



Report of the ANC6B Public Safety Committee Meeting

February 26, 2024, 6:30 – 8:00p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Edward Ryder, Chair; Chander Jayaraman (6B06); David Sobelsohn (6B03);

Resident Members Present:

Lisa Matsumoto, Chair, Jody Kent Lavy, Ann Keep; Kelly Waud, Cinnamon Butler, Michelle Strizever, Frank Boudra, Chuck Schmoyer, Elliot Mamet, John Schwab.

I. Agenda Item #1; Introductions

Introductions of Commissioners and new resident members.

II. Agenda Item #2; Committee Updates

Edward Ryder, Kelly Waud and Cinnamon Butler provided a summary of a meeting they attended concerning public safety at Potomac Gardens called by the Family Resident Council and attended by MPD and DCHA. Residents shared frustrations and fears after recent shootings. The DCHA Director, Keith Pettigrew, was present and committed to fixing issues raised by residents and improving safety measures. Residents also shared that they feel disconnected from the rest of the neighborhood and feel like they are not seen by others as neighbors. The committee discussed what it can do to not only improve their sense of safety, but to also help residents of Potomac Garden feel more connected to their neighborhood. The ANC and committee will extend an invitation to Miss Petway, the President of the Potomac Garden Family Resident Council, to attend a committee meeting. There was also discussion of whether there could be an additional resident member from the Potomac Garden community, however it would require a change to the ANC6B bylaws because there are already two members from RMD 6B08.

Next, the committee discussed the massive omnibus crime bill, Secure DC. Because the bill is 116 pages long, the committee decided to focus on the issue of provisions, or absence thereof, related to the 911 system and the Office of Unified Communications. This issue was relevant to earlier work of the committee. In 2023, the committee requested that ANC6B write a letter urging the DC Council to establish a task force to review problems with the city's 911 system. CM Robert White, a guest of the committee in December 2023, seemed to take up this issue and included the task force in his

legislative proposal. However, this crime bill does not include anything about a task force to address 911 issues, only more transparency provisions for OUC, which have previously been ineffective in improving the 911 service. Beyond the transparency provisions, there was nothing in the omnibus bill that would hold OUC accountable. The 911 issue is something that the committee can advocate for and make a positive change.

The committee, after discussion of continuing problems and concerns with the 911 system and OUC's lack of accountability, voted unanimously for ANC6B to send another letter to the DC Council, urging them to include additional provisions creating a task force to address continuing problems with the 911 system. There is some urgency to sending the letter since the second vote on this legislation is scheduled for March 5th. It is anticipated that the ANC6B Executive Committee will take up the matter of the letter in their meeting on February 27th.

There was also discussion of CM Mendelson's bill which would essentially codify certain findings of the Gun Violence Reduction Strategic Plan completed by the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform. It was suggested that we take up this issue, perhaps after passage of Secure DC since it is not likely to appear in the bill, and write a letter urging that CM Mendelson's bill receive a hearing and the evidence-based violence prevention tactics recommended in the study be implemented.

III. Agenda Item #3; Identify agenda items for next meeting – March 25, 2024

Discussion of inviting MPD to meetings. It was decided to invite Commander Hall to attend the next meeting. Some members advocated having MPD appear at every meeting to provide a 15 minute briefing. Other members suggested having committee members attend PSA and other MPD meetings and report back. The committee decided to have MPD attend a committee meeting at least twice a year. The committee will further consider how to best liaise with and receive information from MPD.

The issue of youth services was raised as a topic of interest. The issue will be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Chairperson Matsumoto asked members to advise on points of contacts that could be invited to attend the next meeting to focus on the issue.

IV. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM. The next meeting is March 25, 2024.