

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 7E

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Government of the District of Columbia



COMMISSIONERS

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 7E
Government of the District of Columbia

Delia Houseal, Chair, 7E06

Linda Green, Vice Chair, 7E02

Victor Horton, Treasurer, 7E05

Yolanda Fields, 7E07

(seat vacated in July 2020)

Veda Rasheed, 7E01

Ebbon Allen, 7E03

Takiya “TN” Tate, Secretary, 7E04

INTRODUCTION

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Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7E (Commission or ANC 7E), at a duly noticed public meeting held on December 8, 2020, at which a quorum of Commissioners was present, voted with 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions to file this Annual Report with the Mayor and DC Council and publish the Report on the Commission's website at www.anc7e.us. This Report satisfies the Commission's statutory reporting obligations. *See* DC Code § 1-309.10(j)(1) (providing that each Commission may file an annual report with the Council and the Mayor for the preceding fiscal year), (n-1) (providing that each Commission shall publish an annual report summarizing its activities over the preceding 12 months).

The Commission's Annual Report provides:

- 1) A summary of the Commission's activities, including details regarding the Commission's regular meetings and the activities of individual Commissioners within their Single Member Districts;
- 2) Information regarding key issues faced by the Commission and actions recommended by the Commission via resolution or other official Commission action;
- 3) Details on the Commission's operational challenges, as well as structural improvements implemented by the Commission; and
- 4) Updates regarding the Commission's financial status, including the Commission's Fiscal Year 2020 Quarterly Financial Reports and its Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

Seven new Commissioners joined Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7E in January 2019, providing new opportunities for collaboration among Commissioners and improved Commission functionality. The Commission elected its Officers on January 8, 2020: ANC 7E06 Commissioner Delia Houseal serves as Chair; ANC 7E02 Commissioner Linda Green serves as Vice Chair; ANC 7E05 Commissioner Victor Horton serves as Treasurer; and ANC 7E07 Commissioner Yolanda Fields serves as Secretary. Commissioner Takiya “TN” Tate also served on the Fletcher Johnson Taskforce and Commissioner Linda Green served on the Transportation Task Force. The Commission also approved its participation in the 2019 Advisory Neighborhood Commission Security Fund at its February Public meeting on February 12, 2019. *See DC Code § 1- 309.14(b)* (“Each Advisory Neighborhood Commission may become a participant of the Fund upon payment to the Fund of an annual contribution at the beginning of the fiscal year in an amount to be determined by the Trustees.”).

The Commission held (10) ten regularly scheduled Public meetings in 2020, one (1) special meeting, and as well as eleven (11) monthly Executive Committee meetings. Each regular public meeting included standing presentations from the Commission’s Treasurer, as well as from representatives from the Metropolitan Police Department’s 6th District, the Office of Ward 7 Councilmember Vincent C. Gray, the Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services, as well as additional presentations from DC government agencies, community groups, and others. Each regular public meeting also included time for community concerns. *See DC Code § 1- 309.11(b)(3)* (“Each Commission shall set aside a portion of each public meeting to hear the views of residents within the Commission area and other affected persons on problems or issues of concern within the Commission area and on proposed District government actions that affect the Commission area. Community views shall be adequately considered in positions taken by the Commission.”).

The Commission adopted a mission, vision and goals for the Commission to guide the work of the Commission for Calendar Years 2019 through 2021. The mission, vision and goals and objectives of the Commission can be found below:

Mission

Improve the quality of life for residents in Marshall Heights, Capitol View, Benning Ridge, Fort Davis and the District through facilitating public engagement, advocacy and community dialogue.

Vision Statement

The neighborhoods of Marshall Heights, Capitol View, Benning Ridge and Fort Davis will be safe, vibrant, livable, accessible, sustainable and civically engaged.

