

## Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

---

**From:** Ronald Kahn <kahnrb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2022 10:11 AM  
**To:** DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)  
**Subject:** Zoning round table testimony submission

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Some people who received this message don't often get email from kahnrb@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).

My name is Ronald Kahn.

I am a resident of Ward 3, ANC 3/4G.

My take on applying Racial Equity in Zoning & Development is that we are very far from a viable evaluation method. I think the roundtable is a step along that journey. As noted by the chair, the Comprehensive Plan is over 1,000 pages long, and is a bit repetitive. At the same time, the Comprehensive Plan gave great merit and intent to the goal but provided very little insight into the difficulty of the task. The Comprehensive Plan is not wordy in this area.

The Office Of Racial Equity was established, has a very tall order, and is needs this evaluation process and more. It's a complicated, complex, dynamic ever-changing process. Many other programs / factors that are impactful and helpful in achieving the goals of Racial Equity in housing and other areas. Achieving even in one area – housing - feels very much like a one-off approach at this point. In housing we have IZ+, vouchers, pending green initiatives, PUD negotiations, other federal, local programs, and yes – zoning. These other programs and functions are designed to address related and overlapping aspects of Racial Equity. I believe they are all components of a housing racial equity evaluation process. I don't see the recognition / details on how to do that. At the same time, Zoning Commission processes have been identified as the landing zone for racial equity housing evaluation. Current Zoning Commission processes are more endpoint blueprint / concrete / mortar / measurable in substance and process – consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. This is a late point in process, adding this process (assuming it can be done), would likely result in at least some non-compliance evaluations to fix or retrofit. This would have the potential of being quite inefficient. On the surface perhaps it looks easier to use the zoning as the one stop funnel. This tasking considerably expands the Zoning Commissions mission / role / expertise. It would seem more effective, viable, and doable to develop and apply the racial lens to the start, or at more natural points where impacts are evaluated, developed, discussed, formulated, and applied.

Off subject - At some later point, I would also want to discuss transportation decision / design processes and the status and impact of Racial Equity evaluations.