ANC 7B
RESOLUTION REQUESTING MORE TIME
FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AMENDMENTS
TO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CITYWIDE AND AREA ELEMENTS

Whereas, the Comprehensive Plan is DC law, intended to guide the future land use planning decisions for the District. Barry Farm Tenants and Allies Association v. DC Zoning Commission, 182 A.3d 1214, 1218 (D.C. 2018);

Whereas, principal purposes of the Comprehensive Plan are among others to define the requirements and aspirations of District residents, and influence social, economic, and physical development, promote economic growth and jobs for District residents and assist in the conservation, stabilization, and improvement of each neighborhood in the District. DC Code §1-306.01; Barry Farm Tenants and Allies, 182 A.3d at 1218;

Whereas, in 2017, the Office of Planning opened the amendment process, despite not providing data on the efficacy of policies 12 years into the plan, as to which policies are working, which are not, and reasons why; and in September 2019, OP and DC Council completed amending the Comp Plan’s Framework Element, the leading Chapter in the Plan; and on October 15, 2019, OP published proposed amendments to the 13 Citywide Elements and 10 Area Elements totaling 1500 pages—proposals which constitute a major rewrite, striking and adding large portions of text;

Whereas, OP limits the public comment period to 65 days beginning October 15, instructing residents to send their comments to their Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, and allowing ANC’s an additional 35-day comment period ending January 31, 2020. Six weeks of the review period falls within the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and other religious holidays;
Whereas, DC Council Chairman Mendelson says the Council will not consider amendments until after passage of the District FY2021 budget in June 2020; and

Whereas, the 1500-page proposed amendments are complex subject matter which will require serious commitment of time and attention by residents, ANCs, and other stakeholders to study and provide meaningful feedback,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ANC7B:

1. Request the Mayor and DC Office of Planning extend the time for reasoned and informed public and ANC comment by at least 180 days, to April 30, 2020, and

2. Request the DC City Council recommend the Mayor and OP provide this additional time for public comment and provide appropriate data and information to make possible informed, transparent decisions pursuant to D.C. Code § 1–306, et. seq.

ANC 7B supports this resolution as it was voted on at its Regular Meeting held on November 21, 2019, which was properly noticed and which a quorum was present, by a vote of _6_ in favor, _0_ opposed, and _0_ abstaining.

On behalf of ANC Commission 7B

Chair: D. L. Humphrey, ANC7B