

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
COMMITTEE REPORT**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

DRAFT

TO: All Councilmembers

FROM: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole

DATE: May 3, 2022

SUBJECT: Report on PR 24-557, “Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 2022”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 24-557, the “Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 2022” was referred, reports favorably thereon with technical amendments and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

Proposed Resolution 24-557, the “Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 2022,” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor on January 21, 2022 and referred to the Committee of the Whole. The purpose of PR 24-557 is to confirm the Mayor’s reappointment of Anthony Hood as a member of the Zoning Commission, for term to end February 3, 2026.

The Zoning Commission is an independent, quasi-judicial and quasi-legislative body established by Congress in 1920¹. The District of Columbia was one of the first jurisdictions in the United States to develop a comprehensive zoning ordinance after New York City. Under the 1920 Zoning Act, the Zoning Commission was authorized to divide the city into districts, or zones, to regulate land usage. This consisted of three specific categories of zoning: building heights within zones; “use districts” such as residential, commercial and industrial; and lot occupancy.

¹ The Zoning Commission is referred to as an independent agency created in Part F of Title VI of the Charter of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 788; D.C. Official Code § 6-621.01); *see also*, Tenley & Cleveland Park Emergency Comm. v. Dist. of Columbia Bd. of Zoning Adjustment, 550 A.2d 331 (D.C. 1988).

The Zoning Act of 1938 expanded the regulatory scope of the Zoning Commission’s original jurisdiction.² It called for a Comprehensive Plan for the District, created a framework for public involvement in zoning matters, established permitting systems, and exempted public buildings from zoning controls.³

With the Reorganization Act of 1967, the Mayor-Commissioner and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the newly established, appointed Council were automatically members of the Zoning Commission. The other two members were the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) and the Director of the National Park Service (NPS). With passage of the Home Rule Act in 1974, the three District members became Mayoral appointments, confirmed by the Council. Over the years, the federal *ex officio* members of the Commission have been in place for a number of years and their length of service has provided extensive institutional memory. However, Mr. Hood’s long service on the Commission has provided a locally appointed counterbalance ensuring the District’s interests are advocated for in land use decisions.

In 1990, the Council adopted the Office of Zoning Independence Act⁴ which created the Office of Zoning as an independent agency with professional staff to assist both the Zoning Commission and the Board of Zoning Adjustment.⁵

The Zoning Commission has exclusive jurisdiction over all matters concerning zoning in the District of Columbia.⁶ Although there is a separate Board of Zoning Adjustment (on which a rotating member of the Zoning Commission sits), the Zoning Commission has plenary authority and may review *sua sponte* any decision of the Board. The Zoning Commission is responsible for the zoning regulations (11 DCMR) and reviews all cases relating to the zoning map and text. The Commission also considers planned unit developments (PUD) and the campus plans of colleges and universities. The Zoning Commission is responsible for implementing the land use element of the Comprehensive Plan, a plan which is proposed by the Mayor and adopted by the Council.

Table 1: Membership of the Zoning Commission for the District of Columbia

Resolution	Appointee	Term Expiration	Residency
PR 24-557	Anthony J. Hood, Chairman	February 3, 2026	Ward 5
R. 24-174	Robert Miller	February 3, 2025	Ward 3
	Vacant	February 9, 2023	
N/A	Joseph S. Imamura, AOC Designee	N/A	N/A
N/A	Peter G. May, NPS Designee	N/A	Ward 6

Mr. Hood is currently the Chairman of the Zoning Commission and has served on the Commission since 1998. Mr. Hood received his Bachelor of Science degree in Printing

² Zoning Act of 1938, approved June 20, 1938 (52 Stat. 797, as amended; D.C. Official Code §§6-441.01 to 6-641.15 (formerly codified at D.C. Code §§ 5-413 to 5-432))

³ <http://dcoz.dc.gov/about/history2.shtm>; see also D.C. Official Code § 6-621.01.

⁴ D.C. Official Code § 6-623.01 (Sept. 20, 1990, D.C. Law 8-163, § 2, 37 DCR 4676.)

