



**ANC 6B December 2024 Public Safety Committee Report
for the virtual meeting held November 25, 2024, from 6:30 – 8:00p.m.**

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

AGENDA & REPORT

1. Welcome & Introductions for Guests and Members of the Public (6:30pm)
No commissioners were in attendance except Chair Avery.

*Frank Boudra [6B01]
Chuck Schmoyer [6B03]
~~John Schwab [6B03] – alternate~~
~~Anne Seymour [6B04]~~
Elliot Mamet [6B04] – alternate
Ann Keep [6B05]
Lisa Matsumoto [6B06]
Jody Kent Lavy [6B06] – alternate
Michelle Strizever [6B07]
~~Kelly Waud [6B08]~~
Cinnamon Butler [6B08] – alternate
~~Eric Miller [6B09]~~*

2. **Metro Police Department Minute (6:40pm)**

Captain Adam Crist provided an update on crime and public safety efforts in the area. He reported a 49% decrease in violent crime overall, a significant improvement. While there was a minor spike in burglaries, closures for these cases have been relatively quick.

To address community concerns, MPD has implemented overtime patrols in the Eastern Market area and added additional patrols along the 600–800 blocks of North Carolina Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue.

Captain Crist also highlighted that crime statistics are available to the public through MPD’s open-source site at <https://www.crimedatadc.com/>.

Additionally, 6B01 RM Bourdra expressed gratitude for an officer's skillful handling of a situation involving the Department of Behavioral Health, noting the officer’s commendable de-escalation techniques.

3. Guest Presentation: At-Large Councilmember Robert White (6:50pm)

At 6:50 PM, At-Large Councilmember Robert White delivered a guest presentation focused on long-term solutions to public safety issues. While he applauded MPD's enforcement efforts, he emphasized the importance of system-level changes.

Key initiatives discussed included:

- **911 System Improvement Task Force:** CM White is advocating for DC Council's Judiciary and Public Safety Committee to pass this task force, noting successful models from FEMS. He acknowledged opposition from the Mayor but highlighted a lack of clarity on the reasons behind it.
- **DC Forensic Science Center:** Concerns were raised about staffing shortages and the reliability of the center. CM White suggested offering incentives to improve retention and performance.
- **Community Interventions:** He voiced support for enhanced victim coordination services and crime prevention legislation, including **firearms tracing**. CM White noted firearms are often sourced from out-of-state and endorsed adopting a tracking model similar to NYC, a component included in the recent public safety bill.
- **Youth Crime and Mentorship Programs:** Reflecting on last year's sharp rise in juvenile crime, CM White shared insights from interviews with young people, particularly 14- and 15-year-olds, who expressed a need for guidance, income opportunities, and vocational training. This feedback shaped a bill supporting a **Youth Mentorship Program** that trains full-time, trauma-informed mentors. He also proposed expanding vocational training to prepare DC youth for high-quality jobs.
- **Mental Health Initiatives:** CM White worked with UDC to fund a bill offering free master's programs in social work and counseling, set to launch in fall 2025. He also highlighted a **Social Work Modernization Act** to reduce credentialing barriers and improve access to earlier certifications.

In closing, CM White reiterated the Council's commitment to public safety reform, drawing on his personal experiences.

During discussion, the follow issues and questions were raised.

1. **RM Mamet (6B04):** Asked about funding for the Right Turn on Red Ban.
 - *Response:* CM White noted uncertainty regarding the funding's status, clarifying it falls under the Transportation Committee.
2. **RM Schmoyer (6B03):** Inquired about the re-accreditation of DC Crime Lab elements.
 - *Response:* Not all elements have been re-accredited.
3. **Vice Chair Kent Lavy:** Asked about the Gun Violence Reduction Strategy and what might be missing.

- *Response:* CM White praised Baltimore City’s model, emphasizing the need for public accountability through clear goals and timelines.
- 4. **Vice Chair Kent Lavy:** Asked whether the Office of Victim Services has been staffed.
 - *Response:* The role has not been funded yet, as the Council just passed it.
- 5. **RM Strizever (6B07):** Inquired about vocational rehabilitation and mentorship programs.
 - *Response:* CM White explained that the bill must go through the Committee of the Whole and includes mentorship components.
- 6. **RM Matsumoto (6B06):** Asked which bills are likely to move forward.
 - *Response:* CM White encouraged more public engagement with the DC Council Committee to advance key legislation.

4. **Event Update: [November 14 DC Community Public Safety Forum on Gun Violence Reduction Strategies](#) (7:30pm – Vice Chair Kent Lavy)**

At 7:30 PM, Vice Chair Kent Lavy provided an update on the November 14 DC Community Public Safety Forum focused on gun violence reduction strategies. The event outcomes were summarized in a post shared with attendees. **RM Keep (6B05)** and **RM Boudra (6B01)** both shared their gratitude for the event’s success.

Tentative Action: Resolution on Implementation of the Gun Violence Reduction Strategies

Vice Chair Lavy informed the committee about a draft resolution being prepared by another ANC’s Health and Public Safety Committee. Once available, this draft will be shared with the Committee for feedback.

To advance this initiative, **RM Mamet moved for the Chair and Vice Chair to complete a draft resolution.** The motion was seconded by RM Strizever (6B07). With no further discussion, **the motion passed unanimously.**

5. **Community Shoutouts & January* Agenda Planning (7:50pm)**

- a. The chair asked for any requests for action from the Committee members. Committee members requested the following actions:
 - i. **RM Butler (6B08) made a motion for the Committee to write a letter of support endorsing the bill specifically and CM White’s crime prevention measures more broadly.** RM Schmoyer (6B03) made a second to the motion. There was some discussion confirming what the format of the letter would look like. The chair provided an example from last month’s meeting from the ANC’s website. There being no further discussion, a vote was called. **The item passed unanimously.**



- a. Move to invite the AG to speak in 2025
 - ii. **RM Keep (6B05) made a motion that ANC 6B extend an invitation to Attorney General Brian Schwalb to present at a 2025 meeting** after failing to reply to the Committee's two invitations this year. Chair Avery seconded the motion. There was no a discussion. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- b. **The December 23 meeting is canceled due to the end of the 2023-2024 Commission term.*
- c. Update on Chair Pro-Tempore for January Meeting
 - iii. The Chair requested if any committee members wanted to volunteer to Chair the Committee until the 2025 commission elected its next chair. There being no volunteers, the Chair confirmed he will seek a volunteer Chair Pro Tem to place on the January 2025 Commission agenda.
 - iv. The committee asked the Chair to please ask for a public presentation on the January Public Safety planning for inauguration activities during the Commission's December 10 meeting.
 1. **Follow-up: An invitation was extended Tuesday, November 26, to the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency Director Clint Osborn. On Wednesday, November 27, the Director confirmed he was exploring schedules but has not confirmed attendance at the time of this report.**

6. Adjournment (8:00pm)

The meeting concluded at 8pm without objection.

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