behavioral Health, provided an overview of DBH's role and ongoing work in Ward 7.

Mr. Hall explained that DBH serves both as the District's behavioral health authority and as a provider of direct safety-net services. He outlined DBH's oversight of the public behavioral health system, including grant administration, core service agencies, assessment and referral sites, behavioral health beds, school-based mental health, assertive community treatment teams, community-based intervention, prevention providers, and other parts of the public behavioral health network.

Mr. Hall also discussed DBH's direct service work, including St. Elizabeths Hospital, urgent care services, the Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program, crisis response, outreach teams, and public education efforts. He noted that DBH provides grief and loss training, Mental Health First Aid, trauma-informed support, and other community education efforts.

Mr. Hall shared that the Minnesota Avenue corridor has been a long-standing area of focus for DBH. DBH and its partner organizations conduct multiple contacts per week, and sometimes multiple contacts per day, to engage vulnerable individuals and connect them to services. He noted that DBH collaborates with Family Medical, HIPS, and other partners to support residents who may not yet be ready for treatment but may still be willing to engage with outreach workers.

Commissioner Thompson-Wright asked about DBH vans and whether they are tied to mental health outreach efforts. Mr. Hall explained that some vans are connected to DBH or DBH-funded partners, including Family Medical. He stated that outreach teams are present at different times, but they may not always wear DBH-branded clothing because some individuals are less willing to engage when they believe they are being formally identified or monitored.

Chairperson Holcomb asked about opioid abatement funding and whether strategies used in other areas of the city have been applied to Minnesota Avenue. Mr. Hall stated that opioid abatement dollars are being used in part to fund targeted outreach teams focused on the Minnesota Avenue corridor. He also noted that outreach strategies have continued over the years and can be adjusted based on community feedback and identified patterns.

Chairperson Holcomb also asked about nighttime outreach. Mr. Hall stated that some outreach teams operate until 8:00 p.m. and that DBH can deploy teams outside conventional hours when the community identifies specific times and locations of concern. He invited the Commission and residents to share specific information so DBH can tailor outreach accordingly.

Chairperson Holcomb thanked Mr. Hall and acknowledged the long-standing work around Minnesota Avenue, noting that efforts to address the corridor began years before the pandemic and remain a priority.

### **DC Water Update**

Shawn Moore provided an update on DC Water's Lead Free DC program and water infrastructure work in ANC 7F.

Mr. Moore stated that DC Water is working to replace lead service lines across the District. Of approximately 42,000 service lines targeted citywide, 12,459 have been replaced to date. In ANC 7F, DC Water is working across approximately 73 blocks, covering roughly 1,300 homes, with approximately 38% of residents currently signed up.

Mr. Moore emphasized the importance of test pits, which are small excavations used to verify the material of service lines. He explained that physical verification is necessary because there is no reliable substitute for confirming the material at the property line and point of entry. If a lead service line is verified, DC Water will replace it for free through the Lead Free DC program.

Mr. Moore also noted ongoing small diameter water main construction in ANC 7F, including work on the 400 block of Ridge Road SE and recently completed work on portions of Elvans Road SE.

Commissioner Orendoff asked how apartment residents can determine whether there are lead service line concerns for their buildings, using Fort Chaplin Park Apartments as an example. Mr. Moore stated that DC Water's online lead map allows residents to search any property address, including apartment buildings and other multifamily properties, to see what material is listed in DC Water's records. He clarified that DC Water focuses on the service line running from the water main in the street into the building.

Mr. Moore committed to providing the presentation and contact information after the meeting.

### **Commission Business**

#### **Postponement of May 2026 Meeting Minutes**

The Commission considered postponing approval of the May 2026 General Commission Meeting minutes until the July special call meeting.

Moved by: Commissioner Edwards

Seconded by: Commissioner Orendoff

Vote: Approved unanimously

The May 2026 minutes were tabled until the July special call meeting.

#### **Eric's Law Resolution of Support**

Chairperson Holcomb introduced a resolution in support of Eric's Law, legislation before the Council of the District of Columbia intended to enhance safety, understanding, and dignity for individuals with nonapparent disabilities.

Chairperson Holcomb explained that the legislation is intended to support individuals, including students and adults with autism or other nonapparent disabilities, who may carry identification such as a DC One Card or student identification. He noted that the State Board of Education had passed a resolution in support of Eric's Law and requested ANC support as well.



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Commissioners discussed the importance of supporting individuals with nonapparent disabilities and ensuring that protections apply broadly across the community.

Moved by: Commissioner Orendoff

Seconded by: Commissioner Cunningham

Vote: Approved, 6-0

#### **Inmate Release Resolution**

Commissioner Thompson-Wright introduced a resolution regarding release procedures for individuals leaving the DC Jail. She explained that the intent was to improve safety for both returning citizens and nearby residents by encouraging more structured release practices, such as safer designated release areas, escorts to appropriate locations, or more orderly release times.

