

CONNECTIONS

OFFICIAL E-MAGAZINE FOR THE DISTRICT'S RESILIENCE ACTIVITIES



Summer 2017

Welcome to “Connections”

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District Resilience Cabinet Meeting April 2017

What will this new focus on “resilience” mean for the District?

Welcome to “Connections”—the official e-magazine for the District’s resilience activities! As you may know, the District has been inducted into the 100 Resilient Cities, a global network of cities committed to developing and implementing transformative resilience strategies. It’s an opportunity to further synergize the innovative work across all sectors and to work more closely with you—our city leaders and stakeholders.

We know there are numerous newsletters that keep us all abreast of the events and opportunities around the District. Connections will try to offer a deeper look at a few key initiatives and provides your connection to how outside stakeholders, organizations, and leaders can become part of the effort!

You’ll also hear from the Office on Resilience first-hand as to our progress on the 100 Resilient Cities project and the development of the District’s first “Resilience Strategy.”

What will this new focus on “resilience” mean for the District?

It will mean exploring and developing new ways of working with you.

In February, the District held an Agenda Setting Workshop with 100 RC—an all-day event at the University of the District of Columbia that brought together a group of 200 city leaders to help define and examine resilience in our city. It was markedly different from most engagement efforts in terms

Resilience thinking should meet our residents where they are.

of scope and depth. We want to look for other unique ways to continue this process with you.

We know that form should follow function. In order to create a new level of interconnectedness we need new platforms within government that can support the strategic relationships of our leaders and communities. That is why the Mayor has formed a new Resilience Cabinet of executive leaders from key agencies and will establish the District's first-ever Chief Resilience Officer, to help lead this effort within government. A companion "Resilience Commission" formed in partnership with Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen, will consist entirely of external experts and leaders in resilience and help guide our strategy.

We also are constructing some new approaches to spur District innovation and processes around incubating ideas across-sectors, in partnership with you. So that when we move forward on a new idea—it's the biggest and best version of that idea, with a real possibility of moving the needle.

It will mean crafting visions that shape our city's destiny.

Early in our visioning, we reflected on the idea that our resilience thinking should meet our residents where they are. We can never listen enough, but we know that residents can frame their resilience fairly easily—"Will I be able to afford to live here next year?" "Am I just one bad storm away from losing everything?" "I feel like I am isolated in my apartment building and wouldn't know how to get help if I needed it and the power was out."

Strategies and plans are only as powerful as the benefits they produce. The success of our resilience efforts will be defined by the impact on our most vulnerable residents.

We look forward to this journey and to becoming more connected to you through Resilient DC.

Waterfront Revitalization and Resilience

Tracy Gabriel

DC Office of Planning, Associate Director for Neighborhood Planning



Capital River Front
Photo Credit: Capitol
Riverfront Business
Improvement District

*...the
District
enjoys
some 47
miles of
shoreline...*

Washington, DC is a waterfront city.

Defined by two tidal rivers, the Potomac and Anacostia, the District enjoys some 47 miles of shoreline, a substantial portion of which are parks and open space in public ownership of either the federal or District government. The revitalization of the waterfront has helped to further the vision of growing a livable, inclusive city. This ongoing waterfront renewal complements the City's urbanism and its monumental identity with flourishing natural areas, water views and access, and varied destination experiences from world class parks and cultural venues to stadiums for the Nationals and DC United. Following the guidance of DC's

Comprehensive Plan and the landmark Anacostia Waterfront Framework Plan completed in 2003, development and investments on the waterfront have focused to date on restoring the city's relationship to its rivers by enhancing access and connectivity, upgrading infrastructure, unlocking economic development potential, creating new neighborhoods, supporting recreation, and improving water quality and environmental resources. With a growing understanding today of the environmental vulnerabilities of the waterfront in terms of flooding and climate change impacts, DC's waterfront also represents an essential arena to bolster the District's overall resilience going forward.



Anacostia Riverwalk Trail
Photo Credit: DDOT

Building on the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative (AWI) that began more than 15 years ago, many of the recent adaptation projects and general accomplishments on the waterfront are being coordinated and tracked through a renewed effort for Anacostia Waterfront coordination between District agencies, launched in 2016.