⁵ D.C. Official Code § 6-623.02

⁶ Tenley & Cleveland Park Emergency Comm. v. Dist. of Columbia Bd. of Zoning Adjustment, 550 A.2d 331 (D.C. 1988).

Management from the University of the District of Columbia. Mr. Hood is the former Chief of the Printing and Mail Management Section, Facilities Operations Branch, of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, DC, and now serves as Printing Officer.

During Mr. Hood's twenty-four-year tenure on the Zoning Commission, he has witnessed the city evolve, grow, and change rapidly. Mr. Hood has played an active role in rewriting and implementing the new Inclusionary Zoning Regulations; approving projects with hundreds of affordable units; lowering the height and length of additions in the RF zones to preserve the character of the surrounding neighborhood; creating specialized zones such as the Capital Gateway, Forest Hills Tree and Slope, Walter Reed, Union Station North, and St. Elizabeth's Zone; approving numerous campus plans; implementing the Green Area Ratio Regulations; and encouraging greater Advisory Neighborhood Commission participation in cases by conducting extensive outreach. Additionally, Mr. Hood participated extensively in the Zoning Commission's revision of the Zoning Regulations for the first time in 60 years, a process that took nine years and over 60 hearings and meetings and urged the Council to provide updated guidance to the Commission through enactment of amendments to the District Elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Hood has demonstrated commitment to community. Mr. Hood is the former President of the Woodridge Civic Association and the Woodridge Civic Fund. After 20 years of service, he was voted Emeritus President of the Civic Association. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Bryant Park Homeowners Association and is a member of the 5th District's Citizens Advisory Council and the Bryant/Channing Streets Orange Hat Patrol. Mr. Hood also is a life-long member and Deacon of the Greater First Baptist Church of Washington, DC.

Mr. Hood is a longtime District resident with more than two decades of experience as a public servant. Drawing from his own experience, Mr. Hood has made it a priority "to make certain that the community is heard, and their concerns are addressed" throughout the Zoning Commission process.⁷ Mr. Hood continues to demonstrate the importance of balance in his role as Chair by evaluating development projects in light of community impacts and potential benefits. Mr. Hood's community background, institutional knowledge, and willingness to serve the District will allow him to continue to contribute significantly to the Zoning Commission. Moreover, as a longtime member of the Zoning Commission, Mr. Hood has the knowledge and experience of District zoning to counterbalance long serving federal appointees to the Commission to level the playing field and represent District interests.

Mr. Hood has extensive experience on the Commission, has demonstrated his commitment to the community, and has won high praise from a diverse group of stakeholders including community leaders, advocates, and developers noting his character and professionalism. Thus, the Committee of the Whole recommends his appointment.

⁷ *Id.*

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- January 21, 2022 PR 24-557, “Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 2022,” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor.
- February 1, 2022 PR 24-557 is “read” at the February 1, 2022 Legislative Meeting; on this date the referral of the PR to the Committee of the Whole is official and the 90-day period for Council review begins. If the Council does not act by May 11, 2022, PR 24-557 is deemed disapproved.
- February 11, 2022 Notice of Intent to act on PR 24-557 is published in the *DC Register*.
- April 8, 2022 Notice of a Public Hearing on PR 24-557 is published in the *DC Register*.
- April 25, 2022 The Committee of the Whole holds a roundtable on PR 24-557.
- May 3, 2022 The Committee on the Whole marks-up PR 24-557.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Mr. Hood is the Mayor’s nominee for appointment to the Zoning Commission.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public roundtable on PR 24-557 on Monday, April 25, 2022. The testimony summarized below is from that hearing. Copies of the testimony are attached to this report.

Alejandra Jolodosky, Brookland Manor Coalition, testified in opposition to the nomination.

Christopher Williams, DC Grassroots Planning Coalition, testified in opposition to the nomination.

Minnie Elliott, President, Brookland Manor/Brentwood Village Resident Association, testified in opposition to the nomination.

Rev. Dr. Loretta Houston, Board Member, Brookland Manor Resident Association, testified in opposition to the nomination.

Cheryl Brunson, Treasurer, Brookland Manor/ Brentwood Village Resident Association, testified in opposition to the nomination.

