

Special 7/28/11 Meeting minutes

Call to Order and Introduction of Commissioners

Chairman Stephens called the meeting to order approximately 7:10pm and noted the presence of a quorum. In attendance were all 9 Commissioners, MPD Second District Commander Reese, PSA 208 Lt. Scott Dignan (arriving later), PSA 208 Sgt. John McDonald (arriving later), and approximately 10 members of the public.

Special Item – Planned Changes to MPD Boundaries

- Purpose of Special Meeting/Forum – Chairman Stephens outlined the background of the special meeting.
- Overview of Planned Changes – Commander Reese and former Commissioner Rob Halligan described the planned changes to MPD boundaries.
- Questions and Comments (Open Forum) – Commissioners, community members, and MPD representatives had an open discussion on the proposed changes for approximately 70 minutes.
- ANC action/resolution – Commissioner Stephens made the following motion, which incorporates friendly amendments from several Commissioners:

Whereas ANC 2B and the Dupont Circle community have built strong relationships with our local Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers and supervisors in the unified Police Service Area (PSA) that encompasses our historic neighborhood, currently designated as PSA 208 in the Second District (2D);

Whereas we have a network of community volunteers that assist with the law enforcement workload in our neighborhood, and police officers have even specifically requested to be positioned here because of this strong working relationship;

Whereas maintaining cohesive neighborhoods is an extremely important factor in setting effective police boundaries, at least as important as call statistics;

Whereas we believe that MPD has not provided compelling reasons to break up the Dupont Circle neighborhood into several PSAs;

Whereas MPD has not demonstrated a statistical need to move parts of 2D into the Third District (3D);

Whereas we respect the cohesiveness of the LGBT community, including in the area in and around 17th Street NW north of Massachusetts Ave NW;

Whereas ANC 2B is dismayed at the lack of community notice and opportunity for input on the proposed realignment from January to June 2011, and the short time frame now left to provide community input;

Therefore be it resolved:

- ANC 2B strongly urges and prefers that the Dupont Circle neighborhood remain as a single PSA to maintain cohesiveness, working relationships, and communication for effective law enforcement in our community.
- ANC 2B would prefer to remain as a part of 2D, but it is more important to stay together in one cohesive PSA than to remain in 2D.
- If it is impossible for the Dupont Circle neighborhood to remain as a single PSA, the new PSA 208 should be as reflected on the attached map. This modification will, among other things, maintain a unified 17th Street corridor, rather than splitting it at Q Street, and also reflect the the cohesive residential nature of the area north of Massachusetts Avenue (east of Dupont Circle) up to U Street NW, as compared to the non-residential area below Massachusetts.

- Regardless of how the boundaries are drawn or re-drawn, they should be effective police service boundaries and should be re-examined within a year for their effectiveness.

Commissioner Estrada seconded the motion. Several friendly amendments were offered, which are incorporated in the above text. The motion passed unanimously 8-0, with Commissioner Feldstein having left the room.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.