In 2016 alone, an array of stream restorations, legislative measures, habitat restoration, shoreline treatments, stormwater management, wetland conservation, and trash reduction were implemented which will help to advance the District's resilience through adaptation that also benefits wildlife, advances water quality, provides beautification, and improves the waterfront experience for users. The District also has made progress on the design or construction of projects that will deliver resilient new infrastructure and more equitable access such as South Capitol Street, Southeast Boulevard, and the Riverwalk Trail, with a new segment completed at Kenilworth.

Waterfront resilience is being purposefully integrated into plans and policies.

Resilience is a key theme for the plans that will guide new waterfront neighborhoods like the Buzzard Point Vision Framework and Design Review Guidance and in the future, Poplar Point. The District's Comprehensive Plan, the 20-year guide to development, is undergoing an amendment process that will look to ensure the Plan's waterfront policies are strengthened where needed. This amendment cycle also will include the creation of a new Resilience chapter (element) with new policies addressing a range of major hazards, such as waterfront flooding, and day-to-day stresses that affect the city's resilience. The District government also is working closely with the National Park Service (NPS) to ensure that NPS' Anacostia Park Management Plan emphasizes coastal resilience while also delivering much needed park access and amenities to adjacent communities in Wards 7 and 8.

The District's Climate Adaptation & Preparedness Plan released in 2016, *Climate Ready DC*, provides projections that begin to quantify and illuminate the challenges and opportunities for achieving a more resilient waterfront for the city.

In addition to rising temperatures and more frequent and severe heat waves, climate change-related impacts for the District include increased frequency and intensity of heavy precipitation events, rising sea levels, and increased coastal flooding due to storm surge—all of which affect the waterfront and adjacent neighborhoods. It fact, local sea level has risen 11 inches since 1924 and is expected to rise. This rise has been



11th Street Bridge
Photo Credit: DDOT



11th Street Bridge
Photo Credit: DDOT

Waterfront Revitalization and Resilience

responsible for a nearly fourfold increase in the District since the 1950s. Additionally, the waterfront will be affected by the capacity of our drainage infrastructure to handle the rise in extreme precipitation events. Waterfront development is also informed by the 100-year and 500-year floodplain map which will need to be revised in the future to reflect increased flooding risks associated with precipitation, sea level rise, and storm surge. Despite the sobering outlook of these climate-related challenges, the good news is that there are a range of adaptive solutions, such as green infrastructure and restoring wetlands and natural floodplains that can help to further a world class, resilient waterfront while delivering a multitude of benefits to the District and its residents.



