



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 7F

Government of the District of Columbia

"Crossroads East of the River" Where Communities Come Together

General Commission Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2021

Time: 6:00 p.m.

via Zoom due to COVID-19

1) Call to Order & Roll call

Chairperson Holcomb called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm. A brief moment of silence was held to acknowledge the lives lost in the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, present were commissioners Weston, Diggs, Codling, and Hughes

2) Consideration & Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman Holcomb moved to approve the agenda with an adjustment to allow updates from DPW. The motion was seconded by commissioner Codling. The motion passes unanimously with 5 in favor and 0 against. (5-0).

3) Consent Agenda

a) **Letter of Support - Greenspace**

Commissioner Holcomb moved to approve the letter of support for Green Space. The motion was properly seconded. The motion passes unanimously with 5 in favor and 0 against. (5-0)

b) **Resolution 21-007.1: Support of Kids First**

Commissioner Holcomb moved to approve Resolution 21-007: Support of Kids First. The motion was properly seconded. The motion passes unanimously with 5 in favor and 0 against. (5-0)

c) **Resolution 21-008: Comp Plan Resolution**

Commissioner Holcomb moved to approve Resolution 21-008: support of 7F ANC's Comp Plan Resolution. The motion was properly seconded. The motion passes unanimously with 5 in favor and 0 against. (5-0)

4) Commission Business

a) **Approve Chief of Staff Job Description**

Chairperson Holcomb moved to approve the chief of staff job description. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Diggs. The motion passes unanimously with 5 in favor and 0 against. (5-0).



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5) Administrative/Reports

a) Secretary's Report

i. Commissioner Weston moved to approve the meeting minutes for March 16, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Diggs. The motion carries with 5 in favor, 0 against (5-0).

b) Treasurer's Report

Checking: \$50,854.26

Saving: \$22,206.83

Expenses: \$10,349.58.

Savings Interest: \$383.00

Verizon Wireless (Communications): \$349.58

EHT Traceries: \$10,000.00

Service Charge 1/29/2021: \$15.34 (Credited back to Account)

Total Funds: \$73,061.09

i. Commissioner Codling moved to approve Q2 FY2021 QFR as read, the motion was seconded by commissioner Weston. The motion carries with 5 in favor, 0 against (5-0).

c) SMD & Committee Report

i. Commissioner Codling

There was a tenant meeting on Thursday, April 1st with residents in apartment buildings managed by Oasis Realty. The Metropolitan Police Department, Office of attorney general and the department of public works were all representatives present during the meeting. Issues discussed were trash collection, maintenance of the building and the overall status of the parking lot. There were only three residents who were present during the meeting that gave feedback. During the meeting it was reported that there was some illegal activity taking place on Anacostia Road Southeast and the report has been forwarded to MPD.

ii. Commissioner Diggs

The legislative committee will be addressing the issue of loitering in a creative way and hopes to stay focused on the issue of the halfway house.

iii. Commissioner Weston

There is a family giveaway at Gospel Art Baptist Church on April 30th, in addition to a produce giveaway that takes place every Saturday from 10am-12pm at Saint Luke's Catholic Church. Saint Luke's Catholic Church will also be hosting a vaccination clinic on Wednesday April 28th & Thursday April 29th.

iv. Commissioner Hughes

This weekend there will be a food giveaway of non-perishable items at 155 Ridge Road from 12pm-2pm.



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6) Presentations/Special Guest

a) Mayor Bowser

After a year of combatting the virus, the mayor is focused on getting residents vaccinated. Mayor Bowser encourages all residents to get vaccinated, all residents over the age of 16 are now eligible to receive the vaccines. Residents can register for the vaccination @vaccinate.DC.gov. Those who are over the age of 65 can visit one of the ten walk up sites across the district to get vaccinated immediately. These sites are available for walk-ins up until 4pm. Based on current vaccination rates DC will get through all pre-registrations within the next several weeks.

There are a number of operations that will be up and running again in the near future, the mayor is encouraging all residents to update their license and registrations as soon as possible by going to **DMV.DC.gov** website. Residents are also encouraged to update their inspections by going to one of the inspection stations. There will soon be an Amnesty program that will eliminate fines and fees related to tickets that have been doubled due to not being paid on time. The mayor's office has been working with the Chief Financial Officer to improve the hardship program which will allow eligibility to those with certain fines or tickets. DMV appointments are now available, and the government is working to open more appointments, however there are many appointments that can be done online. There are rent and utilities programs in the works to help residents pay rent and utilities. There is currently a portal at **stay.dc.gov** where individuals can register to have up to fifteen months of their rent paid in back rent and three months moving forward. That portal also allows individuals to apply for relief for utility assistance including water, electric and gas.

The Building Block DC initiative has allowed for the creation of a gun violence director appointed by the mayor and an emergency operations center known as Building Blocks DC. In regard to schooling, DC public schools have started their fourth term this week and there have been added available seats. There has been an overall increase in the demand for in person learning on the West side of the city than on the East side. Summer Youth, Summer Camps and Summer School opportunities are now available. DC public and charter schools will have in person learning five days a week for all students at the beginning of the next school year. Parents are encouraged to register and ensure their kids are prepared to attend school in the upcoming school year.

