



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 7F

Government of the District of Columbia

"Crossroads East of the River" Where Communities Come Together

General Commission Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2021

Time: 6:30 p.m.

via Zoom due to COVID-19

1) Call to Order & Roll call

Chairperson Holcomb called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm. A brief moment of silence was held to acknowledge the lives lost in the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, present were commissioners Hunter, Weston, Diggs, Codling, and Hughes

2) Consideration & Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman Holcomb moved to approve the agenda with adjustments in the wording of resolution 21-004. The motion passes unanimously with 6 in favor and 0 against. (6-0)

3) Updates

a) **MPD - Commander Habeebullah**

So far in 2021 violent crimes have increased by 9%, assault with dangerous weapons decreased by 4%, robbing's increased by 6%, burglaries decreased by 29%, motor vehicle theft increased by 37%, deaths decreased by 39%, crimes with arson had a 50% reduction, homicides decreased by 27%, and overall crime decreased by 38%. There has also been an overall increase in Domestic violence partnerships. In addition, 6 of 11 homicide cases have been closed. The homicide case that occurred on the 3900 block of Minnesota Ave on February 22, 2021 where someone was stabbed has closed. The February 6th homicide case in which a young man was shot has closed.

The homicide investigation for the murder on 35th and East Capital Street is still underway. A crime camera captured a lot of what happened, including the suspect and the vehicle. MPD is looking for a white or cream Cadillac. Anyone with information can call 2729099 or text 50411.

In the last 30 days, 19 tickets and 9 arrests were made as it relates to traffic in the Minnesota Ave area. There has been one road rage incident where an individual was murdered. MPD encourages residents to avoid traffic confrontations for their own safety.

For more information contact Commander Habeebullah @202-369-0285 or Durriyyah.habeebullah@dc.gov

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

Budget season has begun, and some parents are not comfortable with sending their children back to school which means that some numbers, which is coupled with the fact



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the cost for staff has increased. Public meetings are held every third Wednesday and residents can sign up to testify. The board also meets for open sessions every first Wednesday, which are streamed on YouTube. In addition, Ward 7 and 8 Covid hearings are underway, the board is urging the mayor to put an extra \$4 million into the budget to allow outdoor learning activities. In April, Eboni-Rose Thompson and her colleagues will be asking the state board to allow outdoor learning. So far, there has been one instance of outdoor learning in Ward 7 from a community organization that isn't tied to a school, the feedback for this has been good.

The Public Charter School hearing is currently underway, there are two applications out of the five that are proposed to be located in either Ward 7 or Ward 8. Residents are encouraged to take a look at the public charter school website if they want to know more about what's been proposed.

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

4) Presentations/Special Guest

a) **Ward 7 Democrats Candidates**

i. **Wendell Felder**

Wendell Felder is running to be the Ward 7 Democrats chair with a goal to increase voter turnout and supporting democratic candidates that support the community. He attended DC public schools and attained a bachelors from Bowie and a master's in urban and regional planning from Georgetown University. In addition, he has been an ANC commissioner for three terms, and is currently the project manager for the Deputy Mayor's Office for Economic Planning and Development for the Fletcher Johnson site. The meeting will be held on March 27th from 10am to 1pm in the East River Shopping Center. For more information visit <https://teamwardseven.com> or contact Wendell Felder at 202-427-3376.

ii. **Commissioner Veda Rasheed**

Commissioner Veda Rasheed is running with the 7for7 slate which has a diverse set of candidates with several years of experience in community organizing. Their goals include contributing to the growth and influence of the Democratic Party while supporting local and national democrats, fostering political education, and providing forms to allow democratic candidates to address the issues being faced in Ward 7. She is an attorney and native DC resident who has worked with the attorney general and is currently serving her second term with the ANC representing Benning Ridge. For more information visit <https://twitter.com/the7for7> or <https://m.facebook.com/the7for7> or <https://www.instagram.com/the7for7/> The slate can also be reached directly at 202-248-0769 or at the7for7@gmail.com.