Economic Development

- Strengthen and support small businesses in ANC 7E
 - Increase knowledge, awareness and utilization of programs and resources that can help revitalize small business corridors throughout ANC 7E.
 - Work closely with local business owners to address and resolve resident concerns or complaints to enhance safety, and to promote a clean neighborhood.
- Facilitate community responsive economic development in ANC 7E
 - Establish an economic development committee
 - Issue a resolution that defines economic development needs and opportunities to improve the vibrancy of business corridors throughout ANC 7E.

Public Safety

- Improve public safety by reducing violent crime.
 - Increase the # of security cameras in high crime areas.
 - Establish a committee to identify resources and strategies to address violent crime.
 - Increase the # of programs and support services available to residents.

Education

- Promote high quality education throughout ANC 7E
 - Support educational institutions that provide educational services in ANC7E.

- Strengthen and promote community-based partnerships with educational institutions in ANC 7E.
 - Increase the # of partnerships with educational institutions in ANC 7E.

Affordable Housing

- Promote access to affordable housing and support housing stability among seniors.
 - Increase knowledge and awareness of home ownership options.
 - Increase knowledge and awareness of senior housing support programs and services.

Environmental

- Improve the physical environment of the neighborhood.
 - Obtain schedule of infrastructure repairs and improvements within the ANCs boundary and work with the community to identify additional opportunities for repairs and improvements.
 - Work closely with DCRA to obtain enforcement against property owners whose poorly maintained buildings, derelict properties, and empty lots degrade the quality of life in our neighborhood.

Operational

1. Improve Organizational Structure
 - a. Update and revise Bylaws.
 - b. Develop and finalize operational procedures.
 - c. Develop standards of decorum and conduct
2. Improve ANC Accountability and Transparency
 - a. Modify our agenda to report on official actions and business by Single Member District (SMD)
3. Strengthen and Enhance Existing Communication and Outreach Efforts
 - a. Establish a Communications Plan by March 31, 2019
 - b. Update the ANC 7E Website to include information on meetings, resolutions and letters and other pertinent information.

- c. Increase the number of residents that receive email announcements.
 - d. Post meeting announcements in visible places throughout the community.
 - e. Frequently participate in community meetings by developing a schedule for coverage that includes all Commissioners.
4. Strengthen community participation in public processes
- a. 100% of board of zoning adjustment (BZA) applications are reviewed by the ANC
 - b. 100% of liquor license processes are reviewed by the ANC
 - c. 100% of public space applications (PSA) are reviewed by the ANC

ACTIVITIES

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ANC 7E Commissioners engaged in numerous activities within their Single Member Districts (SMD) designed to engage and inform residents and support our overall mission, vision and goals. Summary of SMD specific activities can be found below: These include the following:

Single Member District 7E01: Information not provided.

Single Member District 7E02:

Commissioner Linda S. Green served as the Vice-Chair of the Commission. In this capacity, Commissioner Green represented the Commission on the 6th District Community Advisory Council (CAC). The Council provides a forum for community leaders to discuss and develop strategies to address crime throughout Police Service Areas served by the 6th District. Commissioner Green is also a strong champion for transportation issues and has represented the Commission in discussions with the DC Department of Transportation. She also served as a champion for Fort Davis Recreation Center and played a key role in getting over \$250,000 to support ADA improvements at the Center, including a chair elevator.

Single Member District 7E03:

Commissioner Ebbon Allen served as the Chair of the Commission's Public Safety Committee. In this capacity, Mr. Ebbon lead the coordination of the Commission's inaugural Public Safety Day on July 13, 2019 at J.C. Nalle Elementary School. The event had over twenty (20) vendors and attracted over 100 community residents. He also hosted the Metropolitan Police Department Summer Crime Initiative Kickoff with Mayor Bowser and the 6th District National Night Out; both events were held at the Benning Park Recreation Center. Commissioner Allen is also a strong advocate for the Benning Park Recreation Center. He successfully introduced a resolution to rename Benning Park Recreation Center to the Woody Ward Recreation Center in honor of a well-respected community leader and advocate, Mr. Woody Ward. He also supported the implementation of the BOSS Camp which took place at Benning Park Rec this past

