

STEPHEN VARGA, AICP, LEED GREEN ASSOCIATE

Mr. Varga has experience in zoning and land use, sustainability best practice, comprehensive planning, as well as geographic information systems. He is currently Planning Services Director in Cozen O'Connor's Washington, DC office. In this role, he evaluates development proposals for zoning conformance and entitlement potential, drafts and submits text and map amendments as part of the District's 'Open Call' Comprehensive Plan update, and monitors and researches local government land use policies.

Prior to joining Cozen O'Connor, he served as director of planning services at Griffin, Murphy, Moldenhauer and Wiggins LLP after serving for nearly 10 years as an urban planner within the District of Columbia government.

From 2008-2010, he worked at the District of Columbia Office of Planning, an agency which guides development in the District while implementing preservation, revitalization, and strategic goals. As a development review specialist, he was responsible for reviewing zoning applications and presented agency recommendations at public meetings. Additionally, he served as core team member of Zoning Regulations Review project, a multi-year effort to comprehensively revise and modernize the zoning regulations of the District. He produced zoning recommendation reports and zoning regulation text, particularly for mixed use, transit-oriented development, and sustainability subject areas. This work would eventually become adopted as "ZR16," the new zoning regulations of the District, in effect since September 6, 2016.

From 2011-2016, he served at the District of Columbia Office of Zoning (DCOZ), an agency which provides administrative, professional, and technical assistance to the Zoning Commission and the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) in support of their oversight and adjudication of zoning matters in the District of Columbia. Upon joining DCOZ, he worked as a zoning specialist, and eventually senior zoning specialist, where he was responsible for communicating complex technical and regulatory information to a wide range of stakeholders, including applicants, BZA, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, and the public. In addition to carrying out his explanatory duties, he analyzed and managed hundreds of zoning applications per year, ensuring each complied with applicable procedures and requirements. He also improved the BZA application processes for applicants, and clarified rights and responsibilities for stakeholders, resulting in more-timely and efficient hearings. Additionally, he adapted BZA zoning processes in the Interactive Zoning Information System to conform with ZR16.

Mr. Varga holds a Master's Degree in City & Regional Planning from the Ohio State University. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the Ohio State University.

He has been a member of the American Planning Association since 2003. He earned his American Institute of Certified Planners ("AICP") designation in 2007, and his LEED Green Associate designation in 2010.