Chris Otten, Co-Facilitator, DC4RD, testified in opposition to the nomination.

Paulette Matthews, Vice President, Barry Farm Tenants and Allies Association, testified in opposition to the nomination.

Parisa Norouzi, Executive Director, Empower DC, testified in opposition to the nomination.

Mahdi Leroy J. Thorpe, Jr., President, Shaw East Central Civic Association, testified in support of the nomination.

Sandra "SS" Seegars, Public Witness, testified in support of the nomination.

Commissioner Renee Bowser, ANC 4D02, Empower DC, DC Grassroots Planning Coalition, testified in opposition to the nomination.

Nick DelleDonne, Dupont East Civic Action Association, testified in opposition to the nomination.

Margaret Dwyer, Ward 3 Housing Justice, testified in opposition to the nomination.

Lorenz Wheatley, Public Witness, testified in opposition to the nomination.

Shirley Rivens Smith, President, North Woodridge, testified in support of the nomination.

Holly Muhammad, ANC Commissioner 8A, testified in support of the nomination.

Anthony Muhammad, Chairman, 7th District CAC, testified in support of the nomination.

Jean Stewart, DC Grassroots Planning Coalition, testified in opposition to the nomination.

Robert Green, Alabama Ave Tenants Association, testified in opposition to the nomination.

William Jordan, Park Morton Equity Team, testified in opposition to the nomination.

Shonta' High, President, The Council @ Park Morton, testified in opposition to the nomination.

Tony Dugger, Public Witness, testified in support of the nomination.

Ethan Pirk, Member of SURJ DC, testified in opposition to the nomination.

Reginald Black, People for Fairness Coalition, testified in opposition to the nomination.

Commissioner Robert Vinson Brannum, ANC 5E08, testified in support of the nomination.

Jeff Utz, DC Building Industry Association, testified in support of the nomination.

Paul Tummonds, Director, Goulston & Storrs, testified in support of the nomination.

Lloyd Jordan, Public Witness, testified in support of the nomination.

Alma Gates, Public Witness, testified in support of the nomination.

Cheryl Cort, Policy Director, Coalition for Smarter Growth, testified in support of the nomination.

Ellen McCarthy, Principal, The Urban Partnership, LLC, former Director of the Office of Planning, testified in support of the nomination.

Jeannette Mobley, Public Witness, testified in support of the nomination.

Nolan Treadway, Public Witness, testified in support of the nomination.

Laura Richards, Committee of 100 on the Federal City, testified in support of the nomination.

Anthony Hood, Nominee, summarized his background and experience, including his current role on the Zoning Commission as Chair. He testified to his 40 years of advocacy for residents of Ward 5 as well as the District. He testified that he first became involved in zoning matters 25 years ago with his opposition to a transit transfer station being located in his neighborhood leading to his nomination in 1998 to the Zoning Commission. He went on to discuss his love for the District and his experience in hearing over 1,500 zoning cases over 6,000 hours. He testified to his goal of implementing the newly required racial equity tools mandated by the Comprehensive Plan and the upcoming Zoning Commission roundtable to discuss racial equity, including a possible text amendment to require racial equity impact analyses by applicants. Finally, he testified to the improvement in the quality of zoning orders under his chairmanship, driven by newly independent zoning attorneys utilized by and advocated for by the Commission.

The Committee received 14 additional written statements in support of Mr. Hood's nomination and 3 in opposition. Copies of those statements are attached to this report. The Committee also received a number of form-generated emails in opposition to the nomination, as well as other statements that are part of the hearing record.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

There are five members of the Zoning Commission pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 6-621.01(a). The Zoning Commission consists of the Architect of the Capitol, the Director of the National Park Service, and three members appointed after Council confirmation by the Mayor. Each Mayoral appointee shall serve for a term of four years.⁸

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

The approval of PR 24-557 will have no fiscal impact. Zoning Commissioners receive a stipend of 25 dollars an hour for a maximum allotment of \$12,000 dollars a year.⁹ These costs are included as part of the annual budget for the Office of Zoning.