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iii. Derek Ford

Derek Ford is the current chair of the Ward 7 Democrats and is running with the V.I.S.I.O.N 7 slate whose main mission is to educate and motivate democrats to vote in Ward 7. In the past two years, this chair has increased voter outreach by 24%, raised almost \$10,000, hosted debate watch parties and state committees, increased voting centers from 3 to 16, and mailed every voter a ballot. Please see the V.I.S.I.O.N 7 team video here: <https://youtu.be/Ie5d00RNW50> or follow the team at IG: @vision7dems.

b) **Global Citizens Public Charter School - Natalie Smith, Giselle Allen & Sean Flora**

Global Citizens Public Charter School is an up-and-coming Charter school that teaches students English, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. Other subject areas include globally competent bilingualism, Social Justice, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. Founder and CEO Natalie Smith, founding principal Giselle Allen, and manager of operations Sean Flora are driven by the desire to provide access to educational opportunities to children within their community. Studies have shown that learning multiple languages at a young age results in increased cognitive development, which the leaders of Global Citizen Public Charter School believe will be beneficial to their students.

The school will be opening in Fall 2021 with Pre-k 3&4, with plans to go up to the 5th grade by 2027. In the fall students will be able to choose either Mandarin Chinese or Spanish. There will be 25 spots available for each language in both Pre-K3 & Pre-K4, equaling a total of 100 students. The teacher to student ratio will remain 1:10 and virtual learning will be available. Virtual students will be taught by virtual teachers and not teachers who are in a physical classroom.

The school will be co-locating with Friendship's Collegiate Academy Campus but will have a separate entrance and wing of the building. In order to avoid traffic congestion, the schools will have different arrival and dismissal times, and Global citizens will be doing a Kiss & Ride with staff members present. In addition, there will be surveillance in every classroom, common area and playground.

Follow @citizenspcs for all social media handles.

c) **Parkside Pedestrian Bridge Community Presentation - DDOT - Bruke Siraga & Brenden Andoseh- Project Management Team**

The Parkside Pedestrian Bridge Project is a part of a 30-year initiative to transform the shores of the Anacostia River into a world-class waterfront. The bridge will provide safe and accessible connectivity between the Parkside and Mayfair neighborhoods. The bridge's two access points are located on Lano Parcel 12 Kenilworth Terrace NE, on the



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westside, and Minnesota Avenue Metro Station near the bus shelters on the eastside. The project started on March 2, 2020 and is expected to be completed in Winter of 2021. For more information visit <https://ddot.dc.gov/page/parkside-pedestrian-bridge> or contact Bruke Siraga at bruke.siraga@dc.gov or at 202-369-7917.

d) **Market 7 - Mary Blackford-Founder**

Mary Blackford is the Founder of "Market 7" on 3451 Benning Road, and is working to eliminate food and resource deserts in the greater Ward 7. Food applications are now open for anyone who wants to open food stalls and those who are interested in renting stall spaces. Space is also available for people who are interested in selling things such as hair products. For more information visit www.market7dc.com or info@market7dc.com or go to @market7dc on IG/Twitter.

e) **Councilmember Gray - DL Humphrey**

Residents are encouraged to utilize 311 to report issues in their community, including things such as potholes etc. This will allow DPW to know which areas need more funding. Some services have been discontinued because of Covid-19; this is causing an increasing problem which members of Councilmember Gray's office are looking into.

Councilmember Gray's office recently filed a resolution to disapprove a contract modification that would allow Core DC to continue to provide services at Ward 7 family housing site known as "The Horizon." This is based on concerns Councilmember Gray has about Core DC. The Councilmember supports returning citizens; however, he wants to ensure they're put in the best position and doesn't believe a 300-bed halfway house is the best idea.

The time for the budget submission for 2022 has been pushed back until April 22nd. Budget oversight hearings will be held on Wednesday, April 7th, through Thursday, May 6th.

Councilmembers have been pushing for new grocery stores to be placed in Ward 7 and are currently working to achieve that goal.

There will be an outreach program to help seniors access the vaccines without having to leave their homes and going to the clinic.

