[Email to share with lists]

----Please Forward---

Hi everyone,

July 9th is an important day in the fight for safe and equitable housing. The Mayor is trying to weaken the Comprehensive Plan (the planning document guiding development for the next 20 years) to allow developers to build faster with fewer regulations. The thirteen DC Councilmembers have the choice to side with developers seeking to accelerate gentrification and displacement, or with community members seeking equitable development. On July 9th the DC Council will mark up the Framework for the Comprehensive Plan, and it's our chance to protect and strengthen the plan.

Here's how to fight toward racial justice and community power in the District's most important planning document:

First, call Councilmembers, starting with yours. They need to hear from all of us that this is our priority. Find the call script and their contact information here. Also reach out to core influencers on the Council, identified in the phone script.

Second, email every Councilmember. With the message in writing, it will be easier for them to see the specifics of what we are calling for. Find the example email here [link needed] and Councilmember email addresses here [link needed].

Here's what the DC Council needs to add to the Framework to create a more just planning process. To read up in detail on how these policies could work in the future, check out our blogs [link needed] on the subject.

1. Racial Equity -- Development should benefit communities of color that have been disinvested and give them real control over their future in the city
2. Land Value Recapture -- Land is valuable because of the people who live on it - communities, not landowners, should benefit from land value increases
3. Project Impact Assessment -- Developers, not citizens, should bear responsibility for mitigating the destructive impacts of development, like displacement and pollution

Please call and email your Councilmembers by July 8th to pave the way for a more community-centered, just planning process. This genuinely matters--often **four or five phone calls and a few dozen emails make the difference** with Councilmembers.

Make it count! Here are some tips to help your message hit home:
-   Emphasize that these policies are common sense! These are the bare minimum.
-   Make it personal! Tweaking the script shows them that you are really invested.
-   If it's your first time calling in, tell them that! Show them growing momentum.

- Tell them you'll be following up on their actions with Empower DC and DCGPC--accountability is key!
- Figure out which ward you live in and let your rep know you're a constituent!

This script is for guidance, but feel free to speak from your heart and share your personal reasons for supporting these changes in the Comprehensive Plan Framework.

Dear Councilmember [Councilmember's name]:

The markup of the Comprehensive Plan Framework on July 9th is a critical moment to stand with residents against displacement, and help pave the way for more just and community-based planning processes. I am a resident of Ward [Your Ward], and I urge you to include strong language to protect these policies in the Comprehensive Plan Framework:

> First, language on Land Value Recapture, which will help DC residents benefit from the full value of public resources, rather than turning them over to developers without fair compensation. [Optional: add a personal note]

> Second, language on project impact assessment, to highlight the value of understanding negative consequences a project may have on communities, and enable the creation of projects that will support and enrich the communities. [Optional: add a personal note]

> Third, language on economic and racial equity, to help center more just and fair practices in the District's planning processes. [Optional: add a personal note]

The DC Grassroots Planning Coalition has already provided you with the specific language for each of these components. Please review the language and support these amendments during markup. These changes will make the planning process in the District more just and beneficial for District residents.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]