

# The Committee of 100 on the Federal City



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**Founded 1923**

February 24, 2017

**Chair**

Stephen A. Hansen

Eric D. Shaw

Director, Office of Planning

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Washington, D.C. 20024

**Vice-Chair**

Meg Maguire

**Secretary**

Jim Nathanson

Dear Mr. Shaw,

**Treasurer**

Carol F. Aten

The inclusion of the new multi-faceted Resilience Element in the Comprehensive Plan is an important step forward for our city. The Committee of 100's Parks and Environment Subcommittee has recently completed a detailed study on how the District can adapt to climate change. This study is the first in a series of issues we will be addressing as noted in our letter to you of Feb. 20. It includes some policies and action items proposed for inclusion in the Resiliency Element that are briefly summarized below. The complete study is included as an attachment to this letter.

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Our principal recommendations at this time are that the Plan should adopt the 2080 flood levels (500-year floodplain) as the key basis for climate change planning, and that the 2080 500-year floodplain should also be incorporated on the Generalized Policy Map and the Future Land Use Map. Projected ambient temperatures and projected population growth also should be used in planning for climate change.

In addition, Plan amendments should also build on the recommendations of recent city planning efforts. For instance, the "Sustainability DC Plan," (2013) adopted a goal, with a target date of 2032, to require all new building and major infrastructure projects to undergo climate change impact analysis as part of the regulatory planning. The same year, the D.C. Department of Transportation released its "Climate Change Adaptation Plan" (2013) describing expected sea level rise, and offering planning recommendations. In November 2016 the D.C. Department of DOEE issued "Climate Ready DC". This report considers

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the projected effects of climate change in 2020, 2050, and 2080, and provides suggestions for adapting to these changes. The challenges of successfully addressing climate change underscore the importance of meeting these goals.

We thank you for the opportunity to share the results of this study and we hope that it will prove beneficial in the drafting of the Resiliency Element.

Sincerely,



Stephen A. Hansen, Chair

Attachment

cc:

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