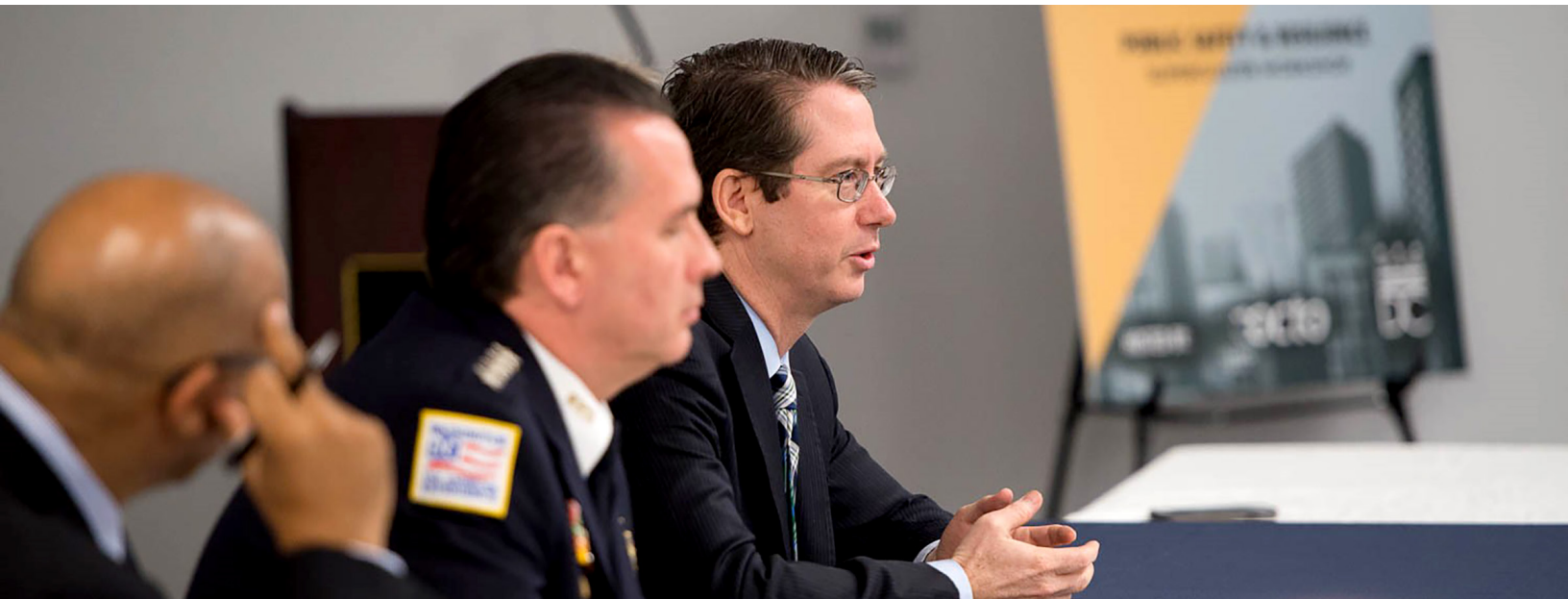
City Leaders Highlight Public Safety, Resilience Needs at District Hosted NIST Workshop

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Global Cities Team
Challenge (GCTC) Public
Safety "SuperCluster"

On March 2–3, the DC Office of the Chief Technology Officer hosted city leaders from the District and around the world to participate in the Global Cities Team Challenge (GCTC) Public Safety "SuperCluster." Throughout the two-day workshop, participants discussed how to improve public safety and city resilience using smart technologies driven by "Internet of Things" connected devices.

The GCTC initiative, led by the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), seeks to spur smart city innovation at the local level by connecting city challenges and research focus areas with industry resources

and capabilities. This first occurs at the individual "Action Cluster" level, and then within broader focus areas or "SuperClusters."

The goal of these workshops is to develop a "Smart City Blueprint" that cities around the world can leverage to implement smart technologies and address city challenges. As lead city for the Public Safety SuperCluster, the District plays a key role in establishing city requirements, engaging other city participants, and providing opportunities for technology pilots.

More than 80 participants from city and county governments, industry experts,

The goal of these workshops is to develop a Smart City Blueprint...

technologists and researchers around the world took the first step in defining the scope of the Smart City Blueprint. The workshop included breakout sessions where participants prioritized key requirements and identified existing opportunities to implement Smart City solutions within the areas of public safety, emergency preparedness, disaster recovery, and city resilience.

The workshop included panel sessions, in which District public safety leaders Kevin Donahue, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety & Justice; Peter Newsham, Chief of of the Metropolitan Police Department; Gregory Dean, Chief of DC Fire & Emergency Medical Services; and Jenifer Smith, Director of the Department of Forensic Science discussed key requirements for technology. Much of the panel discussion focused on the need for systems to be interoperable, enable data sharing, and provide actionable information and ease of use. “Here we are 16 years after 9/11,” said Chief Gregory Dean, “and we’re still fighting the interoperability battle.”

A second panel focused on city and regional resilience and featured representatives from New York City, Montgomery County, MD, Virginia Beach, the Triangle J Council of Governments in Durham, NC, and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Key points raised included:

- How to balance monitoring with privacy and transparency during emergencies such as active shooters or Amber alerts.
- The challenges of managing legacy systems in multivendor environments, including the cost and time associated with maintaining them.

- The need to coordinate Smart City initiatives with neighboring jurisdictions to better leverage resources and coordinate responses to trans-regional threats.
- The importance of staff training to ensure technology investments are effectively deployed and managed.

