

The Committee of 100

on the Federal City



May 15, 2020

Re: Return the Draft Comprehensive Plan to the Office of Planning

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Councilmembers,

The Council and the administration are understandably consumed right now addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the horrific social, economic, and fiscal consequences it has brought to the District, some of which are clearly outlined in the CFO's Revised April Revenue Estimates¹.

The Office of Planning submitted the draft Comprehensive Plan for your consideration on April 23rd.

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City urges you to return the draft Comprehensive Plan to the Office of Planning for the following reasons:

- The COVID-19 impact on the budget, current and fiscal year 2021, demands the Council's undivided attention right now.
- The draft Comprehensive Plan is fundamentally based on the assumption that the District will experience "a greater pace of growth" and fails to take into proper consideration for planning for the impact of the pandemic including its likely impacts on population growth, employment, and revenue. More importantly, for now it *cannot* do so. It may well be many months before the city can fully gauge the nature and extent of this crisis's effect, which could fundamentally change how we experience education, retail, employment, and recreation. The Framework Element and the amendments must outline a city plan that reflects our **real** challenges. It would be foolish to expend time and effort on a new plan of which critical components may well be obsolete upon adoption.
- The current version of the Comprehensive Plan is in force and will serve us well as residents, businesses and the government absorb and analyze the assumptions embedded in the amendments against the realities exposed by and resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration of and attention to this letter.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Kirby Vining".

Committee of 100 on the Federal City, Kirby Vining, Chair

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945 G Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20001

202.681.0225

www.committeeof100.net

info@committeeof100.net

¹<https://cfo.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ocfo/publication/attachments/April%20Revenue%20Estimate%20Letter%20042420.pdf>