⁸ D.C. Official Code § 6-621.01(a).

⁹ D.C. Official Code § 1-611.08(c)(6).

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

- Section 1 States the short title of PR 24-557.
- Section 2 Confirms the appointment of Anthony Hood to the Zoning Commission to complete a term ending February 3, 2026.
- Section 3 Directs the Council to transmit a copy of this resolution to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.
- Section 4 Provides that PR 24-557 shall take effect immediately.

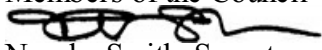
IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 24-557 as introduced
2. Nominee's response to Committee questions
3. Written testimony
4. Legal Sufficiency Determination
5. Committee Print for PR 24-557

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20004

Memorandum

To : Members of the Council
From :  Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council
Date : Friday, January 28, 2022
Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Friday, January 21, 2022. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 2022", PR24-0557

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson, at the request of Mayor

The Chairman is referring this legislation to Committee of the Whole. This resolution will be deemed disapproved on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 without Council action.

Attachment
cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

January 21, 2022

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

In accordance with section 2 of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01), and pursuant to section 1 of An Act To regulate the height, area, and use of buildings in the District of Columbia and to create a Zoning Commission, and for other purposes, effective March 1, 1920 (41 Stat. 500; D.C. Official Code § 6-621.01), I am pleased to nominate the following person:

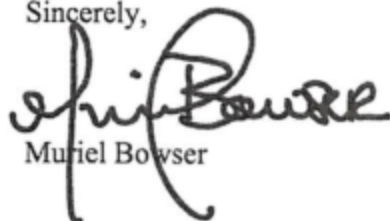
Mr. Anthony Hood
Channing Street, NE
Washington, DC 20018
(Ward 5)


for reappointment as a member of the Zoning Commission, for a term to end February 3, 2026.

Enclosed you will find biographical information detailing the experience of Mr. Hood together with a proposed resolution to assist the Council during the confirmation process.

I would appreciate the Council's earliest consideration of this nomination for confirmation. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Steven Walker, Director, Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments, should the Council require additional information.

Sincerely,


Muriel Bowser


Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

1
2
3
4
5
6 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION
7
8

9 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
10
11

12
13 To confirm the reappointment of Mr. Anthony Hood to the Zoning Commission.
14

15 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
16 resolution may be cited as the "Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of
17 2022".
18

19 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the reappointment of:
20

21 Mr. Anthony Hood
22 Channing Street, NE
23 Washington, DC 20018
24 (Ward 5)
25

26 as a member of the Zoning Commission pursuant to section 1 of An Act to regulate the height,
27 area, and use of buildings in the District of Columbia and to create a Zoning Commission, and
28 for other purposes, effective March 1, 1920 (41 Stat. 500; D.C. Official Code § 6-621.01), for a
29 term to end February 3, 2026.

30 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution,
31 upon its adoption, to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.

32 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.



Executive Office of the Mayor - Office of Talent and Appointments
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004

Anthony Hood



Anthony Hood is the Agency Printing Officer for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Chairman for the District of Columbia Zoning Commission.

Mr. Hood currently serves as the authority in the development and modification of EPA and nationwide printing policy. During his tenure with the EPA, Mr. Hood has also served as Section Chief and Printing Specialist. In these roles, Mr. Hood has shared his printing and managerial expertise to execute and evaluate printing programs, review and modify printing contracts, and develop Communication Production Standards. As Chairman, Mr. Hood has focused his efforts on zoning, environmental assessments, urban planning, and

public policy.

Mr. Hood has been awarded several bronze medals for his exemplary service and has contributed several distinguished lectures on the uniqueness of zoning. Mr. Hood is the former President of the Woodridge Civic Association and Woodridge Civic Fund where he oversaw a \$1.25 million budget. In addition, Mr. Hood served on the Ward 5 Redistricting Committee.

A Ward 5 resident, Mr. Hood received an Associate of Arts in Printing Technology and a Bachelor of Science in Printing Management from the University of the District of Columbia.