During the workshop, the resilience breakout team also discussed how Smart City solutions can help cities bounce back from both manmade and natural disasters. The group echoed many of the topics shared in the panel discussion, including the need to establish a common framework and a service-oriented roadmap that cities can utilize to improve the simplicity, reliability, and interoperability of critical systems.

Other key points discussed included the use of sensor technologies to strengthen city resilience and the challenge of leveraging big data to address global issues such as climate change and cyber security. As a result, the group also discussed the importance of creating a scalable blueprint that prioritizes redundancy, a positive return on investment, and a methodology for procurement, planning and policy. This will enable all cities—rural and urban, coastal and mountainous—to invest in solutions that create safe, sustainable, and compassionate cities.

The group is expected to make the Smart City Blueprint publicly available in advance of the next GCTC expo, slated for Washington, DC in late August 2017.

The Anacostia Park and Community Collaborative: Working Together to Increase the Resilience of the Anacostia River and Surrounding Communities

Katherine Antos

Anacostia Ambassador, Urban Waters Federal Partnership and Anacostia Waterfront Trust



Anacostia Park
Photo Credit: NPS

A river can be the front yard beckoning you outdoors, or a world away; an aesthetic and recreational asset, or a nuisance to private property. For residents who regularly access the Anacostia River and surrounding parkland, it is a sacred, restorative space, an opportunity to enjoy nature in the nation's capital, and a place to gather with friends and be active. Yet many community members living within a mile of the Anacostia River seldom journey out to Anacostia Park or get on the river. Interstate 295 and railroad tracks pose physical barriers, and large

sections of the park have limited recreational and interpretive features to attract residents.

A group of 18 community-based organizations convened by the Anacostia Waterfront Trust is working to change this. The Anacostia Park and Community Collaborative (APACC) is a broad coalition of nonprofit organizations from diverse sectors. Many have never been involved in a discussion of the Anacostia River and surrounding parkland, but they have chosen to work together to achieve “a community-led, equitable revitalization of the Anacostia



Angele Doyne of member organization East River Family Strengthening Collaborative kicks off the APACC event, *What Does Climate Change Mean for People? A Meeting for Wards 7 and 8 Nonprofits*.

River parks and adjacent neighborhoods in Wards 7 and 8, as well as a thorough cleanup of the Anacostia River.”

The District government and National Park Service (NPS) have substantial efforts underway to clean up the Anacostia, develop plans for parkland along the river and surrounding areas, and manage risks associated with climate change. These initiatives will hopefully enhance the resilience of the river and surrounding lands. Yet resilience goes beyond physical projects; it must be inclusive and engage the whole community with a lens for equity. APACC is playing a significant role to increase community organizations’ awareness of and voice within these large government initiatives.

In February, APACC hosted a public event with the District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) to discuss the new [Climate Ready DC plan](#) and what climate change means for nonprofits serving residents living in Wards 7 and 8. Engaging these organizations is critical, as neighborhoods and citizens residing east of the Anacostia River rank among the most vulnerable to flooding and extreme heat events associated

with climate change. About 40 people representing approximately 25 organizations participated, and their feedback was clear. First, the District must transform how it talks about climate change to be more immediate and include actionable steps residents can take to become more resilient. Second, the District needs to work with social workers, health-care providers, faith-based organizations and neighborhood leaders to engage residents and consider the emotional burdens that climate change impacts place on individuals already struggling to meet basic needs. In response, DOEE is seeking additional opportunities and resources to enhance engagement around climate readiness.

In March, APACC sponsored a stakeholders meeting with support from the Urban Waters Federal Partnership and Anacostia Waterfront Trust to shape the future of Anacostia Park. Over 100 participants from 60 organizations heard from NPS Superintendent Tara D. Morrison about the newly released [Anacostia Park Management Plan/Environmental Assessment](#) and how the NPS intends to balance community, recreation and natural resource management and rehabilitation uses within the 1,100-acre Park. More importantly, stakeholders shared their priorities for the park. Since the meeting, APACC planning team members and the NPS have been meeting to discuss action-oriented next steps to address top priorities.

For more information on the Anacostia Park and Community Collaborative, its member organizations, and recaps of the climate change and Anacostia Park stakeholder meetings, visit <http://www.anacostiapark-community.org/>.

