



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 7F

Government of the District of Columbia

"Crossroads East of the River" Where Communities Come Together

General Commission Meeting Minutes

May 18, 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 6:33 pm. Also, present were commissioners Hunter, Weston, Diggs, Codling, and Hughes

2) Consideration & Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman Holcomb motioned to approve the agenda. The motion passes unanimously with 6 in favor and 0 against. (6-0-0)

3) Updates

a) Mayor Bowser's Office - Osha Daniels

Restrictions on public and commercial activity will be changing effective Friday, May 21st, with exceptions to bars, clubs and large sporting entertainment venues. Restrictions to bars, clubs, and large sporting events will be lifted on June 11th. Whether or not you're vaccinated you must follow the guidelines of all businesses/establishments that relate to wearing a mask. If you're fully vaccinated, you're not required to wear a mask or social distance unless established by a business or in a hot spot such as the metro, bus, school or childcare facility, healthcare facilities, homeless shelters and correctional facilities.

[Stay.DC.gov](https://www.staydc.gov) is still accepting applications to pay for up to twelve months of past due rent and utilities and three months of future rent and utilities. There is a walk-up vaccination site in Ward 7 at Kenworth Recreation Center, they're open daily from 9am-5pm. Homebound residents can now be vaccinated by registering at 1-855-363-0333. There will be a second day of action on May 22nd, there will be two dispatch times at 9AM & 11AM.

4) Presentations/Special Guest

a) Chairman Mendelson

The mayor's budget is expected on May 27th, 2021, Chairman Mendelson is hoping to see a doubling or tripling amount for affordable housing. There is also a need for a greater amount of funds to be allocated to public education to help overcome the learning loss that's occurred due to the pandemic. Chairman Mendelson identifies affordable housing and public education as the two main priorities. There is also federal relief money that's being allocated to public education. With the current political climate, funding for violence interrupters can go either way. The budget will also include the proposed capital budget, which may or may not include increased funding for streetcars. The capital budget for school modernization will be consistent with the legislation adopted by the council a few years ago. Chairman Mendelssohn identifies the



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modernization program as important to maintaining and increasing enrollment in DC public schools. The council will be holding four meetings concerning education. The council has nothing pending in terms of vaccinations; however, they will be having experts testify around the hesitancy of the vaccine to overcome reluctance on the part of some families.

b) Director Garrett - DCHA

DCHA began two years ago with a heavy transformation plan, focusing on making extensive repairs to property with the available financial resources. There have been two allocations of \$90 million over the past two fiscal years provided by Mayor Bowser. At Lincoln heights there are 82 units that will be turned around starting this July, in Richardson Dwellings there will also be 34 units turned around this July, at Fort Dupont there will be other strong capital needs items such as replacing boilers and windows. The goal is to create viability within units. There has been a failure to publicize the efforts of DCHA and is working on improving this. There are RFP's out on the street for services, since COVID they have picked up the pace. DCHA is generally smaller than other agencies and continues to work with agencies such as MPD to work on violence in the area. DCHA has opened their new command center that has 600 cameras that have shown to be beneficial to MPD when it comes to deterring crime. DCHA is working on improving community engagement. DCHA defines an acceptable unit based on whether or not older individuals can live in it. DCHA does not have vouchers to allocate, they can only offer the opportunity for residents to be moved to another unit that has been turned around.

DCHA Transportation Plan can be found at: <https://dcha.us/>

c) DDOT - Ciara Boderick, Kevin Harrison and Circe Torruellas

Kevin Harrison is with the bus priority team that is focusing on moving buses through the wards faster. The bus priority program is rooted in long term planning that has been occurring in the district for as far back as 2014. The program works to improve bus speed and reliability in certain corridors, including safety measures. DDOT has noticed that bus speed on Minnesota Avenue is the slowest, and there is a larger volume of people. Bus lanes reduce congestion delay and make the buses more reliable. Bus stop rebalancing will change stops that are too close together which will help with speed and reliability.

Transit Development Plan (TDP) recommends the expansion and reintroduction of circulator services to Ward 7 and proposes opportunities for improvement. On September 14, 2020 Ward 7 ANC commissioner, along with residents and community leaders from Ward 7 & 8 participated in a virtual focus group. DDOT incorporated findings from the focus group with feedback from community meetings. The feedback shows that the locally preferred route is NE1: Union Station Deanwood. This route was chosen by 36%



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of survey participants and provides a unique east/west connection between Ward 6 and Ward 7. The final decision will be published for the New Ward 7 route in Fall 2021.

