



Office of the Director

January 9, 2018

Dear District Stakeholders,

Amending the Comprehensive Plan is a vital step in crafting our vision for a prosperous and inclusive District of Columbia. Since the end of the Open Call period last June 23rd, my staff has been hard at work reviewing the proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. We are delighted with the unprecedented response and quality of amendments we have received. Part of this success is due to effective, community-led engagement and more than a year's worth of dedicated and creative outreach that the Office of Planning has performed in all parts of the city through its [PLAN]DC initiative. The timeline of that outreach can be found [here](#).

OP received more than 3,000 amendment proposals during the three-month Open Call. By comparison, during the last amendment process, we received approximately 200 proposals. Almost 1,000 of these new amendments came from our partners in District government agencies. The balance, more than 2,100, came from the broader community—stakeholders including community and non-profit groups, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, Business Improvement Districts and Main Streets, law firms, public utilities, universities and federal agencies. We received proposed amendments from 185 individuals and 106 organizations, representing every ward in the city. We appreciate the time and effort that community members invested in the Comp Plan amendment process, and have created an infographic [here](#) that summarizes who we heard from and what we heard.

Based on our review of the amendments so far, it has become clear that the scope and scale of our effort has expanded. That is good news, because it means we have surpassed our goals and expectations for public input! But, it also means OP must adjust our approach and timeline to ensure we address all input, while also maintaining progress. How will things change?

I am excited to announce that the Office of Planning is moving ahead immediately with amendments to the Framework Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Mayor Bowser and the Office of Planning will introduce legislation that updates the Framework Element today. The Framework Element is an introductory chapter within the Comp Plan that identifies the forces driving change in the city, presents our growth forecasts, indicates the core themes and guiding principles, and describes our land-use designations.

The Framework Element represents about 50 pages of a 1,000-page document, and provides the factual foundation for the policies and actions that follow. OP has evaluated and incorporated as



appropriate the Framework amendments that we have received from the community, and we have proposed many additional amendments that we believe advance the goals we heard through our engagement.

In addition to keeping much needed momentum for the Comp Plan Amendment process, the Framework amendment accomplishes three objectives key to shaping an inclusive city:

1. Establishing a current and data-driven context for city decision-making;
2. Providing new information on forces that impact growth and development; and
3. Clarifying our land-use designations and their relationship to zoning reviews, to ensure the District can strengthen affordable housing and other critical community objectives.

Moreover, a new Framework creates a clear basis for the further evaluation of the remaining amendment proposals.

To facilitate public review of the amended Framework Element, the Office of Planning will post a redline version of the chapter on our website, plandc.dc.gov. We anticipate discussion and deliberation through the legislative process and welcome the opportunity to engage further with the DC Council and community stakeholders at that time.

In addition to pushing ahead with the Framework amendment, the Office of Planning is making all 3,000+ amendment proposals available for public review. In light of our extended schedule we want to make sure the broader community has access to all of the formal amendment proposals we have received while we complete our technical evaluation.

Please rest assured, as the Framework amendments move ahead for Council approval, the Office of Planning will continue the evaluation process for the rest of the amendment proposals we have received. We expect to share with the public and DC Council the results of this analysis later in 2018. Until that time, please note the Office of Planning will not be able to respond to comments or inquiries about the full set of amendments. We appreciate your patience as we focus on the Framework and wrap up the amendment review.

Finally, thank you again for your sustained interest and participation in this Comp Plan amendment process. I look forward to continuing to collaborate and refine our policies together as we advance these important updates to the District's Comprehensive Plan.

Sincerely



Eric D. Shaw
Director