

**Advisory Committee on Street Harassment (ACSH) Minutes**  
**July 15th, 2020, 2pm**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**Present:**

Michelle Garcia, Interim Director of DC Office of Human Rights (*OHR*) and Director of DC Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (*OVSJG*)

Brianne Nadeau, Ward 1 Councilmember (*City Council*)

Aamir Mansoor, Legislative Director for Councilmember Nadeau (*City Council*)

Thomas Yabroff, Community Outreach Specialist in the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs (*MOLGBTQA*)

Sarah Fashbaugh, Community Resource Officer at Alcohol Beverage Regulation Administration (*ABRA*)

Amy Nelson, Director of Legal Services for Whitman Walker Health (*Immigrant Rights*)

Indira Henard, Executive Director of the DC Rape Crisis Center (*Gender Based Violence*)

Helen McClure, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety & Justice

Stephanie Franklin, Communications and Community Outreach Director at OHR

*Maya is on parental leave until the end of September 2020 (baby Kira born on June 5<sup>th</sup>!).*

In Summer 2020, we received four new responses to our “Share Your Story” survey that lives on the [nostreetharassment.dc.gov](https://nostreetharassment.dc.gov) website. This website – and survey – launched at the same time as the street harassment public awareness campaign in late August 2019. Up until May 1, 2020, there had been no submissions to the survey since September 20, 2019 and we have not advertised the website or survey since the beginning of the calendar year 2020. This tells us people are experiencing street harassment and wanting to share their stories – the two story submitters found a way to us.

Like the qualitative data collected in our focus group, these stories can help enrich numbers and illustrate the current state of street harassment in DC. Sharing stories also helps increase understanding of others' circumstances and it can build empathy. With many public spaces closed, a heightened state of communal stress, frequently changing rules, and increased chances to feel isolated with empty streets, street harassment does not look like it did in Fall 2019 when our survey was open and our focus groups were conducted. The submitted stories focused on face masks or racial identity (specifically Asian appearing) – something that was not part of our culture or part of common street harassment experiences before the pandemic. Additionally, all submitters reported there was nobody around during the incident so there was consequentially no chance for bystander intervention: another sign of how our stay-at-home, pandemic times have influenced street harassment experiences in the District.

One of our recommendations detailed in the [SHPA Report](#) is a reporting mechanism, a portal to which victims and witnesses of street harassment could report incidences of street harassment for data collection (no enforcement). As a reminder, we recommended this reporting mechanism to be done through a nonprofit-government relationship, with the nonprofit responsible for receiving the reports, responding to the reports, and securely maintaining the data collected, and the government agency responsible for marketing the reporting mechanism, collaborating on crafting any responses, funding the nonprofit (through a grant), and publishing aggregate data on an annual basis.

Promoting the “Share Your Story” survey, collecting the data, and publishing current street harassment incidents could be an easy-to-implement, cost-effective solution while we sit between

making recommendations and implementing those recommendations. Sharing these stories digitally can become a public awareness campaign that is created by the Office of Human Rights and shared by members of the Advisory Committee on Street Harassment (and their organizational accounts) and other District agencies.

Discussion how to use this information from Share Your Story survey:

- Messaging around healthier ways to engage in mask conversations – how to respectfully ask someone to put a mask on without escalating.
- We are a data driven community – making folks in the community aware that the “Share Your Story” is a place they can share their experiences and for the city to gather information
- Having one’s story heard can be really helpful, especially if the incident doesn’t escalate to a level of crime or if it is a crime and they don’t want to engage with MPD
- Harassment on social media – not sure if cyber harassment is covered in SHPA
- Working with the Mayor’s Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice have done bystander intervention trainings with Hollaback! at the beginning of the pandemic– we might want to direct people there? It is national

FY2021 Plans

- We have a lot of things lined up for FY2021 in terms of the recommendations from our report, particularly around the costs for trainings
- Any resources for those efforts in FY20 were swept; any resources we might be able to pick up in FY21

Other business

- Council put in BSA the REACH Act, about racial equity. It has a connection to street harassment. There will be a bunch of new positions in the government for this: OHR gets 1 person (coordinate trainings on racial equity), OCA gets 5 people, the Council gets 3 people.
  - OHR will also get two additional positions: one around hate crimes and one around reproductive rights; these three OHR positions will most likely collaborate on SHPA-related work.