

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 7E

2019 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, Secretary, 7E07

Veda Rasheed, 7E01

Ebbon Allen, 7E03

Takiya “TN” Tate, 7E04

INTRODUCTION

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 7E
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Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7E (Commission or ANC 7E), at a duly noticed public meeting held on February 11, 2020, at which a quorum of Commissioners was present, voted with 7 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 2019 Quarterly Financial Reports and its Fiscal Year 2020 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 nine (9) regularly scheduled Public meetings in 2019, as well as nine (9) 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 also held one (1) special meeting on August 15, 2019 to weigh in on the proposed development of Fletcher Johnson.

The Commission adopted a mission, vision and goals for the Commission to guide the work of the Commission for Calendar Years 2019 through 2021. At the end of each CY, the Commission will review the mission, vision and goals and make adjustments as necessary. 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 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.

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) 2019 and 2020 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 brokered a relationship with the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) to support the efforts.

Commissioner Houseal has submitted and followed through on over fifty (50) 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 school transportation; displacement due to a residential fire; blighted/nuisance properties; the removal of debris and residential trash; and securing residential parking. She has also co-hosted several community events such as the Ward-wide Comprehensive Plan Planning meeting, the 5G Cell Tower meeting. 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 advocated for the relocation of a sheltered bus stop that was scheduled to be moved due to construction plans. She also collaborated with the administration of CW Harris to support their annual teacher appreciation week by providing ice cream for all the teachers and staff. Commissioner Houseal believes in getting to know her constituents and has conducted over ten (10) community walk throughs to meet constituents, pass out literature and identify any constituent issues and concerns. As a firm believer in the power of security cameras, Commissioner Houseal convened a church safety seminar to help provide clergy and church members with tools and resources to help prevent crimes.

Single Member District 7E07:

Commissioner Yolanda Fields serves as the Secretary of the ANC 7E. She is committed to youth development and issues that impact senior citizens. In the summer of 2019, Commissioner Fields convened an Advisory Neighborhood Commission Meet and Greet at St. Luke's Catholic Church. The event provided community members with an opportunity to meet their Commissioner and share any questions or concerns. Commissioner Fields also partnered with DC Scholars Public Charter School to provide students with educational supplies and materials.

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:

- Resolution 7E-19-005, Establishment of a Public Safety Committee
- ANC 7E partnered with over twenty (20) government and community partners to host our Inaugural Public Safety Day event. The event drew over 100 residents from surrounding communities.
- Convened a Church Safety Seminar to educate and inform Ward 7 clergy of the Metropolitan Police Department’s Camera Program.
- 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-19-004, Establishment of an Economic Development Committee
- Resolution 7E-19-015, Support the Development of the Fletcher Johnson Project



- Convened a Ward-wide Comprehensive Planning meeting in collaboration

with the DC Office of Planning and other Commissions throughout Ward 7.

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-19-009, Ensure Full, Fair and Equitable Funding for Ward 7 DC Public Schools
- During the September 2019 public meeting, we hosted education advocates from



the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), education advocates and principals from surrounding schools to learn more about opportunities to improve the quality of education in Ward 7 schools.

AFFORDABLE and SAFE HOUSING

Recent studies have found that the District of Columbia is experiencing a rapid rate of gentrification and displacement. Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7E believes that it is vitally important to provide affordable housing options throughout the Commission. 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

- During the June 2019 Public Meeting, we hosted the Director of the DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and other housing organizations (i.e. United Planning Organization) to share information about housing programs and opportunities in the District.

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 six (6) community cleanups
- Partnered with the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) to obtain volunteers for our clean-up efforts.



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:

- Resolution (7E-19-0016) for the Support of Sports Infrastructure in ANC 7E
- Letter of Support for the continuation of Providence Hospital’s primary care services.
- Letter of support for DC Scholars Public Charter School Amendment Application
- Letter of support for the Establishment of Urgent Care at Providence

Hospital

- During the November 2019 public meeting, we hosted several transportation advocates and providers from both public (DC DOT) and private sectors (i.e. Bird Scooters, Street Sense).



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7E has faced persistent challenges regarding its operations. The current Commission started calendar year 2019 with no office space, no active website, meeting records or other transitory documentation. The current Commission, especially its Officers, have spent significant time re-establishing the Commission by providing basic infrastructure and operational needs. The Commission's Chair AND Vice Chair testified in Councilmember White's Roundtable regarding Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to highlight the Commission's operational challenges and emphasize the need for supports in conflict resolution and Robert's Rules of Order.

Despite these challenges, the Commission has persevered and made notable improvements, including obtaining office space (Resolution 7E-19-001), hiring an executive assistance, Ms. Jemila Kia Daniels (Resolution 7E-19-007) and launched a new website that includes details regarding the Commission's public meetings, agendas and minutes, financial documents, and more (www.anc7e.us). We also established a recordkeeping system to ensure that we are collecting required documentation (e.g. financial and meeting records) to fulfill the Commission's statutory requirements and ensure smooth transitions across Commissions. While the Commission attempted to pursue District-owned office space (DC Code § 1-309.13(q)); unfortunately, the District government was unable to provide the Commission with office space forcing the Commission to incur a \$550 per month expense for office space.

As the Commission continues to expand upon and improve its procedures, it is working to revise its Bylaws, establish a Code of Conduct and facilitate the formation of committees to assist with the Commission's work. Currently, the Commission has established two (2) Committees, Public Safety and Economic Development. The Commission is currently pursuing the feasibility of establishing a transportation committee.

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7E is entering Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 financially healthy and fully current on its reporting obligations. The Commission approved its FY 2019 budget during the public meeting on February 12, 2019 with a projected ending balance of \$68,810. The Commission awarded one (1) community grant in the amount of \$1,475 to the Marshall Heights Civic Association (MHCA) during FY 2019. The grant provided MHCA with an opportunity to convene several community events during the summer of 2019.

The Commission also approved its Fiscal Year 2020 Budget at its public meeting on November 12, 2019. The Budget includes (but is not limited to) funding for an administrative assistant, office space, office supplies and grants for the community.