



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1A

SMD 1A01 – Layla Bonnot

SMD 1A04 – Matthew Goldschmidt

SMD 1A07 – Jen Bundy

SMD 1A10 – Rashida Brown

SMD 1A02 – Teresa Edmondson

SMD 1A05 – Christine Miller

SMD 1A08 – Kent C. Boese

SMD 1A11 – Dotti Love Wade

SMD 1A03 – Zach Rybarczyk

SMD 1A06 – Angelica C. Castañon

SMD 1A09 – Michael Wray

SMD 1A12 – Jason Clock

November 14th, 2019

Muriel Bowser
Office of the Mayor
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
by email only

Andrew Trueblood
Office of Planning
1100 4th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024
by email only

Re: DC Comprehensive Plan Review and Language Access

Dear Mayor Bowser and Director Trueblood,

Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 1A requests, with great weight, that the Mayor and DC Office of Planning (OP) extend the public review and comment period for the redline amendments to the DC Comprehensive Plan that were published on October 15, 2019.

While ANC 1A is currently on pace to review the proposed edits to the Comprehensive Plan and has every intention of submitting our responses with the Office of Planning by the end of January, we ask that the review and comment period be extended to conclude on April 30, 2020. Given the volume of changes, totaling 1500 pages, the effects these changes will have on our ANC and the whole city, and given that Chairman Phil Mendelson stated that the Council will not contend with the amendments until after the budget season in June 2020, ANC1A is unable to host meaningful community engagement meetings and submit our responses in the current timeframe.

Additionally, ANC 1A represents a diverse and multilingual community which includes a significant proportion Latino residents¹ – an average of 40% in our commission area between 14th and 16th streets – many of whom are non-English proficient (NEP) and limited English proficient (LEP; however, materials promoting the events and outreach activities did not provide important information to many of our residents in languages that were accessible or inclusive.

District Agencies identified by The Language Access Act of 2004 are required to provide written translation of vital documents into any non-English language spoken by an LEP/NEP population that constitutes 3% or

¹ Population by Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin in the District of Columbia - Census Tracts: 28.1, 28.2, 29, 30, 31 2010

500 individuals, whichever is less, of the population served or encountered, or likely to be served or encountered by the entity.

The Office of Planning is designated as one of the city's "covered entities with major public contact" and is therefore required to comply with the requirements laid out in the Act.

While ANC 1A recognizes the challenges of translating the Comprehensive Plan in the languages required by our communities, we are concerned that outreach efforts failed to meet the requirements by the Language Access Act to serve our LEP/NEP communities. We ask that the Office of Planning work to improve its accessibility and engage with LEP/NEP communities by developing and translating targeted outreach materials on upcoming citywide and neighborhood-based projects and provide additional outreach opportunities that include leveraging the support of the Mayor's Offices on African, Asian & Pacific Islander, and Latino Affairs and other community-based partners such as the DC Language Access Coalition. Finally, OP does not offer any translated documents accessible via the "language support" section on the agency's website regarding the Comprehensive Plan or on the website as the public portal for the Comprehensive Plan.

Thank you,



Teresa Edmondson
Commissioner, ANC 1A02



Christine Miller
Commissioner, ANC 1A05

cc:

Rosa Carillo, Office of Human Rights, Director of the Language Access Program
Edward Giefer, Office of Planning Associate Director & LAC

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Certification:

After providing sufficient notice for and with a quorum of 11 present at its November 13th, 2019, meeting, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A voted, with 10 Yeas, 1 Nos and 0 Abstentions, to adopt the above resolution.



Kent Boese
Chair, ANC 1A



Zach Rybarczyk
Secretary, ANC 1A