

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3B**  
**GLOVER PARK AND CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS**



**Resolution Regarding DC Comprehensive Plan Update**

Whereas, the DC Comprehensive Plan provides the policies, principles, citywide and area plans and land use maps designed to guide both private and public sector physical planning and development decisions in the District and to work in conjunction with zoning regulations to achieve a healthy, sustainable, livable city for the future;

Whereas, the DC Office of Planning (OP) announced in 2016 that it would be preparing a Comprehensive Plan Update as required about every four years, and issued an Open Call for proposed amendments to the plan, from March 24 through June 23, 2017;

Whereas, OP also announced a process for reviewing the proposed amendments and sharing the results with the public, with a second round of public comments to be held later in 2017, before OP would send its draft Comprehensive Plan Update to the DC Council for review and approval, and this commitment was made in writing, online, and at workshops that OP conducted for ANC members in spring 2017. See: [https://plandc.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/Comprehensiveplan/page\\_content/attachments/Comp%20Plan%20Process%20%26%20Timeline\\_1.8.2018.pdf](https://plandc.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/Comprehensiveplan/page_content/attachments/Comp%20Plan%20Process%20%26%20Timeline_1.8.2018.pdf). (On the basis of that commitment, ANC3B waited to submit comments to OP until the promised second comment period);

Whereas, on January 9, 2018, OP sent the DC City Council the initial 60 pages of its proposed Comprehensive Plan Update, called the “Framework Element,” without sharing information on the proposed amendments or providing a second public comment period;

Whereas, in submitting its proposed revisions to the Framework Element directly to the City Council before sharing proposed amendments or its recommended changes and accepting public comments, OP has failed to meet its commitments on how the Comprehensive Plan Update process would be conducted;

Whereas, the opening sections of the Comprehensive Plan, including key principles and policies in the Framework Element, are a fundamental part of the overall approach and the values the city will be following under the updated plan, which makes it even more vital that OP provide transparency, opportunities for public review, and serious consideration of public comments in formulating the language of the updated plan to achieve an outcome to the update process that meets the public interest;

Whereas, the proposed changes in the Framework Element released to date also appear to reduce the ability for residents and ANCs to oppose projects that would not be compatible with the values that have always been central to the Comprehensive Plan or be compatible with the character of the affected communities;

And whereas, ANCs were established as the part of city government designated to represent the interests of their communities on public policies and plans, of which the Comprehensive Plan is one of the most significant for residents and businesses; and ANCs are accorded special status in receiving notification as well as “great weight” on zoning applications affecting their Commission areas because of the importance of planning and zoning decisions for residents and neighborhoods;

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission urges the Council to ensure:

- Wider publication of OP's proposed revisions to the Framework Element of the Comprehensive Plan, to reach residents, businesses, community and citizen associations, and ANCs;
- Public presentations and discussions of the potential impact of the proposed changes with OP staff and officials, preferably in multiple locations around the city, with at least 30-day notice of the dates and locations;
- Additional chances for public comments in person or in writing, before the Council takes a vote on any of the proposed revisions.

Ideally this process should be conducted under the auspices of OP, but if OP is not willing or able to oversee that type of public participation, then the process should be undertaken by the Council and relevant committees;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission recommends to the Mayor and the Council that before OP submits a draft update of any of the parts of the Comprehensive Plan that have not yet been forwarded to the Council, OP should be required to:

- Share full information with the public on the proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and OP's evaluation of the proposed amendments, as well as OP recommendations for revisions to those sections of the Comprehensive Plan;
- Seek public comments on the changes it is proposing to the Comprehensive Plan in this update cycle, as OP has committed to do in its announced process for conducting the Comprehensive Plan Update. This should include comments from ANCs as well as community and citizen associations, other interested groups, and residents across the city, with ample notification, publication of the proposed revisions, community hearings, and a comment period allowing for comments in written or electronic form
- Provide the record of hearings and comments, with OP's response to the comments, to the Council before it considers OP's proposed revisions;

Finally BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission recommends that the Council and Mayor adopt language to revise Section 1-309.10 of the DC Code that would make clear that OP's recommendations on proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and other similar plans that must be approved by the Council will be considered a "final decision or guideline" on which the executive agency must provide public notice, opportunities for public comment, and "great weight" to ANC comments;

Be it also resolved that the Chairman or the Commissioner for ANC3BQJ or their designee is authorized to represent the Commission on this matter.

This resolution was approved by a vote of 5-0 at a duly noticed public meeting of the Commission on MARCH 8, 2018 at which a quorum was present. (Three of the five members constitute a quorum.)



Brian Turmail, Chairman



Ann Mladinov, Secretary