

Government of the District of Columbia

"Crossroads East of the River" Where Communities Come Together

General Commission Meeting Minutes March 15, 2022, 6:30p.m. Streamed via Zoom

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairperson Holcomb calls the meeting to order at 6:37 pm. A moment of silence is held for those who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and violence in the community. Also present were Commissioners Hughes, Weston, Codling, and Caston. Quorum was established.

2. Consideration and Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman Holcomb motions to approve the agenda. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Caston. The motion passes unanimously with 5 in favor and 0 against. (5-0-0)

3. Updates (5 minutes per speaker)

a. Mayor Bowser's Office-Osha Daniels

Mayor Bowser will be releasing her budget tomorrow morning at 11am. Additionally, street sweeping has resumed. Any residents parking on a street sweeping location will be ticketed. Residents who are aware of any streetlights that need to be changed or upgraded should contact Osha Daniels. For more information, contact Osha Daniels via phone at **202.374.9282** or via email at osha.daniels1@dc.gov.

b. Councilmember Gray's Office- DL Humphrey

All budget requests should be submitted to the City Council's Office. Pertaining to constituent services, DL Humphrey will be doing walkthroughs and community clean-ups in the coming weeks. There will be more of a focus on illegal dumping to ensure parks and recreation centers are kept clean. Additionally, the Council recently opened one of the two urgent care centers coming East of the River. The new Department of General Services building should be completed by the end of 2022. Regarding the upcoming grocery store, the Safeway on Minnesota Avenue will be closing by the end of 2022. However, the Council is working to bring a new grocery store to the area. DL Humphrey encourages community members to continue to trust the process when contacting emergency services. For more information, contact DL Humphry via phone at 202-724-8068 or via email at dhumphrey@dccouncil.us.



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d. Ward 7 State Board of Education Rep - Eboni-Rose Thompson

Councilmember Mendelson had a hearing on attendance to allow the Ward 7 State Board of Education to analyze the issue. The Board hopes to change the attendance policy before the coming school year begins. The new funding formula for schools will be beneficial to high schools in the Ward but may be a negative for middle schools. Additionally, the Board will have their public meeting on March 16th. The meeting will include presentations from Education Preparation Programs. The mask mandate has been lifted in DC public schools. Additionally, DC residents applying for college can receive additional funding and support through the *DC Futures Program* at https://osse.dc.gov/node/1574531 and the Dual Enrollment Program at https://osse.dc.gov/page/osse-dual-enrollment-opportunities. For more information, contact Eboni-Rose Thompson via email at Eboni-rose.thompson@dc.gov.

4. Presentations/Special Guests

a. Chairman Phil Mendelson, Council of the District of Columbia

The Mayor's budget, which is scheduled to be released tomorrow, March 16th, will most likely be delayed for one or two days. The Council has not moved forward with a new Executive Director for the Office of ANCs, but will be doing so. Additionally, DCRA is being separated into two departments. These departments will be the "Department of Buildings" and the "Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs." As it pertains to the literacy rate in Ward 7 and returning citizens, DCPS is responsible for providing classes in DC jails. Chairman Mendelson is working to increase the literacy rate in grades K-12. Regarding the funding formula for schools, Chairman Mendelson has introduced a bill to change the way schools are funded to increase funding for schools.

As of right now, there have been no updates on the halfway house, and the Council hasn't gone forward with any legislation against it. Further updates on streetcars are dependent on the Mayor's budget and support for the expansion of the streetcars. Regarding safety, Chairman Mendelson believes the US attorney should be more aggressive in prosecuting cases, and MPD should be more productive in closing cases. The Chairman also pushed for comprehensive assessments of violence prevention programs. Furthermore, Chairman Mendelson will be hosting three virtual town hall meetings and one in-person town hall meeting concerning property taxes. For more information, contact Chairman Mendelson via phone at 202-724-8032 or via email at pmendelson@dccouncil.us.



