



Racial Equity Tool

DC Zoning Commission

Part One: Guidance Regarding Racial Equity Submissions

The recent updates to the Comprehensive Plan require that the Zoning Commission evaluate all zoning actions through a racial equity lens. The Comprehensive Plan, Citywide and Area Elements, that explicitly focus on advancing equity are listed below. As applicable, the Zoning Commission suggests a discussion of these elements in submissions to the zoning case record that analyze zoning actions through a racial equity lens.¹

Citywide Elements	Area Elements
Land-Use	Capitol Hill
Transportation	Central Washington
Housing	Far Northeast Southeast
Economic Development	Far Southeast Southwest
Urban Design	Lower Anacostia Waterfront Near Southwest
Historic Preservation	Mid-City
Community Services and Facilities	Near Northwest
Educational Facilities	Rock Creek East
Infrastructure	Rock Creek West
Arts and Culture	Upper Northwest
Environmental Protection	
Parks Recreation and Open Space	

Part Two: Zoning Commission Evaluation of the Zoning Action through a Racial Equity Lens

The Zoning Commission will use the following questions as a baseline in evaluating consistency with the Comprehensive Plan through a racial equity lens (other themes may also be appropriate):

Zoning Commission Evaluation	
What are the expected goals of the zoning action?	
What are the anticipated positive and negative impacts and/or outcomes of the zoning action? May include the following themes and any others that also apply:	
Direct Displacement	Will the zoning action result in displacement of tenants or residents?
Housing	Will the action result in changes to: ▪ Market Rate Housing? ▪ Affordable Housing? ▪ Replacement Housing?
Physical	Will the action result in changes to the physical environment such as: ▪ Public Space Improvements? ▪ Infrastructure Improvements? ▪ Arts and Culture? ▪ Environmental Changes? ▪ Streetscape Improvements?
Access to Opportunity	Is there a change in access to opportunity? ▪ Job Training/Creation? ▪ Healthcare? ▪ Addition of Retail/Access to New Services?

¹ The Office of Planning (OP) is currently working to update the Equity Crosswalk referenced in the Comprehensive Plan, which will identify the Comprehensive Plan policies in the Citywide and Area Elements that advance equity.

