



**Report of the ANC6B Public Safety Committee Meeting
Held September 23, 2024, from 6:30 – 8:00p.m, via Zoom
Submitted by Commissioner Frank Avery (6B01), Chair, ANC 6B Public Safety
Committee, for the October 2024 ANC 6B Commission Meeting**

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present: Frank Avery, Committee Chair (6B01)

ANC 6B's bylaws require at least two commissioners to establish a quorum and set formal recommendations. Due to lack a lack of quorum, all items requiring action were acted on under a provisional basis and will be submitted to the ANC 6B Executive Committee for inclusion on the October 2024 ANC Full Meeting agenda.

Resident Members Present:

6B03 – Chuck Schmoyer

6B04 Alternate – Eliot Mamet (Acting)

6B06 – Lisa Matsumoto

6B06 – Jody Kent Lavy (Committee Vice Chair)

6B08 – Kelly Waud

6B08 – Cinnamon Butler (Alternate)

6B09 – Eric Miller

AGENDA

I. Welcome & Introductions for Guests and Members of the Public (6:30pm)

The meeting opened at 6:34pm with introductions from guests.

Chair Avery informed the Committee that, by request from Committee members, he has added a brief monthly moment for MPD to join starting with tonight's agenda.

II. NEW: Metro Police Department Update (6:35pm)

At 6:40 PM, Captain Crist from MPD's First District provided an update on crime and traffic safety. Overall, violent crime in the area has decreased, with a notable 54% reduction in robberies. In response to a question from RM Schmoyer regarding victim profiles, Captain Crist indicated initially that no specific trends have been identified. However, he noted that construction workers may be intentionally targeted due to many workers in the sector being immigrants with some language barriers and that many crimes may be underreported due to common concerns among these workers with engaging with police. MPD advised residents to

remain aware of their surroundings, use the buddy system, and stay in well-lit areas.

RM Miller inquired about MPD's efforts to address traffic violence, specifically referencing a recent incident in Stanton Park. Captain Crist was not aware, but he informed the committee he would provide an update. Additionally, CM Allen addressed this during his remarks later in this agenda.

RM Waud followed up with questions on the deployment of MPD's traffic safety division, with Captain Crist noting that work is ongoing to optimize coverage and raise awareness.

Chair Avery reminded the Committee that MPD will continue to attend monthly meetings for the remainder of the year.

III. Community Presentation - Misha Pettway: Potomac Gardens & Public Safety Concerns for ANC Consideration (6:40pm)

At 6:53 PM, Ms. Pettway from Potomac Gardens joined the meeting to discuss public safety issues at Potomac Gardens. She specifically highlighted the concerns around security and officer patrols. While officers are now patrolling the community, some residents noted gaps in patrol frequency over recent weeks. Ms. Pettway emphasized the need for more Housing Authority officers, especially given the community's size. However, she also informed the committee that neither of the community's security booths will be staffed due to decisions made by previous leadership. Residents have experienced challenges in getting clear answers regarding these changes.

Chair Avery encouraged bringing such issues to the committee for resolution. Avery further questioned why officers were removed from the security booths, to which Ms. Pettway responded that past leadership deemed it ineffective, and noted that residents have not been heavily involved in decision-making.

Vice Chair Lavy asked about barriers to accessing armed patrol officers. Ms. Pettway explained that a prior program hiring residents for frontline security was discontinued, and although walking patrol officers had helped reduce violence, leadership ultimately deemed the practice unsafe. The committee discussed possibly elevating a request to increase patrols through ANC 6B.

RM Waud raised concerns about the preference between Housing Authority Police and MPD, with feedback indicating a lack of follow-up and overall police presence, particularly around 12th, 13th, I St SE, and Pennsylvania Ave SE. Waud also noted a need for more men's services in the community, highlighting "Brother Frank" as a positive male role model for engaging young men.

A motion was made at 7:10pm by RM Schmoyer for the ANC 6B Public Safety Committee to authorize the ANC 6B Public Safety Committee Chair (Avery, 6B01), Vice Chair (Kent Lavy,

6B06), SMD Commissioner (Ryder, 6B08), and SMD Resident Member (Waud, 6B08) to secure Ms. Pettway's previously unanswered requests, draft proposed correspondence from the ANC to support asking on behalf of Ms. Pettway and Potomac Gardens, and place on the ANC 6B October Commission to endorse and issue from ANC 6B. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Kent Lavy. During discussion on the motion, Chair Avery reminded committee members the vote was provisional due to lack of quorum of commissioners. There was no further discussion.

