



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 7F

Government of the District of Columbia

"Crossroads East of the River" Where Communities Come Together

General Commission Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2021

Time: 6:30 p.m.

via Zoom & Facebook live

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairperson Holcomb calls the meeting to order at 6:42 pm. A brief moment of silence is held for those who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as those lives that have been lost as a result of breast cancer. Also present were Commissioners Hunter, Weston, Diggs, Codling, and Caston. Quorum was established.

2. Consideration and Adoption of the Agenda

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

3. Updates (5 minutes per speaker)

a. Mayor Bowser's Office- Osha Daniels

The Mayor's Office of Women Policy and Initiative will be hosting a breast cancer awareness event tomorrow, October 20th, at 11am. The event will be held at 100 Potomac Ave SW. Mammograms will be conducted, game tickets will be provided, and the Mayor will be in attendance. In addition, MPD led a new initiative on October 1st, 2021 that will run through December 18th, 2021. This initiative will focus on Minnesota Avenue from Benning Road down to East Capitol. DDOT had a press conference this past week where they stated they'll be targeting one hundred intersections that are high crash sites to enhance public safety. Osha Daniels and her partner Saudia Jenkins will be hosting a meet & greet for Commissioners and community members who would like to speak with them in person. Further information for this event will be provided via social media on Friday, October 22nd. For more information contact Osha Daniels at osha.daniels1@dc.gov or call 202.374.9282.

b. MPD- Captain Fitzgerald

Year to date violent crime and sex abuse is 0. Assault with a deadly weapon is up to five this month compared to 1 this time last year. Robbery has increased to 11 compared to 8 this time last year. Property crime has decreased compared to this time last year. Burglaries increased from 2 to 3, auto theft decreased from 13 to 6, motor vehicle theft is up by 3. MPD will be having an outreach event on the 4400 block of Texas Avenue due to recurring robberies in the community. MPD will be providing information to the community tomorrow, October 20th, to help members protect themselves and their property. In addition, the day worker responsible for the Ward 7 area will be Lieutenant Jessica Hawkins, evenings will be Lieutenant William Hackerman, and midnights will be



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Lieutenant Brian Johnson. MPD encourages community members to turn off and lock their vehicles whenever they walk away from it, this includes leaving vehicles to warm in the morning. Furthermore, community members can apply for personal cameras through the DC Camera Rebate Incentive Program @ovsjg.dc.gov or 202-727-4124 or @security.camera@dc.gov . Anyone with information or crime tips can use DC text tip 50411 or the DC tip line 202.727-9099.

c. State Board of Education- Eboni Rose-Thompson

The State Board of Education will be holding their public meeting tomorrow, October 20th at 5pm. The Board will be having a presentation around government structures, as well as digital equity and accountability as it pertains to school quality. Community members will have an opportunity to testify at the public meeting to express their concerns about education. Anyone who is interested in testifying should visit the SBOE website at <https://sboe.dc.gov/>. In addition, the Dream Center will be hosting a Trunk-or-Treat this Saturday, October 23rd. Gospel Ark will also be hosting a similar activity on October 30th, more information will be provided in the coming days. For more information, contact Eboni Rose-Thompson at Eboni-rose.thompson@dc.gov.

4. Presentations/Special Guests

a. Chief Judge Anita Josey-Herring - Superior Court of the District of Columbia

In response to the Court being blamed for crime in the city, Chief Judge Josey-Herring reiterates the Court is bound to follow the law and has sentencing discretions based on the Compassionate Release Law that was passed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Court determinations can sometimes be constrained in terms of the law; however, the Chief Judge is willing to work with stakeholders to ensure the court is not playing a role in mass incarceration but also keeping community safety in mind. In the month of September, the court disposed of 832 cases, of this number the court has also handled 195 felony cases. The court has tried 60 felony cases in the last five months, of which 28 of the cases were either dismissed by the government or the individual pleaded guilty. In addition, there are a number of programs in the court to help members of the public. This includes services that work with juveniles and their families in the system. Furthermore, the Chief Judge emphasizes the failures that begin in the home and community that promote violent crime, especially among juveniles. The Chief Judge encourages local government and family members to offer support to individuals in the community who participate in violent acts as a first step to solving the issue. In addition, the court is expecting a large number of landlord and tenant cases in the coming months as a direct result of the eviction moratorium ending.

b. Seema Gajwani - Special Counsel for Juvenile Justice Reform and Chief of the Restorative Justice Section, Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia



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The Special Counsel for Juvenile Justice Reform of the Office of the Attorney General is the exclusive prosecutor of all juvenile crimes in DC. The prosecutors in this office evaluate both public safety, victims, and young people being prosecuted. The prosecution in juvenile cases take rehabilitation alternatives for these young people into consideration. In 2018, OAG and the Attorney General launched the Care of the Streets Program to prevent violent crimes in communities, as well as retaliation after these crimes. The Attorney General also launched the Restorative Justice Program in 2018 to help rehabilitate young people charged with juvenile crimes. This program allows for a victim-centered approach to violence and other crimes. During this process, victims are asked what results they want in order to feel justice has been served, and in most cases the victims choose to seek resolution outside of the traditional justice system. This tactic lowers the recidivism rate and increases victim satisfaction. In addition, the OAG has been working with federal partners to close loopholes that allow guns to be recycled throughout the city. For more information on juvenile arrest rates, please visit <https://mpdc.dc.gov/> or <https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/biannual-reports-juvenile-arrests>.

c. Nicole McEntee, Program Analyst, Education and Outreach, DC Office of the Tenant Advocate

The Office of Tenant Advocacy was created in 2006 and became an independent agency in 2007. Their mission is to provide technical advice, educate & inform tenants, advocate for tenant rights, and provide financial assistance to any tenant in DC. The Office of Tenant Advocacy has four departments. The Legal Representation department provides free legal advice to tenants and assigns them an Attorney Advisor to assist with their issue. The Policy Advocacy department works with Councilmembers to draft legislation in favor of tenants. The Education and Outreach department educates and informs tenants about the services offered by the agency. Finally, the Emergency Housing department helps to provide hotel accommodations, financial assistance, storage, etc. for residents who are facing housing crises. As of October 12, 2021, landlords may begin filing for eviction for non-payment of rent. On Thursday, October 21, 2021, the agency will be having a Renters Rights Training at 5:30 pm. For more information, contact Nicole McEntee at Nicole.mcentee@dc.gov or call **Tenant Hotline: 202-719-6560**.

5. Community Concerns/Announcements

Commissioner Holcomb: "Ward 7 Redistricting Hearing is Saturday, October 23, at 1pm. Details on how to watch or testify. <https://www.elissasilverman.com/redistricting>"



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Shirley Thompson: “Who should be contacted about an accident that occurred 2 weeks ago and the fire hydrant was run over into a corner flower box and the railing was damaged at the corner of 35th and A Street. No one has come out. Hydrant still sitting in the flower box. Also, a tree is blocking the view of traffic at that same corner flower box. There have been several accidents due to this tree blocking oncoming traffic when exiting that street corner. Can something be done about this?”

Tina Whitlow: “Hello, my name is Tina from UPO. During the last meeting, some residents had a few concerns in reference to public loitering and UPO's Shuttle Hotline services. If anyone has any questions, I would like to address those concerns. Please note, UPO does not have a drop off location in Marshall or anywhere in the area. If you see a UPO Shelter Hotline vehicle dropping off individuals in the area, please record the 3-digit number on the back of the vehicle and report it to (202) 399 -7093.”

6. Administrative/Reports

a. Chair's Report

The Commission will be releasing their mid-year fall report in the coming weeks, this information will be distributed online and a number of physical copies will also be distributed. In addition, the Commission will have a concrete update on the Northeast Heights redevelopment process in the coming weeks.

b. Secretary's Report

i. Approval of the Previous Minutes

Commissioner Weston moves to approve the September 21, 2021 General Commission Meeting, the June 15, 2021 General Commission Meeting, and the July 27, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Caston. The motion passes unanimously with 6 in favor and 0 against. (6-0-0)

8. Commission Business

a. Resolution 21-022: Supporting Safe Passage Legislation (Introduction by Commissioner Holcomb)

Commissioner Holcomb moves to approve Resolution 21-022 supporting Safe Passage legislation. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Hunter. The motion passes unanimously with 6 in favor and 0 against. (6-0-0)

b. Resolution 21-023: A Call for a Hybrid Model of Learning for DC Public Schools (Introduction by Commissioner Holcomb)



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Chairperson Holcomb moves to table Resolution 21-023 a call for Hybrid Model of learning for DC Public Schools.

c. Resolution 21-024: Supporting 36th Street, SE, to Become a Two-Way Street (Introduction by Commissioner Codling)

Commissioner Codling moves to approve Resolution 21-024 supporting 36th Street, SE to become a two-way street as a result of recurring accidents. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Hunter. The motion passes unanimously with 6 in favor and 0 against. (6-0-0)

9. Meeting Adjourned

Chairperson Holcomb moves to adjourn the meeting at 8:42pm.