

YOU CAN INFLUENCE THE FUTURE OF OUR CITY, TAKE ACTION WITH THE DC GRASSROOTS PLANNING COALITION

Immediately mark March 20th off on your calendar and sign up to testify in person.

Sign up by emailing the Committee of the Whole at cw@dccouncil.us, or call **Sydney Hawthorne at (202) 724-7130**, and provide your name, address, telephone number, organizational affiliation and title (if any) by close of business Friday, March 16, 2018. For more information, visit >> <http://dccouncil.us/events/committee-of-the-whole-public-hearing39> * Ask the clerk what time you will likely testify.



Get your Testimony Together! Review the coalition talking points and bring your strongest arguments as to how OP is serving the developers interests and not those of the residents by weakening the Comp Plan at the expense of your community. We can help print out copies of your testimony, if you like. You can also go online and write testimony >> <http://www.dc4reality.org/reallyop>

COALITION TALKING POINTS: What we stand for! What we Demand!

We Reject

1. We reject changes that pretend to “clarify” the Comp Plan. The Office of Planning’s proposed amendments (submitted by developer attorneys) represent major changes, not clarifications. The proposed amendments make our central planning document discretionary, policies that city planning officials and developers don’t have to follow. *We want more accountability, not less.*
2. We reject the Office of Planning’s retelling of the narrative around displacement. The proposed changes say people are leaving D.C. by choice for better “opportunities.” Tens of thousands of Black residents have been forced out of their homes due to unbridled corporate overdevelopment by big luxury condos boxes affordable only to single professionals.
3. We reject the myth that the only way to affordable housing is through bigger, taller buildings. Taller buildings increase land and property values in the whole neighborhood and increase property taxes and rents and force residents to leave in search of cheaper housing costs.

We propose to Strengthen

4. The Comp Plan has many very important policies in it. The problem is that it hasn’t been followed. In the McMillan Park legal victory, the court found the Comp Plan is law and must be followed. The Comp Plan requires impact studies on traffic, environment and gentrification among others. The unelected and largely unaccountable Zoning Commission and other DC planners have been ignoring these lawful requirements to the detriment of planning in our city.
5. In the absence of reasonable reign on overdevelopment, we have witnessed a boom in housing production, almost all of it luxury single units with many remaining unoccupied. None of the projects held up by appeals in court would be affordable by low and very low income families. We need housing that working families making less than \$30,000 a year can afford. We are not getting that, and that must be changed by strengthening equity in the Comp Plan policies.
6. We want Small Area Plans targeted to neighborhood needs not developer greed, and we want deadlines for action on ensuring that neighborhoods are equally served by good transportation, public service facilities, and solid infrastructure.

Give to Power to the People

7. Take the Office of Planning out from under the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development which has a record of putting tax generation above sound housing policy and other social needs, like parks, schools, libraries, clinics, grocery stores, etc.
8. Make clear directives for the city’s zoning and planning officials on understanding impacts and other limits to development in areas of the city facing gentrification and environmental impacts. Otherwise the use of Planned Unit Developments will continue to result in gifts to developers for nothing in return to longtime DC neighborhoods.
9. Make the Comp Plan stronger by eliminating words like “should” and “encourage” and “seek” and replace them with “shall” and “require” and “ensure.” We must move away from discretion and move towards clear action for the people.

STOP THE COMPREHENSIVE SCAM

**RALLY & PACK THE HEARING ROOM
DC Council Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan**

**Tuesday, March 20th
1:00 - Rally 2:00 - Hearing**

**John A Wilson Building, Room 500
1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW**

To sign up to testify email cow@dccouncil.us, or call Sydney Hawthorne at (202) 724-7130. For more information visit grassrootsplanning.us/dc or contact parisa@empowerdc.org
(202) 234-9119 x100

**SAVE OUR COMMUNITIES FROM GENTRIFICATION,
DISPLACEMENT & DEVELOPER GREED.**

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