summer for 5 weeks. The camp included coding classes, poetry workshops, hip hop workshops and how to start a business in technology. The camp was for our youth ages 13 to 17. Commissioner Allen has also played a key role in supporting housing development opportunities throughout his SMD. For example, Commissioner Allen worked collaboratively with developers to support the development of Cynthia Townhomes. Located at the 400 Block of 51st Street SE the project is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2020. Commissioner Allen is also active in the community and provided thirty (30) families in 7E03 with turkeys during his annual turkey giveaway. In December of 2019, he also gave away 50 toys/ gifts to children throughout ANC 7E during his annual toy drive.

Single Member District 7E04:

Commissioner Takiya “TN” Tate serves as the Secretary of ANC7E as well the Chair of the Fletcher Johnson Development Taskforce. In this capacity, Commissioner Tate leads a taskforce of community leaders and residents to ensure the successful and timely development of the Fletcher Johnson site. Additional accomplishments can be found below:

§ Passed resolution to stop the emergency legislation to grant \$250 million dollars along with the sale of Fletcher Johnson to KIPP DC Public Charter Schools

§ Fletcher Johnson Community Strategy Session hosted by Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

§ Fletcher Johnson Task Force established - Ward-wide community-driven effort to ensure that the inclusion of our "community's vision".

§ Passed resolution to address Fletcher Johnson environmental concerns

§ Passed resolution to address language and challenges to the RFP

§ Will vote on resolution to support current Fletcher Johnson RFP respondent – final ANC meeting tonight.

COVID-19 Relief & Support

§ Provided COVID relief through meals to seniors and PPE equipment and gear for Bass Circle Apartment seniors, individuals, and families.

Serving Those in Needs Daily & During the Holidays

§ Consistently served over hundreds of our seniors, individuals and families in need daily and during Thanksgiving and Winter Holidays with the help and support of former 7E Commissioner Mary Jackson, Father Cornelius of St. Luke Catholic Church and a host of silent community partners.

Safe Streets Program - B Street and Glenncrest Communities added to site map

Jr. ANC Pilot Initiative at Benning Park – pilot program to introduce 7E04 students to the ANC

Liaised with community stakeholders to support ongoing developments and discussions regarding the Carver 2000 to Crawford Landing project.

Lead the development of ANC 7E Grant-making Protocols & Procedures

Single Member District 7E05:

Commissioner Victor Horton served as the Treasurer of ANC 7E. In this capacity, he implemented various financial policies and procedures to support sound financial management of ANC funds. Under Commissioner Horton's leadership, the Commission has submitted all of its required quarterly reports and successfully passed its Fiscal Years (FY) 2020 and 2021 budgets. Commissioner Horton also focused on the beautification of 7E05 and held several cleanups this year. Commissioner Horton was the responsible for convincing CORE DC to accept a two-year commitment with the Mayor's Office of the Clean City Adopt-A-Block program. Additionally, he weekly canvassed the neighborhood to ensure that every pothole, abandoned vehicle, and illegal dumping site was attended too. Commissioner Horton played a great role in the re-opening of the Capitol View Library. This included introducing a resolution honoring the Life & Legacy of RoShaunda Michelle Jenkins, an exuberantly influential Marshall Heights resident who was a Zumba Instructor and Integrative Nutritionist at the Capitol View Library. He also played an important role in gathering funding and support for several events that support numerous initiatives at the Capitol View Library.