Building Community Resilience

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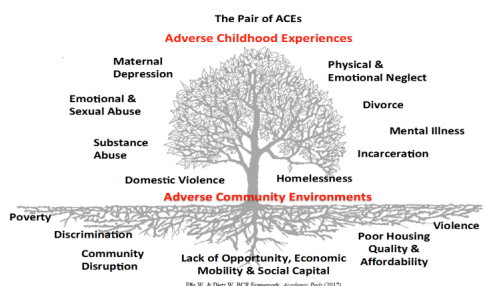


Resilience is commonly thought of in terms of recovery from crises like terrorism and climate change. Our newly formed Washington, DC Office of Resilience has joined with other Rockefeller Foundation-supported cities to prepare for these 21st Century challenges. In our nation's capital, however, we are widening the lens on the traditional view of resilience to also promote resilience in the face of other entrenched, daily adversities. These community crises include eviction, the city's resultant lack of affordable housing, violent crime, and poverty and community disruption. A large number of our residents live without access to buffers that support resilience, including stable housing, employment, living wages, and other supportive services that provide

for basic needs. Exposure to such adversities without a network of buffers to foster resilience can be debilitating to individuals, families and the community's wellbeing.

Research on emergency preparedness shows that an existing network of resilience to help buffer against daily adversity creates communities that are stronger and more readily able to bounce back in response to catastrophic emergencies. The Building Community Resilience (BCR) collaborative, an initiative led by our team of researchers at The George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health emerged from this recognition. BCR aligns efforts to address Adverse Childhood Experiences and Adverse

Community Environments ('the pair of ACEs'), recognizing that negative outcomes in children often reflect negative factors embedded in communities. These exposures on a daily basis produce a toxic environment for all of our residents but most acutely for children. As the figure below illustrates, individual adverse experiences are often rooted in negative environments. Breaking the day-to-day effect of negative environments requires coordinated responses from multiple city agencies.



To learn more about BCR see the video [here](#) or contact Wendy Ellis at wendye@gwu.edu.

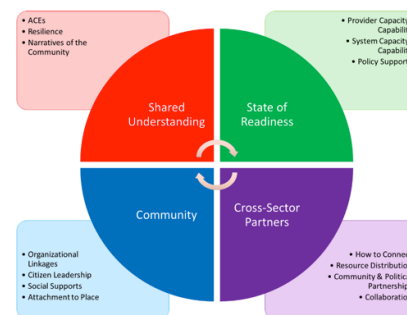
The BCR approach fosters collaboration across sectors—from health care to education and law enforcement—to influence community priorities, programs, practice and policies that build community resilience. We do so by addressing systemic gaps—such as a lack of data sharing or coordination of resources—and strengthening community-based assets, such as a church health ministry or a parent support network. Our process helps establish and prepare community-based teams to choose and implement strategies aimed at increasing resilience for a targeted population. The collaborative's work is ongoing in four cities: Washington, DC, Cincinnati, OH, Dallas, TX and Portland, OR.

In Washington, DC a multi-disciplinary team of physicians and community partners is using the BCR framework to develop a citywide strategy to prevent, mitigate, and reduce the impact

of adversities that negatively impact health and wellbeing. The DC BCR team is engaging numerous stakeholders from the medical community, public health, residents, community organizations and cross-sector partners. Using BCR's strategic framework, teams from Children's National Medical Center, Georgetown University MedStar Hospital, Unity HealthCare and others are mapping community assets, assessing and building capacity to respond to community needs, and developing meaningful relationships with community members who provide input and guidance to develop priorities that foster resilience.

BCR employs a phased approach for action based on four central components applied as a continuous improvement model to create a shared understanding of adverse childhood experiences and adverse community environments, assess system readiness, develop cross-sector partnerships and engage families and residents.

Building Community Resilience: Process of Assessment and Readiness



Our goal is to change practices across multiple systems through increased awareness and cooperation, data sharing and evaluation, and training. By doing so, these community-integrated networks will be more effective in addressing community, environmental and other adversities to prevent the pair of ACEs.



Capital River Front
Photo Credit: Capital
Riverfront Business
Improvement District