



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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July 5, 2020

Mayor Muriel Bowser
Mayor
Government of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20004
muriel.bowser@dc.gov

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004
pmendelson@dccouncil.us

RE: Returning the Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments to the Office of Planning for Reconsideration in Light of the Anticipated Impact of the COVID-19 Emergency

Dear Mayor Bowser and Chairman Mendelson,

On June 29, 2020 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by seven commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (7-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

WHEREAS, the Framework Element of the Comprehensive Plan Amendments (the “Amendments”) submitted by the Office of Planning (“OP”) to the Council of the District of Columbia (the “Council”) makes it clear that the Amendments are fundamentally premised on the assumption that the rapid growth the District has enjoyed since 2006 will continue unabated, and that “...the city will continue to grow and capture a larger share of the region’s growth in the future...”

WHEREAS, in a resolution adopted on June 1, 2020 (the “Resolution”) the members of ANC 2E expressed their belief that the as yet unquantified effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have rendered the growth assumptions on which the Amendments are based obsolete, and that those assumptions can no longer provide a reasonable basis for responsible urban planning, and urged that the Amendments be returned to OP for comprehensive reconsideration once it is possible to reasonably analyze and predict the impact the pandemic will have on the future of our city,

WHEREAS, by letter dated June 22, 2020, OP responded to the Resolution with a letter in which OP stated that “returning the Comp Plan to OP for reconsideration is not a viable next step”, arguing, without explanation, (1) that OP does not have the necessary

COMMISSIONERS:

Kishan Putta, District 1 Joe Gibbons, District 2 Rick Murphy, District 3
Anna Landre, District 4 Lisa Palmer, District 5 Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6
Elizabeth Miller, District 7 Matias Burdman, District 8

budget or staff to reconsider the Amendments in light of the dramatic change in circumstances, and (2) if the Amendments are not adopted this year, it will take “five or more years” to update the Amendments to take into account the impact of the pandemic,

WHEREAS, ANC 2E wholeheartedly supports OP’s goal of affirming our city’s core values of “equity, health, safety, prosperity, and opportunity” and believes that a goal of assuring that the city’s Comprehensive Plan is based on sound economic assumptions is in no way inconsistent with a goal of affirming those core values, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2E is not persuaded by OP’s unsupported arguments against reconsideration of the Amendments in light of the change in circumstances. First, given that OP had sufficient budget and staff to prepare the Amendments, the agency must have sufficient resources to undertake the much more discrete task of analyzing the impact the pandemic will have on the assumptions that underlay the Amendments and reconsidering the Amendments in light of that impact. Second, OP provides no support for what ANC 2E believes is an unreasonable assertion that if the Amendments are not adopted by the Council this year, the process of amending the current plan or of adopting a new plan will be delayed by “five (or more) years.” OP’s alleged inability to function efficiently is not a persuasive argument in favor of adopting Amendments that are based on flawed and obsolete assumptions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2E renews its request that the Amendments be withdrawn from Council consideration and returned to the Office of Planning for reconsideration once it is possible to reasonably analyze and predict the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic will have on the future of our city.

Commissioners Rick Murphy (2E03@anc.dc.gov) and Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Rick Murphy
Chair, ANC 2E

CC: Councilmember Brooke Pinto, Ward 2