Single Member District 7E06:

Commissioner Houseal also serves as Chair of ANC 7E and the Chair of ANC 7E's Economic Development Committee. She holds regularly scheduled community clean-ups throughout her Single-Member District and most notably, held a youth cleanup that resulted in cleaning up over six (6) streets within SMD 7E06. Commissioner Houseal has submitted and followed through on over fifty (59) 311 request that has most notably resulted in the removal of abandoned cars, clean-up of vacant lots and illegal dumping. Commissioner Houseal has assisted residents with resolving issues related to blighted/nuisance properties; vacant lots, the removal of debris and residential trash; and securing residential parking. Commissioner Houseal is also an

active member of the School Improvement Team (SIT) which helps to monitor and oversee the modernization of C.W. Harris Elementary School. As an active participant, she participated in the panel that selected public art for the newly renovated school. Commissioner Houseal also worked with the Office of Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton to submit a formal complaint to the US Postal Services for issues with mail delivery. She also worked collaboratively with DDOT to escalate traffic safety concerns along the Central Avenue Corridor. The escalation resulted in DDOT committing to a Corridor Investigation Study. Commissioner Houseal disseminated door hangers to encourage the utilization of the camera rebate program. During the height of the pandemic, Commissioner Houseal successfully introduced the resolution and coordinated procurement efforts to secure face masks and hand sanitizers for ANC7E residents. She also worked with over 200 community stakeholders to submit a letter to the Mayor and City Council re: Covid-19 reporting and contact tracing. Commissioner Houseal also collaborated with community organizations to disseminate fifty (50) Thanksgiving baskets to residents.

Single Member District 7E07:

Commissioner Yolanda Fields served as both the Secretary and Chair of the ANC 7E until her resignation in June 2020. During her tenure, Commissioner Fields was committed to youth development and issues that impacted senior citizens.

KEY ISSUES

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In addition to routine matters, including those related to zoning, etc., the Commission has addressed several important issues, primarily via Resolution or other formal Commission action. Commissioners have also responded to issues individually. These Resolutions, official action, and individual efforts can be grouped into five general subject areas:

1. Public Safety
2. Economic Development
3. Quality Education
4. Affordable Housing
5. Environmental
6. Infrastructure

PUBLIC SAFETY

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7E recognizes the importance of a public health approach to public safety. Affordable housing, quality public education, health care services (including mental health), and recreation and programming opportunities are some of the mechanisms that ensure safe and stable communities. The Commission has also sought to ensure coordination and information sharing across jurisdictions, as well as informed the community regarding police complaint procedures and advocated for more accountability and better reporting procedures. In furtherance of the Commission's



goals and objectives, the Commission has acted in the following ways:

- Convened six (6) Public Safety Committee Meetings
- Resolution 7E-20-006, Resolution Regarding Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Proposed Funding for the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (*co-introduced by Commissioner Houseal and Allen*)
- Resolution 7E-20-006 Opposition of Halfway House Opening in Ward 7 (*introduced by Commissioner Houseal*)
- During the May 2019 public meeting, we hosted several representatives from the Metropolitan Police Department and community violence prevention organizations (i.e. Training Grounds), to discuss public safety issues and concerns.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ward 7 is in dire need of economic development opportunities that ensure the equitable access of resources and amenities for residents. To date, the Ward only has two (2) full-service grocery stores, three (3) sit-down restaurants and limited retail options—all of which are outside of ANC7E. Despite this, ANC7 E has several vacant parcels of land with the potential to spur economic development. For example, the Fletcher Johnson site is currently soliciting proposals for the development of the 15-acre parcel. Also, the former site of Carver Terrace public housing complex is vacant with the possibility of development. In addition to the aforementioned opportunities, ANC 7E has four small commercial corridors that can be re-developed to meet the growing needs of the community—Benco Shopping Center, Benning Road/H St, East Capitol St, Old Central Ave.

In furtherance of the Commission’s goals and objectives, the Commission has acted in the following ways:

- Resolution 7E-20-001, Economic Development Committee Resolution (*introduced by Commissioner Houseal*)
- Resolution 7E-20-002, Comments on the draft Comprehensive Plan (*introduced by Commissioner Houseal*)



- Resolution 7E-20-003, East End Grocery Resolution Act (*introduced by Commissioner Houseal*)
- Resolution 7E-20-13, Support the Development of the Fletcher Johnson Project (*co-introduced by Commissioners Houseal and Tate*)

