

# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7B

District of Columbia Government

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**Meeting ID:** 880 0274 5284 **Passcode:** 130993

December 17, 2020 Minutes

Patricia Howard-Chittams, 7B01, Secretary	Present
Tiffany L. Brown, 7B02 – Vice Chair	Present
Benjamin Crane, 7B03 – Treasurer	Present
Nicole Smith-McDermott, 7B04	Present
Villareal Johnson, 7B05	Present
April Pradier, 7B06	Absent
Lynnell Humphrey, 7B07 – Chair	Present

## Call to Order

**Motion:** Commissioner Brown moved that the agenda be approved with the addition of the election of a Secretary for the remainder of the year.

**Seconded:** Patricia Howard-Chittams

**Outcome:** Unanimously Approved.

## Report of the Secretary - Secretary Patricia Howard-Chittams

Chairman Humphrey requested the commission to provide any changes to the minutes of the meeting held on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. There were no.

**Motion:** Commissioner Patricia Howard Chittams moved that the minutes of November 19, 2020, be approved with no changes.

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Nicole Smith McDermott

**Outcome:** Approved unanimously.

## Report of the Treasurer – Commission Benjamin Crane

Commissioner Crane noted that he did not have the November Bank Statement and therefore the report for November could not be completed at this time.

Commissioner Crane shared the revised Q2 Report on screen. He stated that the revisions that had to be completed were related to clerical information that needed to be corrected.

Q4 Quarterly Report – Commissioner Crane noted that the allotment was received and after expenses, a positive banking balance is reflected as \$26,239.34.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Crane moved that the quarterly reports be approved as presented.

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Brown

**Outcome:** Unanimously approved.

### **Action Items**

Election of the Secretary –Commissioner Humphrey explained why the secretary needs to be elected by noting that Commissioner Johnson resigned the position as Secretary in July of 2020. He also noted that Commissioner Howard-Chittams had been the interim secretary since that time.

**Motion:** Commissioner Lionel Humphrey moved that Patricia Howard-Chittams be elected to remain the secretary of ANC 7B for the remainder of 2020.

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Crane

**Outcome:** Unanimously approved

The Secretary was sworn into office by Commissioner Humphrey

Commissioner Humphrey asked if there were any objections to adding Lt. Hawkins to the agenda for the MPD Update. Commissioner Johnson objected to the MPD Update. Commissioner Johnson then stated after the swearing of the secretary that he had objected because he felt it was important that the business of swearing be completed so that the secretary would be in good standing before MPD's presentation.

### **MPD Update**

Lt. Hawkins from 6<sup>th</sup> District - Noted that there has been an increase in robberies. The property crime has remained for the most part flat. The Amazon Delivery trucks, Uber Eats, etc. are where there are a lot of robberies. Lt. Hawkins noted that there are ghost guns shipped through the mail, this could be some of the cause of the robberies. She also noted that the PS5 from Sony Play Station is also a draw because these game consoles are impossible to find, and the robbers are asking the drivers which packages have the game consoles. Individuals using APPs such as LetGo and Craig's list and for person-to-person sales and there is a victim because they are being robbed. The amount lost is usually in the \$500 to \$700 range. Please use a safe exchange zone such as a police district when purchasing items in this way.

Commissioner Brown asked about the homicide on 29<sup>th</sup> Street an area that has been screaming for attention for a while. Lt. Hawkins stated that the homicide is an ongoing investigation and could not give any additional information. Lt. Hawkins noted that there has been an increase in patrols in the area. The individuals who hang out in that area were invited to come to the PSA meeting to learn why there is a concern regarding them hanging out in the community. Lt. Hawkins noted that 6D uses the NextDoor App as the social media platform. This platform is used to keep all up to date by your 6D Watch Commander.

Good Hope Market Place Task Force – Commissioner Johnson – Wanted to continue to work on relationship building with the owners of this property. The opportunity of the Commission to have input into retail options in this space. The task force would be a positive community partnership with the commission similar to the Skyland Task Force.

Former Commissioner Marlin noted that she couldn't hear much of what Commissioner Johnson was stating. Former Commissioner Marlin asked if Commissioner Johnson was recommending creating a task force for the Good Hope Market. There was a citizen-led task force lead by Mr. Poteat and was taken on by the Hillcrest Civic Association and with Former Commissioner Marlin in the past. Commissioner Johnson noted that he wanted to formalize this in a task force. Commissioner Johnson

noted that “we need to protect our partnership with the company”. Former Commissioner Marlin noted that she would be willing to work on that committee.