Anthony J. Hood

EDUCATION

University of the District of Columbia, BS, Printing Management, May 1993

University of the District of Columbia, AA, Printing Technology, December 1992

PERSONAL INFORMATION

US Citizenship

No Veteran's Preference

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Agency Printing Officer, GS-342-14

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460
(10/16 to Present)**

Supervisor: Yvette Jackson, Office Director, FMSD, 202/564-7231

- Serves as Printing Officer tasked with providing leadership and guidance with the planning, formulating and establishing policies and procedures for the Printing at the US EPA.
- Provide EPA clients with expert advice and technical leadership on agencywide planning, execution and evaluation of printing programs.
- Serves as the authority in the development and modification of policy governing EPA headquarters and nationwide printing.
- Maintains a liaison with the Joint Committee on Printing (JCP) to negotiate approval of equipment for EPA print plants, support and justification of print reports and approval of changes in printing regulations.
- Provides oversight of agency-wide Printing Control Officers to ensure compliance of all government regulation of Title 44 and Joint Committee of Printing Regulations
- Provides all specialty printing for the US EPA Administrator and Administrators Office.
- Provides automation in Agency procedures to make the printing business more effective and user friendly for our customers, exclusively, the online ordering system.
- Provided leadership and guidance with a task force to develop the Communication Production Standards and all EPA internal printing.

Section Chief, GS-342-14

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460
(10/2004 to 10/2016)**

Supervisor: Renee Page, Office Director, FMSD, 202/564-8400

- Serves as Section Chief tasked with providing leadership and guidance with the planning, formulating and establishing policies and procedures for the Printing, Forms, Mail and Photocopy Management Section.
- Manages team leaders and section employees by providing expert advice and technical leadership on agencywide planning, execution and evaluation of printing programs.
- Serves as the authority in the development and modification of policy governing EPA headquarters and nationwide printing, form, mail and photocopy management.
- Maintains a liaison with the Joint Committee on Printing (JCP) to negotiate approval of equipment for EPA print plants, support and justification of print reports and approval of changes in printing regulations.
- Manages the administration of a Class A Printing Facility, oversight of agency-wide Printing Control Officers to ensure compliance of all government regulation of Title 44.
- Oversees the delegated responsibilities for managing and operating EPA mail and distribution operations are carried out on a nationwide basis.

- Serves as a Project Officer/Alternate Project Officer/Delivery Order Project Office on a \$3.8M service contract.
- Provides automation in section procedures to make the printing, forms, mail and photocopying business more effective and user friendly for our customers, exclusively, the online ordering system for CFR's agencywide.
- Provided leadership and guidance with a task force to develop the Communication Production Standards.

Printing Specialist, GS-1654-13

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460 (04/1999 – 10/2004)

Supervisor: James Anderson, Section Chief, 301/390-7422 – Gayle Rice, Branch Chief, 202-564-1630

- Reviewed and analyzed specifications submitted with jobs or written by a lower grade printing specialist for purposes of need, cost, and adequacy of specifications.
- Trained lower graded Printing Specialists in the proper methods of preparing specifications both for the procurement of printed products, and work produced in the Printing Plant.
- Consulted with and advised the Printing Officer in the development and issuances of policies and procedures leading to more efficient and administration of EPA printing programs.
- Coordinated decisions regarding in-house equipment purchases, staffing, and workload distribution based on extensive analysis of current and projected workload.
- Reviewed, on an ongoing basis, all EPA printing contracts with GPO. Made recommendations to management concerning modifications to the contracts based on analysis of current and future Agency requirements.
- Analyzed the printing needs of EPA Headquarters and nationwide offices and made appropriate recommendations as to the best ways of meeting their needs, i.e., term contracts, increase of in-house capability special arrangements with GPO, etc. Reviewed existing and proposed contracts to ensure continuing conformity with the needs of EPA and the rules, regulations and laws promulgated by JCP, GPO, and EPA.
- Served as expert advisor and provided technical leadership and guidance to the Agencywide Printing Control Officers. Also, inspected field activity printing management functions to evaluate effectiveness and economy of operations, determined compliance with policies, standards, and regulations of the Agency and higher authority; identified general problem areas requiring Agency-level attention; recommended remedial actions.
- Oversaw Printing Management's data base tracking system, estimating programs, and backlog of production in the Printing plant. Oversaw the writing and updating of programs as necessary.

