



## **Mayor-Elect Bowser Urged to Promote Planning and Sustainability in New Administration**

PRESS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release  
December 16, 2014

Contact: Nancy MacWood  
[nmacwood@gmail.com](mailto:nmacwood@gmail.com)  
(202) 966-5333

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City today called on Mayor-Elect Muriel Bowser to amend her Transition Plan to include planning and sustainability as core principles of her Administration.

“Economic development seems to be the catch phrase for planning, historic preservation, zoning, and related land use issues. That organizational framework reveals a misconception that the sole goal of land use planning and implementation is financial. There are many public benefits that should be sought in the use of District private and public land and many short- and long-term opportunities will be missed - perhaps irrevocably - by this limited viewpoint,” said Nancy MacWood, Chair of the Committee.

The Committee recommended three measures the new Mayor can take to re-establish a responsible approach to land use and planning:

1. Remove the Office of Planning and Historic Preservation Office from the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development.
2. Establish a Planning Commission whose members would be appointed by the Mayor.
3. Make appointments to the Board of Zoning Adjustment and the Zoning Commission based on expertise and experience with the Comprehensive Plan's guidance on land use and a demonstrated advocacy at the local level.

In addition, the Committee recommended that the Mayor-Elect establish Conservation Districts as a tool to conserve community character, and establish a permanent Office of Sustainability reporting directly to the Mayor to ensure that there is a central coordination point for complex issues that require cross-agency cooperation and action.