**Motion:** Commissioner Johnson moved that ANC 7B form a Good Hope Market Place Task Force. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith-McDermott.

**Discussion:**

For the purpose that the ANC has responsibility and oversight over the retail. There is a continuous voice in this property. The ANC needs to pay attention to.

Commissioner Chittams asked if this committee would be better served under the standing committee for retail in the commission. Commissioner Smith-McDermott asked if this may be a topic that would affect the community and suggested that maybe community input on this matter would be best.

Commissioner Johnson stated that it was important that a task force be created and not place it under the Retail Committee. He stated that this is not just a retail endeavor that can be put into an inactive subcommittee. He further reported that this is not an issue that the chair would be forced to manage. The Good Hope Market Place is an economic development and is not just retail issues. There are public safety issues there and should not be marginalized. There is litter, robberies and all types of issues which is going on at the Good Hope Market Place.

Commissioner Crain asked if there was historical precedent regarding the creation of a task force. Commissioner Johnson stated that because there is a change in the Commission the work that he had done should not be lost. This should be a priority issue so that we can get the retail and economic development opportunity.

Former Commissioner Marlin stated that in the bylaws the ANC can establish their committees based on the community’s need. Historically, when entering into a PUD with Skyland it was determined that it was best to establish a committee for Skyland. Community Need and Community Interests were generally the basis of creating committees. Former Commissioner Marlin offered an alternative, that she volunteered to lead it as a citizen committee and report to the SMD Commissioner.

Commissioner Johnson stated that if the Commission fails to address this issue then the commission would face the consequences later. Commissioner Brown noted that the committees that are in the bylaws have been in the bylaws since 2017- the committee structure was the one thing that was not addressed. Commissioner-Elect Donna Robinson stated that the community needs to vote. She stated that she has no problem with carrying out the good work with the businesses in this area. Commissioner Humphrey asked Commissioner-elect Robinson which she would like to work with, a task force or maintain it as it has been going and if others are willing to step up and help out, I will work with them to make sure the work gets done.

Commissioner Brown asked if there was new management at Good Hope Market place. She noted that the management company had not engaged the commission before. Commissioner Johnson reported that the lobbying group Rosenthal Group came to him before COVID. He stated that he sent those emails out to the commission. They publicly presented their request in June. Commissioner Brown asked again if they are new. Commissioner Johnson noted that the Rosenthal Group is not new.

Former Commissioner Marlin noted that Commissioner Brown is correct as Safeway has never engaged the commission. This group has never been a part of the community and came to the ANC with any interest.

Commissioner Humphrey stated that he believed that Commissioner Chittams has a very valid point in making this a sub-committee under the Retail Committee. Commissioner Humphrey will vote to make this a task force. He believes that Commissioner-elect Robinson needs to keep this on the radar of the commissioner. It will be overseen by Commissioner-elect Donna Robinson.

**Outcome:** Unanimously approved.

PA Avenue Corridor Main Street Task Force – Commissioner Johnson– This commission invested into the advocacy for the Pennsylvania Avenue Corridor Main Street Task Force by donating 1,500.00. They establish a task for the duration and creation of the task force. There is \$300,000 of investment on that task force. He stated that right now, it is a program arm of the Marshall Heights Development Program. For the purpose of overseeing and participating in the development of the main street.

**Motion:** It was properly moved and seconded by Commissioner Johnson that ANC 7B create a Task Force to oversee and participate in the development of the Pennsylvania Avenue Task Force.

**Seconded:** Commissioner Brown

**Discussion:** Commissioner Smith McDermott asked the Commission's role considering there is already a group established. There was additional discussion regarding the organizations which funded and began the communication with the council member about the Pennsylvania Avenue Corridor Main Street Task Force.

**Outcome:** Unanimously approved.

Latisha Atkins Penn Avenue East Main Streets Director spoke and noted that the program has formed the advisory board and Commissioner Brown is one of those members. Additional members are Earl Williams, Rev. Kendrick Curry, Dr. Mark Byrd, and a representative of Jair Development Group. Pennsylvania Avenue Main Streets is also looking to expand the advisory group soon. She noted that she would like to come back and make a full presentation.

Public Space Permit Application #334489 has been filed for excavation: Electric ML Conduit (Trench) at 3985 Massachusetts Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20019. Due date, 12.30.2020 – Commissioner Humphrey – Commissioner Humphrey stated that he would like to come back with more information.

**Motion:** Commissioner Humphry moved that the Commission Support the Eclectic Conduit at 3985 Massachusetts Avenue, SE Public Space Permit Application #334489.