For more information contact DL Humphrey at Dhumphrey@dccouncil.us or at (202)-724-8068

5) **Community Concerns/Announcements**

- a) **Tim:** "Yes, I keep talking about the outcomes associated with the Half-way House. It will continue to cause the health disparities, drug, and other issues in that area. To suggest otherwise is a serious problem."



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- b) **Chander Jayaraman:** For those who would like to get involved and help residents in the DC Jail, please contact Julie Johnson at Neighbors for Justice DC

<https://neighborsforjusticedc.org/>

Julie Johnson (Neighbors for Justice DC): julie@neighborsforjusticedc.org

6) Administrative/Reports

a) **Chair's Report**

The Minnesota Ave Improvement Summit was held on Saturday March 13th, the planning committee is currently working on gathering a report on the information that was acquired during the summit. Mayor Bowser has been invited to the April meeting to work to address many issues heard at the summit. On March 23rd, at 6:30 pm there will be a WebEx meeting with 7D surrounding the streetcars. Mayor Bowser has been invited to the April meeting to work to address many issues heard during the summit.

b) **Secretary's Report**

Commissioner Weston moved to approve the meeting minutes for February 19, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunter. The motion carries with 6 in favor, 0 against (6-0).

c) **Treasurer's Report**

Checking: \$61,203.84

Saving: \$22,203.00

Expenses: \$4,073.51

Sirraya Grant (Personnel): \$750.00

Tyrell Holcomb-Reimbursement (Election Flyer/Mailer): \$840.87

Verizon Wireless (Communications): \$874.15

Lindsey Walton (Communications): \$1000.00

Tyrell Holcomb-Reimbursement (Communications): \$608.39

Service Charge 1/29/2021: \$15.35 (Credited back to Account)

Total Funds: \$83,406.84

d) **SMD & Committee Reports**

i. Commissioner Diggs

Beatrice Evans held an effort to help seniors vaccinated at Allen House, Triangle View, and Milestone.

ii. Commissioner Hughes

Community outreach is currently working on events for Easter, as well as events for seniors.

iii. Commissioner Weston

Benning Terrace Family Success Center is having a produce giveaway on

G-Street and Benning Road. This will take place from 11am to 1pm on Friday,



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March 19th. The public safety committee is asking for volunteers, the meeting will be held every other month beginning April 22nd. If you would like to be a part of the committee reach out to Commissioner Weston.

7) Commission Business

a) **Bylaw Changes**

Chairperson Holcomb moved to change the number of representatives on a committee to read in the bylaws that up to nine individuals can serve on any one committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunter. The motion passes unanimously with 6 in favor and 0 against. (6-0).

b) **Resolution 21-004: ANC 7F Updated Streetcar Position - DDOT**

Chairperson Holcomb moved to table Resolution 21-004: ANC 7F Updated Streetcar Position. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weston. The motion passes unanimously with 6 in favor and 0 against. (6-0).

c) **Resolution 21-005: Support of Acting Chief Robert Contee**

Commissioner Diggs moved to approve Resolution 21-005 to support confirmation of Acting Chief Robert Contee to Chief of Police. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunter. The motion passes unanimously with 6 in favor and 0 against. (6-0).

d) **Resolution 21-006: Small Business Pandemic Relief - DCRA**

Commissioner Hunter moved to approve Resolution 21-006: Letter of Support for Small Business Pandemic Relief. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes. The motion passes unanimously with 6 in favor and 0 against. (6-0).

e) **Resolution 21-007: Support of Returning Citizens Legislation**

Chairperson Holcomb moved to approve Resolution 21-007: Support of Returning Citizens Legislation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunter. The motion passes unanimously with 6 in favor and 0 against. (6-0).

f) **Letter of Support - Global Citizens Public Charter School**

Chairperson Holcomb moved to approve a letter of support for Global Citizens Public Charter School. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunter. The motion passes unanimously with 6 in favor and 0 against. (6-0).

8) Meeting Adjourned

- Chairperson Holcomb moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 pm, motion seconded Commissioner Hughes.