

## 5D Local ANC Meeting: Unity in Action

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The 5D Local Advisory Neighborhood Commission tackled key community concerns including public safety, transparency, and urban cleanliness during their monthly Zoom session on February 21, 2024. With a robust agenda, the meeting featured spirited debates on the implementation of security measures and enhancement projects within Washington, D.C.’s diverse districts

At around 7:03 p.m., the 5D Local ANC (Advisory Neighborhood Commission) had their monthly session via Zoom, with all commissioners present, each representing a particular district within Washington, D.C.'s dynamic neighborhoods. Comm. Saucedo-Guzman (5D05) from Northern acted as the mediator, alongside Comm. Rhodes (5D02) representing Ivy City, Kathy Henderson (5D06), Comm. Blacknell (5D09) from Langston, Comm. Roblin (5D03) from Southern Trinidad, Stephen Cobb (5D04) representing Central Trinidad, Comm. McCullum (5D07) from Carver, and Comm. Reid May (5D08).

At the forefront of discussions was the pressing issue of public safety, with Commissioner Blacknell advocating for proactive measures to combat carjacking and auto theft. Urging the adoption of "air tags" for vehicle protection, she emphasized the importance of community cooperation in safeguarding citizens and their property.

Simultaneously, Commissioner Rhodes rallied for volunteer mentorship programs to uplift youth in Ivy City, while Commissioner Roblin shed light on the challenges faced by undervalued educators in Southern Trinidad. These diverse perspectives underscored the commissioners' shared commitment to addressing community concerns holistically.

It began with the meeting's main issue, transparency, with the commissioners voting decisively on whether specific information should be made public. Each person conveyed their viewpoint with a clear "aye" or a dissenting "nay," shaping the course of community dialogue and

accountability. Following the vote, the commissioners delved into their reports, sharing updates on their neighborhoods' statuses for January and February.

Comm. Rhodes, representing Ivy City, kicked off the reports with a call for volunteer mentors. "We need to uplift our youth," she urged, "and mentorship is key to that." She spoke passionately about the weekly cleanups she organized, rallying volunteers to tackle the cleanliness issues plaguing several districts.

Addressing the community, Kathy Henderson of 5D06 emphasized the importance of maintaining a clean environment. "It's common sense that everyone who lives here wants their neighborhood to be clean," she affirmed, urging residents to speak up about concerns such as low-hanging streetlights and deliberate littering.

From Carver, Comm. McCullum expressed gratitude for the installation of security cameras in key areas but underscored the ongoing battle against illegal dumping in alleyways. "We need to work together to keep our streets clean and safe," he urged.

Comm. Roblin of Southern Trinidad drew light on the issue of undervalued teachers in D.C., highlighting their declining numbers and the difficulties they encounter. "Our educators deserve better," she remarked, urging support and acknowledgment for their critical role in the community.

Meanwhile, Captain Monahand of the 5th District Metropolitan Police Department provided a sobering update on recent incidents. "We're facing challenges," she admitted, detailing efforts to combat crime and ensure the safety of residents.

As the meeting progressed, strategies to combat crime were discussed, including the implementation of "drug-free zones" and innovative sting operations targeting package theft. "We must remain vigilant," Captain Monahand emphasized, urging community cooperation in tackling crime.

Each commissioner's report revealed the community's collaborative efforts and concerns, instilling a sense of togetherness and commitment to confront the difficulties that their areas face. The conference concluded at 8:00 p.m., but the dedication to growth and teamwork remained, revealing a brighter future for the 5D district.