



ANC 6B October 2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting
October 21, 2024, from 6:30 – 8:00p.m.
Virtual Meeting Hosted via Zoom

Committee Chair: Frank Avery, Commissioner, 6B01
Committee Vice Chair: Jody Kent Levy, Resident Member, 6B06

Meeting Attendee Information:

Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/95125775469>
Meeting Passcode (Computer or App): PuSaf1021!
Dial in: (301) 715-8592
Meeting ID: 951 2577 5469
Meeting Passcode (Phone): 6522017589

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions for Guests and Members of the Public (**6:30pm**)
Commissioners: Avery (6B01), Sobelsohn (6B03), D'Andrea (6B04),

Resident Members

6B01 - Frank Boudra
6B02 - VACANT
6B03 - Chuck Schmoyer
~~6B03 - John Schwab (Alternate) – Did not attend.~~
6B04 - Anne Seymour
6B04 - Elliot Mamet (Alternate)
6B05 - Ann Keep
6B06 - Lisa Matsumoto
6B06 - Jody Kent Lavy (Alternate, Vice Chair)
6B07 - Michelle Strizever
6B08 - Kelly Waud
6B08 - Cinnamon Butler (Alternate)
6B09 - Eric Miller

2. Metropolitan Police Department Minute (**6:35pm**)
MPD First District Commander Colin Hall joined and provided an update at 6:35 PM, reporting a significant reduction in violent crime across the district, with rates down by 40% to 55%. MPD is actively investigating a white SUV involved in a recent incident, which they believe to be targeted. Officers are receiving valuable tips from neighbors in this effort.
Commander Hall announced the success of a recent joint task force operation with the FBI, leading to the takedown of a major drug ring. He also reminded attendees of the



importance of property protection and highlighted the District's video rebate program as a helpful resource for crime-solving.

Community member Mr. Miller expressed his appreciation for MPD's fast response to recent incidents. He also asked for clarification on MPD's response to a recent shooting and requested a reminder on the procedure for neighbors to submit tips.

Residents interested in additional security can contact MPD to request security cameras. Commander Hall addressed a question regarding the victim in the recent targeted incident, noting he could not disclose any details to protect privacy.

Commissioner Sobelsohn joined and was introduced prior to the introduction of the Deputy Mayor.

3. Guest Presentation #1: Deputy Mayor for Justice & Public Safety Lindsay Appiah (6:40pm)

Deputy Mayor (DM) Appiah shared insights on the district's ecosystem-focused approach to public safety, highlighting an increase in public safety presence across multiple DC areas, with ONSE serving as the primary violence prevention arm. The DM reported a reduction in crime, pointing to progress in building safer communities.

The Mayor's office is adapting the original strategic plan, promoting a "no wrong doors" approach and establishing "safe commercial corridor" hubs. This initiative integrates joint social services, including MPD presence in areas like Chinatown.

Some public safety efforts require legislative adjustments, which are being addressed at the policy level. Privacy laws initially delayed shooting reviews, but the DM noted that improved processes now ensure better data protection and facilitate violence reduction.

The DM highlighted an increase in violence interventions due to a new program under her office, and mentioned that the Mayor's office is working to sustain initiatives impacted by cuts to ARPA-era funding. Updates were also shared on the ongoing CJCC "Person of Promise" program, which fosters community safety, as well as initiatives focused on training residents for community-based safety efforts.

The "safe passage" zones have expanded to include Potomac Gardens, aiming to integrate services more deeply into local communities. ONSE has 4-5 providers across 25 communities in six wards, with "Cure the Streets" operated by the Office of the Attorney General. This dual structure poses challenges for coordinated frontline services.

During the meeting, Ms. Kent Lavy inquired about the structure and number of CVI providers, to which the DM explained the challenges posed by the dual-provider structure. Ms. Kenty Lavy also requested updates on the Office of Gun Violence Prevention, and the DM clarified her



operational lead role. Additional questions on legislation for data sharing were addressed, with the DM noting ongoing efforts to draft a legislative solution.

Kelly Waud expressed gratitude for the investments in Potomac Gardens and asked if it was prioritized. The DM clarified that Potomac Gardens is part of a broader ward-based model for violence intervention, not specifically prioritized.

