

The Committee of 100

on the Federal City



Via email.

June 29, 2019

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City is looking forward to reading the Committee of the Whole substitute for the Mayor's and the Office of Planning's amendments to the Framework Element of the D.C. Comprehensive Plan. Based on your comments since the 2018 Council hearing on the amendments, we are confident that the Council will reject the many amendments that would increase the Zoning Commission's power to ignore the Council-approved Comprehensive Plan and to dismiss concerns and views of District residents. It is more important than ever that the Council demonstrate to all residents that an inclusive city for all is not only the goal, but will be a mandate. Making clear statements about the role of the Zoning Commission in land use decisions affecting housing is an important start. Bolstering the parameters of regulatory authority with specific statements about what affordable housing means and how the city intends to fairly distribute housing for all income levels and for all needs is critical.

The Committee of 100 wants to thank you for your understanding of how important the Comprehensive Plan is to residents, but particularly for ordinary residents, who often feel that government does not recognize or care about their challenges and needs. In this regard, we are concerned that the committee substitute is being circulated during a long holiday weekend and only seven days before the scheduled vote of the Council. Depending on the complexity of the substitute, the Committee of 100 urges you to consider postponing the vote if the many voices represented at the hearing feel the substitute is not responsive, too dense to be analyzed in a few days, and should be further amended after talking to council members.

Your commitment since January 2018 has been to "get this right." We support that conclusion and hope that it will guide the immediate process and future consideration of other parts of the Comprehensive Plan.

Best regards,

Stephen

Stephen A. Hansen, Chair
Committee of 100 on the Federal City

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