

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Tanya Golash-Boza <tanyaboza@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 5:46 PM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ); DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ); Young, Paul (DCOZ)
Cc: Paulo Joao
Subject: Fwd: Case No.22-RT1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Some people who received this message don't often get email from tanyaboza@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the DC Government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe. If you believe that this email is suspicious, please forward to phishing@dc.gov for additional analysis by OCTO Security Operations Center (SOC).

Hello, Please find pasted below my oral testimony for the Racial Equity Tool Implementation Roundtable on 9/22 at 4pm.

My name is Dr. Tanya Golash-Boza. I was born and raised in Ward 4 and am a Sociology Professor.

The Comprehensive Plan requires that Racial Equity Analyses be implemented within DC Planning and Zoning. The Zoning Commission's Draft Racial Equity tool does not meet these Comp Plan requirements.

The Comp Plan defines Racial equity as the moment when race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes. The Plan provides a series of tools to get us to racial equity. I will focus on just one of these: "Take into account historical trauma and racism."

If we want to get to a place where race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes, we have to close the racial wealth gap. In the Washington Metropolitan area, White people have 81 times the wealth of Black people. This gaping wealth gap was created through government policies, and we now need policies that can close this gap.

Inequality in home equity accounts for most of the racial wealth gap. White people have more wealth than Black people in large part because they are more likely to own homes and their homes are worth more.

The tremendous racial wealth gap in DC was not foretold. Fifty years ago, DC had one of the most prosperous Black communities in the country. Detroit and DC were the only two cities where 40 percent of Black families earned \$10,000 or more a year (which is over \$80,000 today). This relative prosperity enabled 50,000 Black families to purchase homes in DC by 1980.

These high rates of homeownership in Black communities in DC did not translate into wealth because the city and the federal government failed to invest in community wellbeing in neighborhoods where Black people bought homes. High schools like McKinley Tech, Roosevelt, and Coolidge that had been excellent in the 1950s suffered from severe underfunding by the 1980s. This underfunding has pernicious and enduring consequences in DC's labor market today, where there are far more jobs for people with college degrees. The labor market is also racially inequitable with the Black unemployment rate at five times the White unemployment rate.

The city and the federal government also launched a War on Drugs that entrapped half of Black men in the carceral web by 1997. The decision to invest in prisons and policing and the failure to invest in community well-being led to stagnation in home values in Black communities between 1980 and 2000. This is a primary reason for the racial wealth gap.

Any future plan to achieve racial equity in the city has to take into account the history of disinvestment and carceral investment in Black communities in DC. It is impossible to achieve racial equity while ignoring this history.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <system@dcoz.dc.gov>

Date: Sat, Sep 17, 2022 at 11:13 AM

Subject: Case No.22-RT1

To: <tanyaboza@gmail.com>



Thank you for signing-up to testify for (BZA/ZC) Case No.22-RT1 on 9/17/2022. **NOTE: if you also have written testimony or documents to submit in this case, please submit them at least 24-hours prior to the hearing through IZIS or by e-mail.**

Please follow this link for [participation guidelines](#).

If you have questions, please contact the Office of Zoning at (202) 727-6311 or dcoz@dc.gov

--

Tanya Maria Golash-Boza
Professor of Sociology
University of California, Merced

Check out my [TEDx talk](#) on gentrification in Washington, DC:

Website: <http://tanyagolashboza.com/>

Please use this link to set up a virtual meeting with me: <https://calendly.com/tanyaboza/consultation>