

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

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To: DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Comments for Zoning Commission Roundtable September 22, 2022

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I am unable to attend today's Roundtable but want to submit the following comments for the record:

I have lived in DC since 1979, and in Brookland since 1990. I have worked in community health in DC for almost 40 years and have cared for patients across all wards of the city. I have witnessed how DC's planning and zoning decisions have contributed to limiting options and potential for DCs residents of color, exacerbating long-standing inequities in health outcomes, education, income, wealth, and safety, and driving a massive exodus of DC's Black and Brown residents in recent decades. The revised Comprehensive Plan, particularly the requirement for the development and utilization of a Racial Equity Analysis Tool to guide planning and zoning decisions is a major step toward achieving the goal of racial equity, which is defined in the Plan as the moment when "race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes and outcomes for all groups are improved." (213.8)

However, the proposed draft equity tool is inadequate. It must be much more detailed and contain the following:

- 1) A plan to use current and historic data to track and report outcomes. This data must incorporate indices of displacement, as well as elements of land use that contribute to racial inequities in health, education, income, and wealth as well as housing affordability. See this [DC Health Equity Report](#) as a potential starting point.
- 2) A way to quantify displacement risk that accounts for direct displacement and effects on the surrounding community.
- 3) A way to quantify potential benefits such as Seattle's access to opportunity index so that planning and zoning decisions not only limit displacement, but contribute actively to decreasing racial equity gaps.
- 4) Require racial equity reports for land use applicants to show how they will advance equity and prevent displacement prior to bringing proposals to the Zoning Commission.
- 5) Identify clear strategies for community engagement at multiple points during decision-making and mechanisms for accountability and compliance with specific metrics and the overall goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

Thanks for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

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