For more information call 202-671-2020 or email Circe Torruellas

Circe.Torruellas@dc.gov

d) **DC Infrastructure Academy- Rhonda Deskins**

Rhonda Deskins is a workforce development specialist at the DC Infrastructure Academy and a third generation Ward-7 resident. The DC Infrastructure Academy is an initiative of Mayor Bowser to meet the needs for the increasing infrastructure demands and employment in the city. The Academy is currently recruiting for the Washington Gas Program. This is a ten week program which is stipend at \$10 an hour for 20hours a week. The program will be hybrid with mostly virtual classes and a few in-person training. Individuals will be trained to get jobs with either Washington Gas or one of their subsidiaries. This program is for district residents.

For more information contact Rhonda Deskins at 202-899-6040 or

@rhonda.deskins@dc.gov

5) **Community Concerns/Announcements**

a) **Ciara Boderick:** "To provide your feedback regarding the Ward 7 Circulator Route by visiting <https://www.dccirculator.com> Or contacting myself Ciara Boderick and Circe Torruellas Circe.Torruellas@dc.gov You can also provide feedback via phone 202-671-2020. The comment Period for the Ward 7 Route will end June 25,2021."

b) **Tia Bell:** "Here is OUR solution - Tia Bell, Ward 7 resident and Founder of The TRIGGER Project, wanted to personally invite you to participate in the June 1 Citywide End Gun Violence Conference. The goal is to come TOGETHER to heal, grow, and plan summer peace and prevention plans! See more details and register: <https://endgunviolencedc.eventbrite.com>."

6) **Administrative/Reports**

a) **Chair's Report**

There have been a lot of concerns around the uptake in gun violence along the Minnesota Ave Corridor. The commission is pushing for additional funding for gun violence interrupters apart from MPD. In regard to loitering along the corridor, residents are being encouraged to push city agencies to provide services for those in need of housing, jobs, training, and mental health services. In addition, the commission is still pushing to reduce the number of beds in the Halfway house to one hundred beds. If there are areas in which residents are passionate about, they can sign up to join one of the 7F ANC committees.

The commission is currently working on the CBA for the redevelopment on the Minnesota Ave Corridor. The Hill East RFP meeting will take place Thursday, May 20th at 6pm via Webex, the commission will send out a notice with the link.



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b) Secretary's Report

Commissioner Weston motioned to approve the meeting minutes for April 20, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Diggs. The motion carries with 6 in favor, 0 against (6-0-0).

c) Treasurer's Report

Checking: \$49,405.10

Saving: \$22,206.83

Expenses: \$1,449.16

Sirraya Grant (Personnel): \$750.00

Verizon Wireless (Communications): \$699.16

Service Charge 04/30/2021: \$15.34 (Credited back to Account)

Total Funds: \$71,600.93

7) Commission Business

a) July Meeting Cancellation

Chairperson Holcomb motioned to approve cancellation of the July 2021 general commission meeting. The motion was seconded by commissioner Weston. The motion passes unanimously with 6 in favor and 0 against. (6-0-0).

b) Reimbursements

Chairperson Holcomb motioned to approve a reimbursement of \$288.40, \$246 for the commissions P.O box and \$42.40 for a zoom webinar feature. The motion was seconded by commissioner Hunter. The motion passes unanimously with 6 in favor and 0 against. (6-0-0).

c) Liquor License Challenges

Chairperson Holcomb motioned to provide letters of objections for liquor license for renewal in 7F01 on the grounds of peace, order and quiet. The motion was seconded by commissioner Hunter. The motion passes unanimously with 6 in favor and 0 against. (6-0-0).

d) 7F07 Elections

Chairperson Holcomb motioned to hold voting for the special elections to fill the vacancy of 7F07 on Tuesday June 15th, from 3:30pm-7:30pm. The motion was seconded by commissioner Diggs. The motion passes unanimously with 6 in favor and 0 against. (6-0-0).

e) Resolution 21-009: Community Halfway House Recommendations

Chairperson Holcomb motioned to encourage the congresswoman to push the Bureau of Prisons to reduce the number of beds, and for the Halfway House location at Benning and Minnesota to be a temporary facility. The motion was seconded by commissioner Hunter. The motion passes unanimously with 6 in favor and 0 against. (6-0-0).



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f) Resolution 21-010: DC Returning Citizens Housing Task Force

Chairperson Holcomb motioned to approve the Returning Citizens Housing Task Force to utilize abandoned property and prevent housing discrimination for returning citizens. The motion was seconded by commissioner Diggs. The motion passes unanimously with 6 in favor and 0 against. (6-0-0).

8) Meeting Adjourned

- Chairperson Holcomb motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:43pm. The motion was seconded by commissioner Hunter. The motion passes unanimously with 6 in favor and 0 against. (6-0-0).