



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6D  
*Southwest, Buzzard Point, The Wharf*

July 15, 2024

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Hon. Muriel Bowser, Mayor  
Danita Johnson, President of Business Operations, DC United  
Marcus Allen, Broccoli City Festival  
Sharon Kershbaum, Acting Director  
Department of Transportation  
Collin Hall, Commander, First District  
Metropolitan Police Department  
Timothy Spriggs, Director  
Department of Public Works  
Richard Jackson, Director  
Department of Energy and Environment

**OFFICERS**

Chair,  
*Fredrica Kramer*

Vice Chair,  
*Bob Link*

Secretary  
*Bruce Levine*

Treasurer  
*Ron Collins*

**VIA Email**

**RE: Concerns around Broccoli City Music Festival, July 27-28 at Audi Field and Parcel B in Buzzard Point**

**COMMISSIONERS**

SMD 1 *Bob Link*  
SMD 2 *Ronald Collins*  
SMD 3 *Gail Fast*  
SMD 4 *Andrea Pawley*  
SMD 5 *Chearie Phelps-El*  
SMD 6 *Bruce Levine*  
SMD 7 *Fredrica Kramer*  
SMD 8 *Rhonda Hamilton*

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed public meeting on July 15, 2024, with a quorum present, a quorum being five Commissioners, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6D voted 8-0-0 to register its concerns around the planning and programming of the Broccoli City Music Festival, to take place July 27-28, 2024 in Audi Field and the adjoining open field in so-called Parcel B, between First and Half St. SW and Potomac Avenue and S St. SW in Buzzard Point. The concerns reflect responsibilities of multiple agencies as well as the managers of Audi Field and the music festival, so we are writing to each of you so that the issues might be addressed in further discussion in the coming days prior to the opening of the festival.

ANC 6D was notified of the proposed festival only on July 2<sup>nd</sup> by a representative of Broccoli City. In response to the notice, ANC 6D asked during a phone conversation and in writing for a full description of the

festival plans including permits applied for, pending, or approved, and scheduled a full discussion with the representative at our July 8<sup>th</sup> Administrative Meeting. Our Commission learned little more than what was distributed on a public flyer at the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, and therefore quickly scheduled a meeting on July 12<sup>th</sup> with officials of DC United, Broccoli City and the principal public agencies responsible for traffic management, security and safety, parking enforcement and cleanup.

Buzzard Point, a narrow peninsula bounded on two sides by water with one way in and one way out, poses challenges under the best of circumstances, particularly in handling the competing demands of stadium attendees and the nearly 2000 residents who now live in the new developments. The planned festival, using both the stadium and the adjoining field of equivalent size (Parcel B), is larger than any that has been held before—a 2-3 hour soccer match or even a concert within Audi Field, with a mix of live music, alcohol and, as advertised, allowable use of cannabis (a claim that was apparently removed from the website last Friday after our meeting). This poses its own set of challenges for safety and security, and as yet we have no clear understanding of whether and why cannabis would be permitted by law in a public event such as this, let alone plans to respond to any resulting problems from its presence. ANC 6D informed the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (ABCA) of its concerns prior to their receiving the license application and has now written formally to register its opposition.

For all these reasons, this is a precedent setting event and the stakes are very high. Although the festival is less than two weeks away, ANC 6D had not received the detailed materials that it requested in time to consider them at its July 15<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting and in order to ensure that its concerns are adequately addressed as the festival is underway. These include:

- Site plan, program plan, set-up/take-down;
- Security—checks and check points, legality and rules for cannabis and alcohol sale and consumption;
- Sound systems—hours, level, direction in stadium and Parcel B;
- Approval of use of Parcel B by DOEE for human occupancy (~2,000 attendees) as a highly contaminated non-remediated site requiring VCP cleanup per Zoning Order;
- Ingress and egress protocols (from M St. south to the field and access points into stadium and Parcel B), and traffic management, parking and parking enforcement (MPD, DDOT, DPW);
- Accommodations/protections of street parking for residents in Old Southwest and Buzzard Point during the two-day festival, and special arrangements with building managers/owners for residents without monthly garage rentals to use spaces during the two-day event;
- Sufficiently enhanced MPD officer presence coordinated with DCHA to manage the magnitude of attendees and protection of nearby residents for a citywide event that should have been identified in the TOPP as well as handled as a special event by the Mayor's office;
- Trash collection and cleanup—on site and surrounding area (DC United, Broccoli City, DPW);
- Copies of all permit applications and approvals;
- Documentation of who in the community has been informed and consulted in developing the plans for the festival.

ANC 6D was told that there have been 75,000 tickets sold for this two-day event (comments about expected attendance suggested it could be as high as 50,000 across the two days, perhaps considerably fewer in the open field). Audi Field itself accommodates ~20,000. None of the information that we have so far received indicates that there are sufficient plans to protect the surrounding community in Southwest, in adjoining Old Southwest or in Buzzard Point from the onslaught of vehicles, pedestrians and party-goers in and out of the event. Because of the size, ages of participants and likely mix of alcohol and cannabis, and in light of the recent uptick in gun violence and crime within the city, the event obviously creates concern about adequate police presence and crowd control.

We are writing to each of you to express our deep and continuing concern that all responsible authorities, including the festival convenors and the public agencies, have not sufficiently understood the magnitude of potential issues the festival raises, nor have they demonstrated appropriate levels of response and deployment of needed resources.

We ask that all of the materials and related details described above be provided to ANC 6D, as was promised during our Friday meeting, and in time for us to review, further discuss with relevant authorities, and appropriately and thoroughly inform the community as well. ABCA will be considering the liquor license application this Wednesday. Because of the crush of time before that meeting and the actual event, we ask that we receive all the requested materials with immediate speed.

ANC 6D understands that this festival is likely to proceed, but we also understand that because it is precedent-setting and because it carries with it enormous risks, that the convenors and the District agencies understand the importance of ensuring the health, safety and security of both attendees and residents, and will address the issues raised with the seriousness they deserve.

We request that the authorities consider our concerns with “great weight” as provided under law.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at [6D07@anc.dc.gov](mailto:6D07@anc.dc.gov).

Sincerely,



Fredrica Kramer  
Chair, ANC 6D  
Southwest & Buzzard Point

Cc: Tomas Talamante, Mayor's Special Events Task Force  
Councilmember Charles Allen  
James Strange, DDOT  
Steve Smith, DPW  
Donovan Anderson, ABCA