QUALITY EDUCATION

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7E has four (4) educational institutions within its boundaries: C.W. Harris Elementary School, J.C. Nalle Elementary School, DC Scholars Public Charter School and Rocketship Legacy Prep Public Charter School. ANC7E recognizes the importance of providing high quality education to our youth, particularly since Ward 7 schools serve high numbers of at-risk students and often fail to achieve high levels of performance. While there are many factors that contribute to dismal levels of performance, ANC 7E believes that historical neglect and significant low-levels of funding play a critical role in robbing our children of receiving the high quality education that is provided in other areas of the city. Our advocacy around this issue resulted in the restoration of CY 2020 funds for CW Harris Elementary School and other Ward 7 schools.

In furtherance of the Commission’s goals and objectives, the Commission has acted in the following ways:

- Resolution 7E-20-
Established an
Education Committee
(*introduced by
Commissioner
Horton*)
- Commissioner Allen
hosted Black Kings
that Read at CW
Harris Elementary
School.



AFFORDABLE and SAFE HOUSING

Recently, the Marshall Heights neighborhood was designated as the “hottest neighborhood in the DMV” by the Washington Business Journal. This is largely due to the affordability and accessibility of homes in Marshall Heights. Despite this designation, home ownership still remains low throughout ANC 7E and many neighborhoods are rapidly gentrifying. Given this, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7E believes that it is vitally important to provide affordable housing options throughout the Commission and has sought at every opportunity to support and promote safe, stable, and secure housing for all District residents

In furtherance of the Commission’s goals of pursuing affordable and safe housing, the Commission has acted in the following way(s):

- During the March 2020 Public Meeting, we invited several housing advocates to discuss home ownership opportunities and programs in the District of Columbia.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Unfortunately, communities East of the River (EOR) often serve as a dumping ground for bulk trash and other illegal materials. Illegal dumping is an ongoing and



highly visible problem throughout Ward 7 and ANC 7E that requires a collective effort with the community and city agencies. ANC 7E believes that the health and wellbeing of ANC7E residents are intertwined with the protection of the environment and works tirelessly to stop illegal dumping from happening and clean up our

community.

In furtherance of the Commission's goals of pursuing clean and healthy environments, the Commission has acted in the following ways:

- Convened four (4) community cleanups
- Submitted numerous 311 tickets to pick up illegally dumped trash and debris.



COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7E believes that our community deserves to have adequate basic infrastructure supports that includes (but is not limited to) access to safe and well-maintained public facilities and transportation options. Currently, Ward 7 has an inadequate healthcare system and is plagued with ineffective traffic calming strategies.

In furtherance of the Commission's goals to build and maintain high quality community infrastructure, the Commission has acted in the following ways:

- Worked collaboratively with the community members and community-led Transportation Work Group to encourage the DC Department of Transportation to conduct a Corridor Investigation Study that spans across three SMD's (7E05, 7E06 and 7E07).
- Letter of Support for the Friends of Capitol View Library/East of the River Ward 7 Friends Coalition (introduced by Commissioner Horton)

OPERATIONS

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Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7E continues to expand upon and improve its infrastructure and procedures. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ANC7E was able to successfully transition 100% of its meetings to a virtual meeting platform. During CY 2020, ANC7E was also able to revise its Bylaws, order PPE's and establish a new committee, the Education We also passed twelve (12) Resolutions to provide recommendations and advice to the City Council and other key stakeholders on several different issues such as economic development, public safety and education.



FINANCES

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Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7E remains financially healthy and fully current on its reporting obligations. The Commission also approved its Fiscal Year 2021 Budget at its public meeting on October 13, 2020. The Budget includes (but is not limited to) funding for an administrative assistant, office space, office supplies and grants for the community. The Commission awarded one (1) community grant in the amount of \$1,475 to the Marshall Heights Civic Association (MHCA) during FY 2019. We also issued one (1) grant to the non-profit Laces to Bows, Inc. in the amount of \$3,596. The funds were used to buy supplies to support the implementation of community event and development of a mural.