Commissioner Thompson-Wright shared that the concern was prompted by a constituent who was assaulted near 19th Street by someone who had recently been released. She emphasized that the resolution was not intended to stigmatize people returning home from incarceration, but to ensure that releases are handled in a way that reduces risk for everyone involved.

Commissioners discussed the proposed language, the need to avoid stigmatizing returning citizens, and the importance of developing a more careful and balanced resolution. After discussion, commissioners agreed that the resolution should be revisited after additional conversations and language refinement.

Motion: Table the inmate release resolution for further discussion and refinement

Moved by: Not clearly identified in the transcript

Seconded by: Not clearly identified in the transcript

Vote: Approved by voice vote

The matter was tabled, with September identified as a more appropriate time for reconsideration.

#### **Resolution Opposing DC Water Rate Increases**

Chairperson Holcomb introduced a resolution opposing proposed DC Water rate increases. He stated that DC Water was considering increases of approximately \$8 this year and \$10 next year and noted that residents are already facing rising costs for utilities, groceries, gas, and other necessities.

Commissioners discussed affordability concerns and the impact rate increases would have on seniors, working families, returning citizens, and residents already being pushed to the margins.

Moved by: Commissioner Ruff

Seconded by: Commissioner Edwards

Vote: Approved unanimously

#### **Administrative Support for ANC 7F**

The Commission considered a proposal to onboard Christian Coven as administrative support for ANC 7F.

Commissioner Thompson-Wright stated that the Commission needs administrative support to help with meeting preparation, communications, and other clerical needs, especially with the upcoming election cycle and the amount of work required to keep the Commission organized.

Commissioner Orendoff stated that he could support administrative help but did not want the arrangement to extend beyond 2026 because commissioners may change after the election. He also emphasized that commissioners should still share responsibility for administrative work and not shift core responsibilities entirely to a support person. Commissioners discussed the importance of balancing administrative support with continued commissioner involvement and legal compliance.

The motion was clarified to approve Christian Coven as administrative support from the date of approval through the end of October 2026 at a flat rate of \$1,000.

Moved by: Commissioner Thompson-Wright

Seconded by: Commissioner Ruff

Vote: Approved unanimously

### **Back-to-School Support Request**

Chairperson Holcomb noted that the back-to-school support request would be tabled and brought back for consideration at the July special call meeting.

### **Special Call Meeting**

Chairperson Holcomb discussed the need for a July special call meeting to address several pending Commission matters.

Chairperson Holcomb stated that he had been in communication with the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and learned that ANC 7F's current bylaws are out of compliance due to the tiebreaking mechanism. He further stated that guidance from the Office of the Attorney General does not support the current process outlined in the bylaws.

Chairperson Holcomb requested that the Commission include bylaws amendments on the July special call agenda to bring the tiebreaking provisions into compliance. He also stated that once the bylaws matter is resolved, he would step down as chair, not seek the position again, and allow the Commission to proceed with officer elections under updated bylaws.

After discussion, commissioners agreed to schedule the special call meeting for July 1, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

The July 1 special call meeting agenda will include:

- Bylaws amendments to address tiebreaking procedures
- Election of officers
- Approval of the Q3 FY26 Quarterly Financial Report
- Approval of May 2026 and June 2026 General Commission Meeting Minutes
- Consideration of back-to-school support requests

Moved by: Commissioner Thompson-Wright

Seconded by: Commissioner Edwards

Vote: Approved unanimously

### **Agency Updates and Announcements**

Agency and community updates were provided toward the end of the meeting.



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Updates included discussion of proposed Ward 7 and citywide investments, including funding related to housing and development, Hill East, Fletcher-Johnson, Naylor Road Shelter, Deanwood Metro area development, Northeast Heights, RFK campus improvements, Engine Company 34, public safety, Central Cellblock repairs, Benning Road bridge improvements, local street paving, alley repairs, and sidewalk repairs.

The Mayor's Office also shared information regarding Mayor Bowser's 10th annual spring cleanup. The Ward 7 cleanup was scheduled for Saturday at the Washington Seniors Wellness Center, located at 3001 Alabama Avenue SE, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Partners were expected to include Starbucks, Becky's Seafood, Sweet Sweet Kitchen, DOEE, FEMS, and the Hillcrest Civic Association.

Chairperson Holcomb noted that HCC updates would be moved earlier in the agenda for the following month.

### **Adjournment**

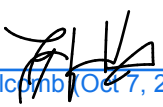
There being no further business before the Commission, a motion to adjourn was made.

Moved by: Not clearly identified in the transcript

Seconded by: Not clearly identified in the transcript

Vote: Approved by voice vote

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:46 p.m.

  
Tyrell Holcomb (Oct 7, 2026 15:19:00 EDT)