

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Zoning Commission



Zoning Commission Notice of Public Roundtable

Washington, D.C.: Z.C. Case No. 26-RE – The District of Columbia Zoning Commission is holding a Roundtable to hear public comment regarding its current Racial Equity Tool.

TIME AND PLACE: Monday, October 26, 2026, @ 4:00 p.m.

Via WebEx: <https://dcoz.dc.gov/ZC26-RE> (to participate & watch)

Via Telephone: 1-650-479-3208 Access code: **2313 348 7689** (audio participation & listen)

Via YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/DCOfficeofZoning> (to watch)

Instructions: <https://dcoz.dc.gov/release/virtual-public-hearings>

Witness Sign Up: <https://dcoz.dc.gov/service/sign-testify>

Background

The 2021 update to the Comprehensive Plan (the “Comp Plan”) required the Zoning Commission (the “Commission”) to evaluate all zoning actions through a racial equity lens. The racial equity analysis of a zoning action is a part of the overall Comp Plan consistency analysis of a zoning action. In its deliberations on the dais and in its final written order for every zoning action where the Comp Plan is applicable, the Commission provides a Comp Plan consistency analysis, inclusive of an analysis through a racial equity lens. There are three key provisions in the Comp Plan Implementation Element that discuss the requirement that the Commission evaluate all zoning actions through a racial equity lens (*See* 10-A DCMR §§ 2501.3, 2501.7, 2501.8). In order to comply with these Comp Plan requirements more formally, the Commission released its initial racial equity tool (the “Racial Equity Tool” or “Tool”) on April 28, 2022 on the Office of Zoning (the “OZ”) website.

Initial Tool

The initial Tool was split into two parts. Part One provided guidance regarding racial equity submissions to the zoning case record, and Part Two listed questions and themes that the Commission used in its evaluation of zoning actions through a racial equity lens. The Commission’s use of the initial Tool started on April 28, 2022. The Commission found the initial Tool’s guidance regarding racial equity submissions to result in more thorough submissions to the case record explaining the most relevant Comp Plan equity policies related to the zoning action at issue. The Commission also found the Tool’s list of evaluation questions and themes helpful in framing the potential positive impacts and negative outcomes that could result from a zoning action.

Current Tool

The Commission held a Roundtable to solicit public comment and feedback on the initial Tool in September 2022 and engaged internal government and external stakeholders. As a result, the

Commission released a revised Racial Equity Tool on February 3, 2023 (the “Current Tool”) consisting of the following four parts:

- Part One: Racial Equity Analysis Submissions from Applicant/Petitioner and Office of Planning (Comp Plan guidance);
- Part Two: Community Outreach and Engagement from Applicant/Petitioner;
- Part Three: Disaggregated Race and Ethnicity Data from the Office of Planning; and
- Part Four: Commission Criteria to Evaluate a Zoning Action through a Racial Equity Lens.

Please see the following link to a copy of the Current Tool, which is available on the Office of Zoning website: <https://dcoz.dc.gov/service/zoning-commission-racial-equity-tool>.

Commission Observations Regarding the Current Tool

The Commission has utilized the current Tool in its evaluation of zoning actions through a racial equity lens since its release on February 3, 2023. In that time, the Commission has observed improvement in the quality and frequency of Applicant/Petitioner community outreach and engagement regarding zoning actions. The Commission has also found consideration of disaggregated race and ethnicity data metrics provided by the Office of Planning informative of past trends over time both Districtwide and within the Planning Area of the zoning action at issue. However, the Commission has not consistently found a clear link between the data metrics and the zoning actions under review. The Commission also acknowledges that its overall ability to assess the potential racial equity impacts of a zoning action is limited, primarily because future outcomes are uncertain. Further, even if a zoning action will likely result in negative racial equity impacts, that outcome alone is not a basis to deny a zoning action.

