

District of Columbia Office of Planning



Office of the Director

June 22, 2020

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E  
3265 S Street NW  
Washington DC 20007

RE: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E Comprehensive Plan Resolution

Dear Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners Landre, Miller, Lohse, Gibbons, Putta, Palmer, Burdman and Murphy:

Thank you for ANC 2E's recent resolution regarding returning the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments to the Office of Planning for reconsideration in light of the anticipated impact of the COVID-19 emergency.

The Comprehensive Plan is meant to be long term. COVID-19, its economic effects and the civil unrest do not make the Mayor's proposed Comp Plan Amendment out-of-date. In fact, these events highlight the need for the amendment to be adopted so that we have a Comp Plan that can appropriately guide the city through and beyond these events. The current Comp Plan is woefully out of date and not in line with our values, especially those that have been raised through recent events, including racial equity and health equity. The feedback provided throughout the process, including from ANC 2E, is an indication that the current document is out of date.

There are 96 policies and actions throughout the Mayor's proposed Comp Plan Amendment that explicitly guide the District's COVID-19 response and recovery. We have created a document that highlights these, which is attached and has been added to our website. But the current emergencies are about more than a single health crisis, but about structures of inequality and racism. Which is why we have 91 policies and actions that advance racial and economic equity. We have created crosswalk for equity, and another one for resilience, both of which were shared in October and updated in April and can be found at [plandc.dc.gov](http://plandc.dc.gov). When implemented together, these policies and actions will help to prioritize the District's recovery efforts, while affirming core values of equity, health, safety, prosperity, and opportunity.



Additionally, the Mayor's proposed Comp Plan Amendment includes economic and population data, maps, and land use data that can guide planning efforts for COVID-19 recovery and advancing racial equity. The Framework element, which has already been adopted by the Council, discusses trends and data, some of which are now out of date. However, the remainder of the Comp Plan does not rely on backward-looking trends, as much as it is about enlivening our shared goals and values.

Returning the Comp Plan to OP for reconsideration is not a viable next step. OP does not have the budget or staff to restart this effort. If the Council does not act this year, we will have to face the next five (or more) years with a Comp Plan that is unaligned with the current goals and needs of our residents. Inaction would ignore the contributions from thousands of residents who have spent many hours reviewing and commenting on the Comp Plan. Requiring OP to devote more time to updating the Comp Plan prior to the planned 2025 rewrite would waste five years of public resources and delay our exciting plans for area planning, which has already been put on hold for the last 5 years due to the Comp Plan update.

I hope this message provides you with greater clarity and additional context. The Mayor has submitted her proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment to Council, so if ANC 2E have additional concerns or feedback about the Mayor's proposed Comp Plan Amendment, we encourage you to provide specific feedback to Council. We look forward to working with you as the Comprehensive Plan amendment is before the Council and after it is passed ensure the District is an equitable, safe, healthy, and vibrant city for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Trueblood', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Trueblood

cc: John Falcicchio, Deputy Mayor, Planning and Economic Development  
Phil Mendelson, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia  
Anita Cozart, Deputy Director, Community Planning and Design