As it pertains to the Halfway House coming to Ward 7, the mayor's advocacy committee has been vocal about the halfway house being smaller. The committee supports the return of DC residents to their own community where they have support from friends and family, however they do see a 300-bed facility as problematic and expensive. The Mayor continues to encourage the Bureau of Prisons to make the number smaller.



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The "Ones" office in Ward 7 supports violence interruption programs throughout the city. This office is expected to provide supportive services. Moving forward the Mayor's office is looking into providing trauma care and mental health services. All agencies are being asked to explore every opportunity to connect with residents with trauma informed care through telehealth. In regard to development on Minnesota Ave, the mayor's office is supportive of the investments going into the cedar realty redevelopment which will come with a number of grocery stores.

b) KIPP DC - Jacque Patterson

The KIPP DC Benning project has added 30 square feet of additional space as well as additional enrollment in pre-k & middle school, outdoor play spaces, and underground parking. Currently, garage construction, elevators and stair shafts are complete and steel, windows, facade and interior work are still in progress. The construction team has hit 15% above the minority contract and are close to 50% in hiring.

c) Office of Tenant Advocacy - Nicole McEntee

The DC Office of Tenant Advocacy is a resource for residents throughout the city who are having difficulties with their landlords and want to know their rights. It was created in 2007 as a division of the Department of Consumer and regulatory Affairs and later became an independent agency in 2008. The Chief of the agency is Johanna Shreve. Their mission is to provide technical advice to tenants, educate tenants on their rights, and advocate on behalf of tenants. The agency is split into four departments which includes Legal representation, Education & Outreach, Policy Advocacy, and Emergency Housing.

For more information go to www.ota.dc.gov or call the tenant hotline @202-719-6560

7) Updates

a) DPW Interim Director - Christine Davis

Interim Director Christine Davis emphasizes that illegal dumping is a major issue in Ward 7. However, DPW is committed to eliminating illegal dumping by using sweep inspectors to investigate and pursue tickets. Davis is encouraging citizens to report individuals they see illegally dumping trash anywhere throughout the ward. In addition, DPW has cameras and inspectors in areas where there is known to be a lot of illegal dumping. When an area is reported to 311 it must first be investigated for identifying materials to help pursue the dumper, this process should take no longer than five days after which the request is forwarded to DPW's street and alley cleaning division. The street and alley division are expected to have the area cleaned within eight days. Inclement weather can sometimes delay the cleaning process. When there are no delays the dumping issue is expected to be resolved within 13 days.

If residents want a consistent street sweeping, they have to complete a petition process that has to be signed by 90% of residents on a given street. DPW works with DDOT to complete this petition process. In regard to alley cleaning, there is a schedule created



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during alley season which begins on April 1st. During this time all alleys in the city are cleaned during their scheduled time. In order to get illegal dumping signs residents will have to contact their designated sweep inspectors. In addition, the expected trash collection day for Ward 7 is Fridays. Residents can go to dpw.dc.gov to find their specific trash collection and recycling days. As it pertains to abandoned vehicles, DPW's abandon vehicle investigators are responsible for identifying abandoned vehicles and requesting the tow from their towing division. During the pandemic DPW wasn't towing abandoned vehicles because they weren't deemed as safety issues. Abandoned vehicle operations will begin again on June 1st.

b) **MPD- Captain Conners**

Year to date there has been an overall 20% decrease in crime, however there is a 7% increase in violent crimes such as robberies and carjackings. In the last 30 days there has been an 11% decrease in violent crimes. MPD has created a carjacking tasks force to help prevent further carjackings in the area. In the last 30 days there have been eight-gun recoveries and arrests. In addition, there have been a few key arrests in regard to carjacking. On March 25th there was a carjacking on the 100 block of 42nd street, that case has been closed with the arrest of a 13- & 14-year-old juvenile male. A stolen car was found on the 3900 block of Minnesota Ave, a 27-year-old male was arrested. March 24th there was a carjacking on Dubois street, that case has been closed with the arrest of a 13-year-old juvenile male. On March 25th there was a robbery on Anacostia Road, that case was also closed on April 6th with the arrest of a 13-year-old juvenile male. On February 16th there was a homicide on 33rd Street Southeast, MPD's homicide unit made an arrest in this case on April 15th. MPD has partnered with DPW and others to help clean up trash around the Ward 7 area.

c) **State Board of Education - Eboni-Rose Thompson**

The public charter school board meeting took place on April 19th. Of the five applications, one Montessori school in Ward 7 was approved. The school will have no more than 50 students in Ward 7 and will be split between Wards four, five, seven and eight. The approval of this school is currently conditional due to issues in the application in regard to their ability to provide special education services, English language services, and the overall location of the school. The application for Hebrew Academy was denied. The board of education is having a panel focused on literacy on April 21st. In addition, it's currently enrollment season and Thompson is encouraging citizens to fill out their enrollments as soon as possible.

For more information contact Eboni-Rose Thompson at Eboni-rose.thompson@dc.gov
Or on social media platforms at [@eboni_rosedc](https://twitter.com/eboni_rosedc).

8) **Meeting Adjourned**

- Chairperson Holcomb moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 pm, motion seconded Commissioner Codling.