The motion passed 8-0-0.

IV. Guest Speaker - Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen: Briefing & Discussion on On-Going OUC Issues and Upcoming DC Council Legislation for Fall Session (7:00pm)

At 7:15 PM, CM Allen was invited to begin his remarks.

In response to earlier conversation with MPD about the recent child struck by a reckless driver in Ward 6, CM Allen provided an update on the C St. NE incident involving speeding and dangerous drivers in the neighborhood. He mentioned that he has spoken with MPD First District Commander Hall, who has debriefed with their team and initiated further investigation. The individual involved was referred to the DC Attorney General and will face charges for criminal reckless driving.

CM Allen reported that Department of Transportation Director Kershbaum reported that MPD will begin conducting 15-minute enforcement blitzes. Discussions with US Capitol Police and US Park Police are ongoing to coordinate using their authorities for additional support, though MPD operates under different training standards.

Regarding the Office of Unified Communications (OUC), CM Allen expressed frustration with the Mayor's office, predicting that resolving issues within the OUC could take years. He suggested the Council may need an independent monitor. OUC faces challenges with worker voice due to a smaller union, turnover in the public safety cluster, and under-resourced, traumatized staff, particularly due to mental health concerns. Problems with personnel, possible toxic work culture, and a strained relationship with Fire/EMS were highlighted, with Allen noting that the executive agency has failed to take corrective action.

CM Allen noted that the DC Auditor has conducted a deep dive, but the agency has not followed up. One solution being attempted is a "right place, right time" approach, including a nurse triage line to alleviate the burden on dispatch. Links to those reports can be found at the DC Auditor's website here: <https://dcauditor.org/report/911-reform-status-report-2-progress-made-but-transparency-needed/> and here: <https://dcauditor.org/report/districts-911-system-reforms-needed-to-meet-safety-needs/>

CM Allen encouraged all ANCs to advocate for more action based on constituent feedback, noting upcoming hearings, including one on September 30 at 10:30 AM (hybrid), with a deadline to submit materials by September 26.

He mentioned that legislation introduced for the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (DCHSMA) to conduct an after-action review was introduced, but that he is not a co-sponsor. While he appreciated the spirit of the legislation, he has concerns it does not address the root causes.

Links to the legislation are provided at the end of this report.

Allen also discussed a bill to provide childcare subsidies for MPD, OUC, and EMS workers, noting that 80% of these employees do not live in DC. However, the bill currently lacks funding. CM Nadeau emphasized the need to break out Fire/EMS calls separately from OUC data, and Allen added that money allocated for recruitment and retention has not been spent.

During the Q&A, Matsumoto asked how the ANC can effectively advocate when transparency is lacking. CM Allen acknowledged that transparency may not be fully working due to ongoing errors. He emphasized the importance of oversight to drive change and expressed concern about holding the OUC Director accountable beyond mere data reporting.

In response to RM Miller's question about other cities experiencing similar issues, CM Allen noted that workforce challenges are broadly impacting public service agencies. He mentioned that DC had funded wages and incentives for OUC but the funds were not spent. He also emphasized the importance of childcare subsidies and mental health/wellness rooms, which other call centers are adopting.

Finally, VC Lavy inquired about any pending lawsuits. CM Allen mentioned that there may be a few and referenced that a federal agency or independent monitor may need to be brought in to address the issues and create accountability.

CM Allen concluded at about 7:40pm. No action was taken following his remarks.

V. RM Chuck Schmoyer: Update on USAO Response to ANC Letter on Data Transparency (7:30pm)

Chair Avery and RM Schmoyer provided a brief update on [ANC 6B's July 2024 Letter to the USAO](#) and the [USAO's August 2024 Response](#).

*At 7:45pm, RM Schmoyer motioned that the ANC send a letter to the USAO thanking him for the response **and** request the USAO formally include DC citizens as stakeholders as part of the design-build process to inform the system design capabilities. The motion was seconded by RM Waud (RM, 6B08). A provisional vote was called.*

The motion passed by a vote of 8-0-0.