**Seconded:** Commissioner Howard-Chittams

**Outcome:** Unanimously Approved.

### **Speakers**

Lester Wallace, Community Outreach Coordinator, Capitol Bikeshare – Have expanded their financial assistance program called Capital Bike Share for All, Any DC area resident where any area Capital Bikeshare operates in, anyone who receives government assistance in any form is eligible to obtain a discounted annual membership. The normal fee is \$85 which unlimited 30-minute trips, annual membership for \$5 for 60-minute trips. If anyone wants to get more information, please go to their website.

There is a collection team that is comes around to pick up bikes that have been improperly docked. The e-bikes are easier to track. Just in call and don't get an immediate response and call him and send Encouraging people to take extra precautions such as using hand sanitizer before and after using the bikes and wearing bikes. When the rebalancers are moving the bikes, they are periodically sanitizing the bikes.

Commissioner Humphrey was interested in what they are doing to promote bicycle safety by encouraging people to wear helmets. Mr. Wallace stated that safety is tied with marketing materials and ensure their videos or any ads to make sure they have people wearing helmets. Mr. Wallace reported that everyone who has signed up through a community partner also gets a bike helmet. Commissioner Humphrey asked Mr. Wallace what the overall statement is for Capitol BikeShare for when someone is involved in an incident? What is the accountability as there are no identifying marks on the bicycles? You all would know who was on that bike at that time. In the event the bike is left behind, there are ID numbers on the bikes. There is nothing that as a driver that I would be able to see. Mr. Wallace provided his contact information for members of the community to contact him as needed. [Lester.Wallace@godcgo.com](mailto:Lester.Wallace@godcgo.com) or 202-384-5365.

**Transition Update:** Commissioner Johnson – There was a decision in the Executive Committee that the outgoing Commissioners would create space for incoming Commissioners. There has been engagement from just about everyone. There will be a meeting this Saturday. Current Commissioners who cannot meet on Saturday have already reached out to the incoming Commissioners.

### **Community Concerns**

Wesley Leary – MOCR informed all that this would be his last meeting. Ms. Daniels has been his partner for almost 9-months, Osha Daniels has been working with 7D and 7C. Commissioner Humphrey reported that the commission would miss him a great deal and applauded his hard work in 7B. Osha Daniels Ward 7 MOCRS – [Osha.Daniels1@dc.gov](mailto:Osha.Daniels1@dc.gov) 202-374-9282.

Dr. C, a community member, asked a question about the helicopters overhead over Hillcrest, they are very low and loud. It is possible to change their route. Commissioner Humphrey noted that this is an FAA issue and provided his cell number and his email. He is also the Director of Constituent Services for Councilmember Vincent Gray. He will also contact Eleanor Holmes Norton's office as well.

Commissioner Smith-McDermott noted this is also an issue for Penn Branch as well and asked the information could be shared with everyone.

Commissioner-Elect Robinson commented regarding the helicopter noise in the community. Many different helicopters are flying in the area, including Park Police, DC police, and medivac helicopters. She noted that anyone who flies lower than the 500-foot ceiling is military that can fly below the 500-foot ceiling. The only other ones are generally the President and the two accompanying helicopters are generally the ones that create the most noise.

Former Commissioner Marlin asked that Dr. C could email her off-line. Commissioner Marlin noted that she was directed to Boling Airforce Base. Former Commissioner Marlin noted that the helicopters are in a flight plan established by the Airforce.

Mr. Vic Narula thanked the commissioners for working with him, especially Commissioner Smith-McDermott, and noted that he was willing to answer any questions at this time.

## **Commissioner's Roundtable**

Commissioner Crane felt that it was best to give up the seat as he was attending graduate school and felt that he could not do both. Commissioner Crane felt that he had learned a lot and that he was grateful to those members of the commission with whom he worked.

Commissioner Smith-McDermott noted that she is the newly elected President of the National Institute for Government Purchasing and felt that her leaving as the Commissioner of 7B04 is bittersweet.

Commissioner Howard Chittams stated that she was able to obtain some relief for some constituents regarding an apartment building on Nelson Place by reaching out to the owner. The issues have ceased. She also informed the Commissioner's that she was grateful to members of the commission for their support and their ability to work collaboratively. She further stated that it was always her family's motto to leave the world and the community better than it was found, and she stated it was her hope that the work done with this commission was able to accomplish that.

Commissioner Howard-Chittams moved that the last meeting of ANC 7B for 2020 be adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown.  
Outcome: Unanimously approved.

Adjournment

Submitted By:

Commissioner Howard-Chittams  
Secretary