

Good Morning to the Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gordon-Andrew Fletcher and I am a three term ANC Commissioner representing ANC 5A08, Vice Chair of ANC 5A and a Professor at American University. On behalf of Ronnie Edwards, Chair of ANC 5A and all 5A Commissioners, we would like to say thank you to the Committee for conducting this important hearing on Bill 23-736, the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Act of 2020.

Moreover, ANC 5A we would like to thank the entire 5A community, especially Uchenna Evans, Lorenz Wheatley, and David Kosub for their input and recommendations. We strongly urge the Committee to take serious consideration to the recommendations that we submitted to Director Trueblood on February 12, 2020. I will speak to the most critical recommendations in turn:

A) ANC 5A General Comments and Proposed Amendments to the Upper Northeast Element Framework:

1. Clarify and strengthen by inserting definitive language replacing "should" with "shall" and removing all ambiguous language resulting in policies becoming discretionary
2. A. All recommendations from the 2009 Area Development Plan should be included in the Comprehensive Plan; B) the Plan should include all of Ward 5 including the Rock Creek East Chapter

B) Land Use

1. Seek transfer of land on SW corner of Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue from DC DDOT to DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). Originally supported via ANCSA Resolution dated September 27, 2017 (attachment #6)

C) Transportation

1. Emphasize the importance of enhancing environmental and safety measures at Fort Totten due to its status as a "transit village"; and immediate implementation and execution of yet to be realized "transit-oriented development"
2. Riggs Park should be added to the list of communities potentially impacted by proposed improvements to the Fort Totten metro station, including stressing the importance of pedestrian access, bicycle, and public safety and infrastructure access including docketing stations, etc., in specifically designated areas, with architectural

landscaping and overall beautification, if it is truly going to be considered a "transit village"

D) Housing

1. Support the Mayor's goals for a multi-pronged approach for building new homes, including emphasis on preserving space for existing affordable to low-income residents
2. Support aggressive programs making Affordable Housing the "Highest Priority" mandating a minimum 30% or more below AMI and approximately 70% at AMI

E) Economic Development

1. Maintain focus on housing ownership and affordability, providing for an equitable distribution of mixed income and seniors
2. Encourage overall inclusion and development of local, small and disadvantaged businesses

F) Parks, Recreation & Open Space

1. Sufficient resources should be allocated to reactivate the Fort Circle Park/Civil War Defenses of Washington" Parkland Site-Improvement Plan to include hiking path; paved trails and an open air public recreational area.

The areas addressed today is not an exhaustive list of the recommendations by the ANC 5A. Thus, we urge this body to carefully review the recommendations sent to the D.C. Office of Planning on Feb. 12, 2020.

Thank you for your time today.