In further remarks, Commissioner Sobelsohn noted his role in advocating for the establishment of the ANC committee. Matsumoto raised questions regarding staffing and technological challenges, and the DM mentioned ongoing audit activities. Follow-up questions included how to measure the success of the Safe Commercial Corridor initiative and the future support for ONSE, with the DM confirming her oversight of the program.

4. Guest Presentation #2: DC Council At-Large Councilmember Christina Henderson (7:00pm)

Councilmember (CM) Henderson provided a report on recent and pending legislation. She highlighted legislation introduced to ensure the DC Department of Corrections can support pregnant individuals in prison. Henderson also discussed the intersection between public health and safety, noting that DC ranks #1 in opioid overdoses, which correlates with crime rates. She reported that the health committee has approved additional funding for targeted outreach in areas with high substance abuse. Additionally, she highlighted recent legislation allowing retired firefighters and first responders to work as dispatchers without risking their pension benefits.

During the discussion, Mr. Boudra asked Henderson how many retired first responders had been hired under the new legislation. CM Henderson reported that three hires have been made so far, though it's early in the program and there are limited vacancies. Ms. Matsumoto asked what additional measures, beyond transparency and funding, might improve the Office of Unified Communications (OUC) from the Council's perspective. Henderson emphasized the importance of transparency in these efforts.

Henderson then spoke about pending legislation introduced by CMs Nadeau and White, aimed at increasing transparency and implementing reforms to "shake things up." However, she noted that it's unclear whether these bills will receive a hearing. She reminded attendees that any bill lacking a second vote by December 17 will expire and would need to be reintroduced in the next session.

Finally, Commissioner Sobelsohn expressed support for valuing OUC roles and stressed the need for improved training and coordination to enhance the department's effectiveness.

5. Guest Presentation #3: Ward 1 Councilmember Brianne Nadeau (7:20pm)

Councilmember (CM) Nadeau reported that the Administration has not responded to previous inquiries from the Office of Unified Communications (OUC). She introduced a bill aimed at diverting 911 calls for non-life-threatening issues to specialized call centers within FEMS, a



process that was initially piloted in 2019. The bill would also mandate regular performance reporting. However, Nadeau noted that Chair Pinto has declined to hold a hearing for this bill and other bills introduced by CMs.

Nadeau also joined CM Pinto for an after-action review of recent 911 failures and is actively working on addressing related technology issues in her oversight role with OCTO. She mentioned that certain cases have been referred to the Inspector General for further investigation.

During the discussion, Ms. Matsumoto voiced frustration over a lack of transparency and questioned whether OUC is effectively utilizing its resources, pointing out \$1M in unused salaries at OUC. Ms. Kent Lavy inquired whether OUC's performance, which reportedly exceeds national standards, could make it eligible for federal receivership. Nadeau suggested that some of the performance concerns may be related to response time standards.

Additionally, it was noted that OUC experiences operational breakdowns at least once a week due to staffing shortages and high call volumes.

6. Event Update: [November 14 DC Community Public Safety Forum on Gun Violence Reduction Strategies](#) (7:40pm – Vice Chair Kent Lavy)

- Ms. Lavy reported the event is on track and invited members to participate.

Community Shoutouts & November Agenda Planning (7:50pm)

Prior to shoutout, Chair Avery paused to ask if anyone wanted to propose an action based on the discussion in the meeting.

Ms. Keep expressed concerns about the Deputy Mayor's comments lacking clarity and suggested the Commission focus more on prevention.

Ms. Keep proposed a centerfold in the *Hill Rag* featuring neighbors and resources, including useful tips and information.

Ms. Waud inquired about any follow-up on ONSE and issues with CM White.

ACTION: Vice Chair Kent Lavy motioned for ANC 6B to request that Chair Pinto place the two discussed bills on the docket for a hearing. RM Matsumoto seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The following events and resources were highlighted by committee members:

- <https://mothersoutreachnetwork.org/mother-up-october-event/>
- Little Lights: <https://littleglights.org/>
- First Fruits DC: <https://firstfruit.info>

RM Miller (6B09) gave a shoutout to an MPD officer (Officer Anthony Pearlman) who tracked down an issue in their neighborhood.

7. Adjourn (8:00pm) -- Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.



For any questions regarding this report, please contact Committee Chair Frank Avery, Commissioner for 6B01, at 6B01@anc.dc.gov.