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b. Alida Sanchez, Platform Director, Business and Entrepreneurship, NREUV/ Project Community Capital

Project Community Capital is a Social Capital Platform that connects entry-level "Ready-To-Work" individuals who are reliable, trustworthy, and ambitious. PCC will be working in Ward 7 in partnership with "Mary's House" which will bring several job opportunities to the Ward. These job opportunities include construction, warehouse, trucking and administrative opportunities. Workers will have the chance to excel in their career after starting at an entry level. Additionally, PCC collaborates with community partners such as the District of Columbia Department of Employment Services to provide opportunities for the community. For more information, contact Alida Sanchez via phone at 917.684.6195 or visit www.projectcommunitycapital.net. You can also contact Jennipher Coleman via phone at 202-641-6217 or via email at jcoleman@pccnetwork.net.

5. Community Concerns/Announcements

Daren Thompson: "Hey Mr. Humphrey, in the Councilmembers' email from yesterday, he mentioned three grocery stores coming to Ward 7. Do you know what the other two are and where they are going? I know the Lidl at Skyland."

Chanel: "Osha, please put in a request for the rear alley light behind the block of 3800 block of Minnesota ave ne."

Ms.Natalie: "Last night at the 6dcac meeting...Commander Robinson says we are actually seeing a reduction in overall crime. While violent crime is increasing. While we are understaffed. When will this be rectified? Our officers continually are expected to do more with less."

DL Humphrey: "Councilmember Gray's Office reached out to BOP and Core DC and is still waiting on a response regarding an update on the halfway house."

Darren Thompson: "The Mission Continues is doing a community clean up at Ft. Dupont Community Garden this Saturday from 9am-1pm. Please go to https://www.missioncontinues.org/service-platoon/WashingtonDC/ to register for the



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event."

91037717334: "Why isn't there a turn signal on Minnesota Avenue turning SE going towards Benning Road? Who can be contacted in reference to this issue?"

Beatrice Evans: "Technology is leaving us seniors behind. Please address my proposal. Thank you. I want to be on the outreach committee."

6. Administrative/Reports

a. Chair's Report

The Commission has begun streaming monthly meetings via YouTube. Community members will be able to subscribe to the Commission's channel to keep updated. Additionally, the Commission will be releasing a survey to get a sense of community priorities in order to publish a priority budget. The Commission encourages community members to sign up for ANC 7F committees. Residents will have an opportunity to serve on the Economic Development, Workforce, Planning or Community Outreach Committees. Regarding development, the Commission intends to send three Commissioners to the annual ICSC Development Conference to encourage funding and support for new amenities in Ward 7. Additionally, the Commission will be hosting a community meeting to discuss developments in ANC 7F.

b. Secretary's Report

i. Approval of the Previous Minutes

1. January 2021 General Commission Meeting

Commissioner Weston moves to approve the January 16, 2022, meeting minutes. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Caston. The motion passes unanimously with five in favor and zero against (5-0-0).

2. February 2021 General Commission Meeting

Commissioner Weston moves to approve the February 15, 2022, meeting minutes. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Caston. The motion passes unanimously with five in favor and zero against (5-0-0).



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c. SMD & Committee Reports

Commissioner Weston: Fletcher Johnson Redevelopment Task Force will be taking place on Saturday, April 9 at 12pm. Residents who are interested in participating should email <u>fitaskforce@gmail.com</u>.

7. Commission Business

a. Resolution 22-002 -Supporting the Reconstruction of the Fort Dupont Ice Arena Under the Terms of the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding

Chairperson Holcomb moves to pass Resolution 22-002 in support of the reconstruction of the Fort Dupont Ice Arena under the terms of the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Hughes. The motion passes unanimously with five in favor and zero against (5-0-0).

b. CBA Request - Attendance of Commissioners to Advocate for New Amenities at ICSC Development Conference May 22-24

Chairperson Holcomb moves forward with a CBA request for attendance of Commissioners to advocate for new amenities at the ICSC Development Conference. In utilizing these funds, it's imperative that a report be made by Commissioners who attend. A report will be made to the community. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Caston. The motion passes unanimously with five in favor and zero against (5-0-0).

c. CBA Bridge Funding Request

Chairperson Holcomb moves forward with a CBA Bridge funding request to *Clean Corners* in the amount of \$5,000. This payment will be divided into two payments in the amount of \$2,500 each. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Codling. The motion passes unanimously with five in favor and zero against (5-0-0).

8. Meeting Adjourned

Chairperson Holcomb moves to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm.