**ANC 6B January 2025 Public Safety Committee Report**

**for the virtual meeting held on January 27, 2024, from 6:30 – 8:00p.m.**

**Committee Chair, Pro Tempore: Brian Gorman, Commissioner, 6B04**

**Committee Vice Chair: Jody Kent Levy, Resident Member, 6B06**

**AGENDA & REPORT**

**1.** **Welcome & Introductions for Guests and Members of the Public**

*Commisioner David Sobelsohn [6B03]*

*Commissioner Anna Krebs [6B06]*

*Commissioner Samuel Pastore [6B05*]
*Frank Boudra [6B01]*
*Chuck Schmoyer [6B03]*
*Elliot Mamet [6B04] – alternate*
*Ann Keep [6B05]*
*Lisa Matsumoto [6B06]*
*Jody Kent Lavy [6B06] – Vice Chair*
*Kelly Waud [6B08] (attended but was unable to speak due to technical difficulties)*

*Eric Miller [6B09]*

**2.**  **Guest presentations:**

Chair Pro Tempore shared that MPD First District’s Captain Crist was unable to present at the meeting due to a scheduling conflict. Chair Pro Tempore relayed that Captain Crist had urged residents to call 911 if they observed criminal activity in their neighborhood, in response to the committee’s interest in an update former January 6 detainees. Chair Pro Tempore also noted that the committee would not be hearing a speaker from Youth Services, Department of Human Services, an agenda item considered by the committee’s previous chair.

**3.**  **Update on Action Items Since the Committee’s last Meeting in November**

Chair Pro Tempore noted that letters the committee had proposed at its November member had been approved in the December ANC 6B meeting as part of the consent agenda. Chair Pro Tempore also informed the committee that DC Attorney General Schwalb had not responded to the committee's invitation to speak; this invitation was also approved in the ANC’s the December consent agenda and relayed to the DC Attorney General in December.

**4.**  **2025 Priorities**

Much of the meeting consisted of members sharing their priorities for the committee to help inform activities in the coming year.

*Resident Member Keep*

* Prioritizes MPD update at the top of committee meetings. Indicated presentations helped the committee and residents better understand how to support one another.
* Requested further engagement with Potomac Gardens residents. She noted that these residents brought to light concerns about the Housing Police.
* Asked for continued discussion of safety at Eastern Market.
* Shared her experience working at the DC Jail for 35 years and her understanding that public safety is a “landscape” encompassing the entire community, including everything from individuals released from jail, reporting broken streetlights, to mentoring third graders in reading. She suggested the committee could frame its future activities around the idea that public safety is a multifaceted landscape.

*Resident Member Schmoyer*

* Emphasized violent crime as a priority and the importance of engaging with DC institutions that have a stake in combatting violent crime.
* Suggested engaging US Attorney’s Office, Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services and ensuring that the Mayor’s Office is holding agencies responsible for violent crime to the appropriate standards and ensuring they are accountable.
* Flagged the value of coordinating with other ANCs.
* Seconded the value of a regular MPD crime update. Reflected that while there was a drop in violent crime from 2023 to 2024, part of the reason was the very high crime rate in 2023, that crime remains unacceptably high, particularly robberies. Noted an armed robbery that morning at Pennsylvania and 7th Ave SE.
* Noted importance of holistic effort that spans community outreach to justice and accountability.

*Commissioner Sobelsohn*

* Commented that points made reflect reasons he revived the committee two years ago.
* Suggested routinizing regular updates on crime legislation under consideration by the DC Council so the committee could advise the ANC on positions to take on pending bills. He suggested a Council staff member could provide regular presentations or a committee member could be responsible for sharing updates.

*Resident Member Matsumoto*

* Urged more and better communication when there are public safety events. Previous notifications for events, such as public safety walks, were announced close to the events themselves.
* In response to a question from the Chair Pro Tempore on communication channels, she noted emails from ANC Commissioners were helpful and updating ANC6B’s web site would be helpful in facilitating communications. Chair Pro Tempore noted that there are efforts to update the web site now that we have a staff person to work on it.

*Alternate Resident Member Mamet*

* Called out the committee’s interest in dysfunction in DC’s 911 system.
* Raised Vision Zero for pedestrian and bicycle safety as a priority.
* Flagged an article from the Washington Informer for the committee stating that crime is the lowest it has been in 30 years.

*Vice Chair Kent Lavy*

* Acknowledged progress on crime, commented on importance of remaining focused to sustain progress.
* Emphasized importance of hearing from those impacted by crime and “ground level” operators in the public safety arena.
* Stressed the value of hearing regularly from the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and maintaining a focus on the 911 system.
* Hoped the committee would continue to focus on the need for a city-wide strategy to reduce gun violence.

*Commissioner Pastore*

* Reiterated the importance of the landscape approach, to include education.
* Noted safety concerns at Eastern Market.
* Pointed to public health and lead in the water supply as a concern.
* Raised engaging participants in the “cure the streets” program.

*Resident Member Boudra*

* Echoed holistic nature of crime.
* Supported continued to engage range of city entities dealing with crime.
* Flagged that MPD First District has a monthly call that covers crime issues as another resource to get information, engage MPD, learn how MPD operates, and how the community is impacted.
* Noted the committee has heard from Department directors, suggested it would be helpful to hear from some of their staff members to get a more granular understanding of city efforts related to crime and public safety.

**5. Miscellaneous**

* In response to a question to question from the Chair Pro Tempore, Resident Member Matsumoto reflected that the committee had suggested legislative activity related to a gun strategy, accountability in the 911 system and data transparency related to the US Attorney’s Office.
* Commission Pastore provided an update about a letter from Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee to expedite placement of bollards at Eastern Market to enhance security.
* In response to a question from Commissioner Sobelsohn about notetaking, the Chair Pro Tempore noted he was jotting down notes. Commissioner Sobelsohn noted the role of notetaking varies by ANC committee.
* In response to Commissioner Pastore’s questions about committee communications with public, Commissioner Sobhelson noted that the web site lists committee members and that the ANC should discuss whether emails should be included.
* Commissioner Sobelsohn raised electing a new chair. After a discussion among commissioners and committee members, the committee decided to work to find a chair informally via email given that the committee membership would turn over in February.

**7. February Meeting Agenda Planning**

Committee members offered their proposed presentators for the committee’s next meeting in February:

* MPD First District
* Staff from Council Member Allen’s office
* Staff from Council Member Brooke Pinto’s office
* Input form Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justic Lindsey Appiah
* Cure the Streets and the Violence Interrupters

Finally, at the close of the meeting, Vice Chair Kent Lavy noted that this would be her final meeting as a member of the committee and vice chair.