VI. Vice Chair Jody Kent Lavy: Update & Next Steps on Gun Violence Reduction Strategic Plan Community Roundtable Event (7:40pm)

Vice Chair Kent Lavy reported that efforts are underway to schedule an event for early November, with support from the National Criminal Justice Reform Center, which has expressed willingness to assist during that time. She noted a potential connection with Indianapolis and shared that it was recommended to her that Christy Love be involved to help with implementation efforts.

Vice Chair Lavy emphasized that the event should focus on engaging experts while avoiding political figures. She also shared that discussions are ongoing with the Greater Washington Community Foundation, which is interested in supporting the implementation phase. Additionally, Vice Chair Lavy is in conversation with another ANC committee chair regarding further collaboration.

Chair Avery highlighted the Commission and community leaders likely should try to solidify a proposed date by the ANC's October 8th meeting to help maximize promotion.

No further action was required or taken and the discussion concluded at about 8:05pm.

VII. Community Shoutouts (7:50pm)

6B08 RM Waud highlighted a community organization called First Fruit (<https://www.firstfruit.info/>). She noted that they are applying for first grant and hosting a fish fry soon and that neighbors can participate.

6B03 RM Schmoyer shared a shoutout for MPD. He mentioned that recently many DC schools received a social media threat. MPD tracked down the threat and made an arrest within a day and confirmed that there was not an imminent threat to life. He thanked MPD for their swift response, taking the issue seriously, and their role in follow-up.

VIII. October 2024 Public Safety Committee Agenda Planning & Action Items for October 2024 Full Commission Meeting (7:55pm)

At 8:10pm, the Committee reviewed its items that require action by the Commission (two motions above) and confirmed its October 21, 2024 Committee meeting agenda including:

- a. Ward 4 CM Brianne Nadeau (Confirmed)*
- b. Deputy Mayor for Justice and Public Safety Lindsay Appiah (Confirmed)*
 - i. ANC 6B Letter to Deputy Mayor Appiah regarding implementation of the Gun Violence Reduction Strategic Plan*

As part of the conversation on the Deputy Mayor's visit, committee members asked that the Committee highlight the following in addition to the initial invitation:

(a) Asking about OUC corrective action status

(b) Updates on Department of youth rehabilitation services concerns

(c) DC Auditor's recent report on MPD Staffing

(A copy of that report is available here: <https://dcauditor.org/report/mpd-needs-improved-data-analysis-targeted-deployment-and-more-detectives/>), and

(d) The Deputy Mayor's plans on how to reduce traffic fatalities.

- IX. Adjournment (8:00pm): With no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.** The next meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on Monday, October 22, 2024 at 6:30pm. The next full ANC 6B Commission meeting where any actions from today's meeting will be ratified will be Tuesday, October 7th, at 7:00pm in-person at 700 Penn or online.

END OF REPORT | APPENDIX CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

APPENDIX: DC COUNCIL FALL 2024 PUBLIC SAFETY HEARINGS AND PENDING LEGISLATION

Thank you to CM Allen and Kate Mitchell, Chief of Staff for CM Allen, for providing this information for the Committee.

Next Hearing: September 30 at 10:30 AM (hybrid) | [DC Council Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Roundtable](#)

Deadline to submit requests to testify is September 26 online.

Passed Legislation

- Office of Unified Communications Transparency and Accuracy Emergency/Temporary Amendment Act of 2023: The Council initially passed [emergency legislation](#) to provide transparency around OUC's call handling and dispatching. The bill was folded into the SECURE DC Act earlier this year, so it's now law.
- ANC 6B previously testified in support of CM Allen's bill to expand the home purchase assistance program for DC government employees to include OUC, and it was folded into the FY25 Budget Support Act (p. 39). It is also now law.

Pending

- [Transparency in Emergency Response Amendment Act of 2024](#) (Sponsor: CM Pinto. No hearing scheduled yet)
- [Childcare for First Responders Act of 2024](#) (Sponsor: Pinto. No hearing scheduled yet.)
- [Reliable and Effective 911 Dispatch Amendment Act of 2023](#) (Sponsor: Nadeau. No hearing scheduled yet.)
- [Whole Government Response to Crime Act of 2023](#) (Sponsor: CM White White. Bill is in markup.)