



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

September 13, 2024

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Hon. Muriel Bowser,
Mayor
Hon. Phil Mendelson,
Chairperson
DC Council Committee of the Whole

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VIA Email: pmendelson@dccouncil.gov
eom@dc.gov

RE: Follow-Up on Broccoli City Music Festival, July 27-28 at Audi Field and Parcel B in Buzzard Point

Dear Madame Mayor and Chair Mendelson:

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed public meeting on September 9, 2024, with a quorum present, a quorum being five Commissioners, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6D voted 8-8-0 to share several observations on the planning and execution of the Broccoli City Music Festival, held July 27th and 28th in Buzzard Point, and to request additional information to inform the Council and District agencies should a similar event be planned in the future.

The Festival took place in Audi Field and the adjoining open lot, so-called Parcel B, between First and Half St. SW and Potomac Avenue and S St. SW.

Buzzard Point is a narrow peninsula bounded by the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, with very limited ingress and egress, and now undergoing massive redevelopment that will create over 6,000 new residences when complete. Because Southwest is also now a destination for visitors to the Wharf, Audi Field and Nationals Park, any event at these major entertainment venues combined with the ongoing redevelopment presents special challenges to traffic management, safety, and security, and affects the health and well-being of our entire Southwest community.

ANC 6D was therefore especially concerned about the planning and execution of the Broccoli City festival.

Based on several walk- and ride-throughs through Buzzard Point during the two-day festival, including conversations with representatives from MPD deployed during the event, the Broccoli Music Festival seems to have concluded without major incident.

Traffic and crowd management was exceptionally successful, but the result of an extraordinary deployment of District resources.

- A remarkable array of MPD divisions were activated, evidenced by vehicles from MPD Districts 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, the Youth Division, Civil Disturbance Division, and Special Operations Division. In addition, a fleet of ~37 bicycle officers were deployed from First District on Saturday.

On Sunday, the second day of the festival, there were fewer officers deployed, but there continued to be squad cars from various divisions on every corner and every intersection in Buzzard Point. Officers noted that many were on 12-hour overtime shifts, following back-to-back shifts called up in response to the Netanyahu visit earlier in the week, which may partly explain an inability to muster the same level of patrol on the second day.

- As happens often with other major events at Audi Field, illegal parking continues to be a problem. Curbside swales and no parking areas on Half St., including the entire grounds of the Earth Conservation Corps building, were filled with illegally parked vehicles. At some point cars were ticketed (only \$20 fines), and some were likely towed. Parking on the Earth Conservation grounds seemed to be organized by an independent, self-appointed crew—who paid and who collected is not clear.
- The bike valet operated at Audi Field used the sidewalk along the Ft. McNair wall at 2nd and R streets, blocking pedestrian use with what looked like hundreds of scooters.
- There was no crowd congregation outside the fence line on Half St, eliminating fears that crowds might gather to listen to performances in Parcel B for free.
- There were no street closures, and no obvious impediments to vehicle access or the 74 Bus, which seemed to get through unimpeded.

Noise was heard throughout the community but mostly the burden of residents living immediately around the stadium.

- As an ABCA board member properly recognized during consideration of the temporary liquor license for the festival, residents in nearby buildings might be well within 100 feet of performances on Parcel B. In fact, residents at the Verge and Watermark would have been subjected to 9 hours of performances each day. Complaints were lodged from as far north as residents on 4th St SW (noise to V St. SW residents was largely blocked by the new Stacks buildings under construction).

- Close to 2,000 residents in Buzzard Point will be in direct line of the noise if a similar event is held in the coming year or two. Is 18 hours of continuous music abutting a residential area justified?

We seem to have lucked out this time; the extraordinary level of law enforcement may have averted any major security breaches. The Broccoli City Festival was held before at RFK, a venue considerably better suited to this type of event but one that will also be redeveloped in the nearish future. There may be considerable interest in repeating this event at Audi Stadium in coming years. This raises questions about the cost in dollars and disturbance to ensure the safety and security of both attendees and the Southwest community if we are to host a similar event in the future.

We ask the Committee of the Whole to inquire of the DC Auditor:

- What public funds were expended to manage safety and security for the two-day event (including MPD deployments, DPW for ticketing, towing and cleanup, DC health services)?
- What private funds were expended by the administrators of Audi Field/DC United to pay for security under the development arrangement for operation of Audi Field, and what are the obligations to fund a repeat in the future?

We ask the Mayor:

- Why was the Special Events Task Force not involved in planning and overseeing this event, nor the ANC 6D or the MPD engaged timely, leaving the MPD and the community blind-sided and scrambling for information the week prior to the event, and forcing ANC 6D to call all parties together just to get basic information (e.g., site plans, sound systems, security/traffic/parking/cleanup protocols and interagency agreements, permits, licenses, community outreach, control of previously advertised cannabis use)?
- What can we expect from the Office of the Mayor and relevant agencies if a similar event is planned for the future?

With additional data, the Council, taxpayers and the community will be in a position to assess the proper balance of responsibilities, and make recommendations for a similar event in this community or removed to a larger and more isolated venue.

We appreciate your acknowledgement of our requests and await a status report.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 6D07@anc.dc.gov

Sincerely,



Fredrica Kramer
Chair, ANC 6D

Cc: CM Charles Allen, Chair Committee on Transportation and the Environment
CM Brooke Pinto, Chair Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety
CM Anita Bonds, Chair, Committee on Executive Administration and Labor
Kathleen Patterson, DC Auditor
Tanya Mitchell, Mayor's Special Events Task Group