



Government of the District of Columbia

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 5A

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Andrew Trueblood, Director
D.C. Office of Planning
1100 4th Street SW, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20024

RE: Request for Modifications to proposed schedule for the Public to comment on OP's Proposed Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map

Dear Director Trueblood:

First let me thank you for outreach efforts thus far by the Office of Planning (OP) to inform and engage the public. We especially appreciate the forums and informational sessions that were conducted specifically in Ward 5, as well as across the City.

Secondly, on behalf of ANC5A, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the prompt decision and December 16 Agreement to extend the time for public comment. Indeed, this was a major relief. It immediately reopened the process for an additional 25 days, giving the general public until January 10, 2020 to submit individual comments. This decision was well received, removed an unnecessary barrier and will no doubt lead to a more positive, productive relationship with the community.

However, while we appreciate the additional time, the community asked that we continue working with your office to understand the needs for the rush such that we can address your concerns about giving residents/tax payers sufficient time to review this very important potentially life changing document. As such, ANC5A **voted unanimously to support a Motion calling on OP to consider extending the Comment Period to April 30, 2020; and asking the Council of the District of Columbia to join the Community in seeking the extension for the following reasons:**

- The Plan includes 10 Area Elements totaling over 1500 pages
- OP will be able to live up to its "Guiding Vision" whereby "Inclusiveness", starts with existing taxpayers and residents feeling and believing that they have a fair opportunity to provide input.
 - Existing organizations should not have to adjust their normal meeting schedules in order to review and provide comments on this critical document in such a truncated time schedule;
 - Block Clubs and Civic Associations should be able to meet and review relevant documents according to their established procedures and meeting schedules; thereby allowing for normal participation and deliberation;

ANC 5A Commissioners (2019-2020)

5A01 Frank Wilds

5A03 Emily Singer Lucio, *Corresponding Secretary*

5A05 Ronnie Edwards, *Chairperson*

5A07 Sandi Washington, *Treasurer*

5A02 Grace J. Lewis, *Parliamentarian*

5A04 Vacant

5A06 Vacant

5A08 Gordon-Andrew Fletcher, *Vice Chairman*

**Catholic University *Ft. Totten * Lamond-Riggs * Michigan Park *North Michigan Park *Park Place-Trinity Square *Pleasant Hills * Brookland*

- ANC's will be able to receive carefully deliberated, thought provoking recommendations from Civic Associations and community organizations following discussions at their regularly scheduled monthly meetings. As a norm, and according to their Constitutions and By-Laws, the organizations meet once per month; a number of which do not meet during the holiday months of November and December.

In an orderly process, civic organizations would be able to have regularly scheduled meetings, discuss and vote on items of interest during a given month, introducing/disclosing their proposed actions at ANC meetings the following month. The additional time will allow Civic Associations and Block Clubs the time needed to conduct their normal meetings, receive public comment through normal procedures; and make recommendations to ANC in an orderly manner.

As it now stands, ANC's will have to first meet to elect new officers before they can conduct business in the New Year. ANC5A does not meet until January 22, 2020. However, because of this aggressive schedule; we have scheduled a special community meeting for January 10, 2020 in order to hopefully have time to receive adequate input in preparation for our January 22nd meeting. This does not allow time for any comments from local civic associations and community organizations; as they will not have time to meet. Also, it is important to note that to date we have not secured a meeting location for a January 11th meeting because most meeting facilities are in schools, establishments, etc., that are closed for winter or holiday breaks and will not return until after January 1, 2020.

Therefore, absent a clearly articulated reason as to why, a document of such importance to the future of the City, has to be rushed through the Community in such an aggressive manner; ANC5A respectfully request that the production schedule be adjusted to allow for more reasonable Public response time.

APPROVED: December 11, 2019


RONNIE L. EDWARDS, Chairman
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5A

cc: Honorable Council Chairman Phil Mendelson
Honorable Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5
Secretary, Council of the District of Columbia
Joshua Ghaffari, OP Comp Plan Manager
Tonya Stern, OP Deputy Director

ANC 5A is comprised of six (6) Commissioners and therefore four (4) Commissioners constitutes a quorum. On December 11, 2019, at a duly noticed Public Meeting of ANC 5A, six (6) Commissioners attended the meeting. At the time of voting to adopt the above information contained herein there were six (6) Commissioners present and voting. ANC 5A voted unanimously to approve the Motion; and specifically requested that ANC 5A's Action be afforded the "great weight" prescribed pursuant to the DC Home Rule Charter.