Roundtable Purpose

The purpose of this Roundtable is to solicit public comment and feedback on the current Tool. The Commission is particularly interested in public comment on the following topics:

- **Community Outreach and Engagement** – What steps/processes can Applicants/Petitioners implement to improve community outreach and engagement efforts?
- **Disaggregated Race and Ethnicity Data** – Are there data metrics that should be added or removed from the current Tool?
- **Commission Racial Equity Evaluation Criteria** – What measures can Applicants undertake to further mitigate direct displacement impacts associated with zoning actions?

Though the Commission is particularly interested in input and ideas regarding the topics listed immediately above, the Commission also welcomes any general feedback on the current Tool.

Ground rules will be set and strictly adhered to so as to allow everyone a chance to articulate their position. Please take the following into account:

- This Roundtable **will not** focus on any specific projects due to potential future hearings. Such exchange of information could be considered *ex parte* communication.
- Time limits will be established for organization representatives, as well as individual persons. The time limits will be adhered to tightly so everyone has a chance to speak.

- ◆ Each organization or ANC (one representative per organization/ANC) will be allotted six (6) minutes;
- ◆ Individuals will be allotted four (4) minutes each; and
- ◆ No ceding of time will be allowed.
- Written copies of testimony must be submitted at least 24 hours prior to the roundtable.
- All individuals, organizations, or associations wishing to testify at this roundtable **are strongly encouraged to sign up to testify at least 24 hours prior to the start of the roundtable** on OZ's website at <https://dcoz.dc.gov/> or by 3:00 PM on the day of the roundtable by calling Sharon Schellin at (202) 727-0340 in order to ensure the success of the virtual procedures.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, YOU MAY CONTACT THE OFFICE OF ZONING AT (202) 727-6311.

ANTHONY J. HOOD, ROBERT E. MILLER, GWEN MARCUS WRIGHT, TAMMY STIDHAM, AND JOSEPH IMAMURA ----- ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, BY SARA A. BARDIN, DIRECTOR, AND BY SHARON S. SCHELLIN, SECRETARY TO THE ZONING COMMISSION.

Do you need assistance to participate? If you need special accommodations or need language assistance services (translation or interpretation), please contact Zee Hill at (202) 727-0312 or Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov five days in advance of the meeting. These services will be provided free of charge.

¿Necesita ayuda para participar? Si tiene necesidades especiales o si necesita servicios de ayuda en su idioma (de traducción o interpretación), por favor comuníquese con Zee Hill llamando al (202) 727-0312 o escribiendo a Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov cinco días antes de la sesión. Estos servicios serán proporcionados sin costo alguno.

Avez-vous besoin d'assistance pour pouvoir participer? Si vous avez besoin d'aménagements spéciaux ou d'une aide linguistique (traduction ou interprétation), veuillez contacter Zee Hill au (202) 727-0312 ou à Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov cinq jours avant la réunion. Ces services vous seront fournis gratuitement.

참여하시는데 도움이 필요하세요? 특별한 편의를 제공해 드려야 하거나, 언어 지원 서비스(번역 또는 통역)가 필요하시면, 회의 5일 전에 Zee Hill 씨께 (202) 727-0312 로 전화 하시거나 Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov 로 이메일을 주시기 바랍니다. 이와 같은 서비스는 무료로 제공됩니다.

您需要有人帮助参加活动吗? 如果您需要特殊便利设施或语言协助服务 (翻译或口译) · 请在见面之前提前五天与 Zee Hill 联系 · 电话号码 (202) 727-0312, 电子邮件 Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov 这些是免费提供的服务。

Quý vị có cần trợ giúp gì để tham gia không? Nếu quý vị cần thu xếp đặc biệt hoặc trợ giúp về ngôn ngữ (biên dịch hoặc thông dịch) xin vui lòng liên hệ với Zee Hill tại (202) 727-0312 hoặc Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov trước năm ngày. Các dịch vụ này hoàn toàn miễn phí.

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