



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

February 14, 2020

Mr. Andrew Trueblood
Director
Office of Planning
1100 4th Street SW, Suite 650 East
Washington, DC 20024
plandc@dc.gov

RE: Proposed Changes to DC's Comprehensive Plan Regarding Strengthening Inclusive Reporting and Embracing and Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Dear Director Trueblood,

At its special meeting on February 12, 2020, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With seven of eight commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously (7-0-0), after a motion made by Commissioner Goldin and seconded by Commissioner Campbell, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan seeks to promote a more equitable and inclusive city as stated in 100.12 “In 2004, the District completed a vision for the city, called “Vision for Growing an Inclusive City.” This document established a new philosophy about planning in the city, which has been carried forward into the Comprehensive Plan. The plan’s overriding emphasis is on improving the quality of life for current and future District residents,”

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan further defines in 2501.1 that “An equitable city is one is where all residents have equal opportunity to thrive and prosper, where health outcomes are improved for all racial and ethnic groups, and environmental benefits are shared by everyone. Equity is critically important to achieving different outcomes within our communities. The goal of equity must go beyond closing the gap between different populations to establish conditions of well-being for all groups of people. The Comprehensive Plan addresses the topic of equity through the development of implementation strategies that are targeted based on the needs of a particular group.”

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan acknowledges in 2505.1 that “Good plans must be based on good data; their success should be measurable through quantifiable benchmarks;” and thus the Comprehensive Plan commits in 2505.6 to “Use data collection and progress monitoring to actively review and formulate new policies that respond to the changes affecting Washington, DC in order to further the goal of an inclusive city.”



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WHEREAS, in September 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development comprising 17 global goals (SDGs) (see Appendix Figure 1) with 169 targets and 232 indicators; and numerous U.S. cities are localizing, aligning to, and incorporating SDGs into their urban plans, policies, strategies, and commitments.¹

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A suggests the following additions to the Comprehensive Plan to better ensure its implementation is inclusive, accountable, and more robustly evaluated; and to encourage DC to demonstrate leadership among national and global cities in sustainable urban planning by embracing and localizing the SDG 2030 Agenda.

➤ to the Introduction

Add to section 100.13 - “Also since the last 2006 plan, the global community adopted and embraced the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015. These 17 global goals and associated 169 targets, 232 indicators comprise a 15-year agenda and roadmap for inclusive and sustainable progress and prosperity for people and planet on broad range of issues including poverty, health, education, jobs, climate, energy and the environment, transport and housing infrastructure, safety and security and inequality. The SDGs are increasingly informing and being incorporated into city-level planning and localized benchmarks across the U.S. (and around the world): including in Honolulu, HI, to Orlando, FL, Pittsburgh, PA and San Jose, CA as well as Chicago, IL, New York City, NY and Los Angeles, CA.”

➤ to the Implementation Framework Element

Add to section 2512.1 Monitoring and Evaluating Comprehensive Plan Implementation – “In the interests of transparency with the public on how the Plan is differentially affecting residents and to help ensure the Plan is meeting its goals around inclusivity and fulfilling commitments in the Equity Crosswalk Element, the progress report will include monitoring data, activity and impact information that is disaggregated by age, gender, race, and income level.

To further accountability and In the spirit of being an international city, the Office of Planning will also explore development of a Sustainable Development Goals ‘Voluntary Local Review’² (VLR) that sets localized indicators, collects data and tracks DC progress against the SDGs; VLRs were first pioneered by New York City³

¹ Hartley, Kris. *Global Goals, Global Cities: Achieving the SDGs through Collective Local Action*, Chicago Council on Global Affairs, September 2019.

² https://www.thechicagocouncil.org/sites/default/files/report_global-goals-global-cities_190923.pdf

³ <https://www.brookings.edu/research/next-generation-urban-planning-enabling-sustainable-development-at-the-local-level-through-voluntary-local-reviews-vlrs/>

³ https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/international/downloads/pdf/NYC_VLR_2018_FINAL.pdf



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and are now also being conducted by Pittsburgh, PA,⁴ Orlando, FL, Los Angeles, CA and nearly 20 other small-medium-large size cities worldwide.”

Appendix Figure 1 – Sustainable Development Goals



Commissioners Nicole Goldin (2A02@anc.dc.gov) and Patrick Kennedy (2A01@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kennedy
Chairperson

⁴ <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2020/01/30/the-sdg-effect-the-emerging-pittsburgh-platform-to-deliver-the-global-goals-locally/>