TRAINING COURSES/CERTIFICATES

02/2011 Outsourcing & Contract Mail Management Training, MAILCOM 2011, Annual Conference & Exhibition
 05/2010 Mail Systems Management Training, MAILCOM 2010, Conference & Exhibition
 05/2010 Leadership & Staff Development Training, MAILCOM 2010, Conference & Exhibition
 04/2008 Mail Systems Management Training, MAILCOM 2008, Annual Global Conference & Exhibition
 04/2008 Manager & Supervisor Mail Management Training, MAILCOM 2008, Annual Global Conference & Exhibition
 2005-2008 Mail Com Conference - Go Pro Supervisor to Manager Certificate and Mail Systems Management Training Certificate

AWARDS AND HONORS

12/2011 Facilities Management & Services Division Cash and Time Off Awards
 12/2010 Facilities Management & Services Division Cash and Time Off Awards
 12/2009 Facilities Management & Services Division Cash and Time Off Awards
 12/2008 Facilities Management & Services Division Cash and Time Off Awards
 04/2008 Bronze Medal Award for Exemplary Service for the Senior Executive Service National Training Conference
 04/2008 Bronze Medal for Outstanding & Expeditious Service for the Printing Office
 06/2002 D.C. Proclamation: Anthony J. Hood Day – June 29, 2002

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP WORK

- 2012-Present Organizer, Printing and Mail Forums (agencies and other sites)
- 01/2012 Ward 5 Redistricting Committee
- 1994-2013 President, Woodridge Civic Association and President, Woodridge Civic Fund, overseeing a \$1.25M budget
- 2005 & 2006 D.C. Neighborhood College Guest Lecturer on the Uniqueness of Zoning in D.C.
- 2006 Comprehensive Plan Task Force
- 2009-Present Prince Hall Lodge No. 14 F. & A.M., PHA
- 1998-Present Chair (and Vice Chair), D.C. Zoning Commission dealing with Zoning, Environmental Assessments, Urban Planning, and Public Policy
- 2011 University of the District of Columbia Guest Lecturer on the Uniqueness of Zoning in D.C.
- 2012 Catholic University Guest Lecturer on the Uniqueness of Zoning in D.C.
- 2013 Howard University Guest Lecturer on the Uniqueness of Zoning in D.C.

REFERENCES

Available Upon Request

Mr. Anthony J. Hood
Channing Street, NE
Washington, DC 20018

April 14, 2022

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

In response to the Committee of the Whole's letter questions dated April 8, 2022, concerning my confirmation hearing, I respectfully submit the following information.

1. *Please provide us with a copy of your Financial Disclosure Statement filed with the Office of Campaign Finance or the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability. If you have not filed such a statement, then please provide answers to the following questions no. 2-8.*

Please see **Attachment A – 2021 Financial Disclosure Statement.**

2. *Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business with the District Government in which you have a beneficial interest valued in excess of \$1,000, including publicly traded stock.*

Please see **Attachment A – 2021 Financial Disclosure Statement.**

3. *Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business (including consulting) with the District Government from which you or your immediate family have received (or are receiving) income for services rendered in excess of \$200 during the past two years.*

Please see **Attachment A – 2021 Financial Disclosure Statement.**

4. *Please provide the name of each business entity transacting business with the District Government in which you or any member of your immediate family serves as an officer, director, partner, or agent. Also list the position(s) held, a brief description of the entity, and any other pertinent details.*

Please see **Attachment A – 2021 Financial Disclosure Statement.**

5. *Please provide the name of any lender and the amount of liability for each outstanding liability borrowed by you or any member of your immediate family in excess of \$1,000. Do not include loans from a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution, or from any business enterprise regularly engaged in the business of providing revolving credit or installment accounts.*

Please see **Attachment A – 2021 Financial Disclosure Statement.**

6. *Please list the location of all real property located in the District of Columbia in which you have an interest with a fair market value in excess of \$1,000.*

Please see **Attachment A – 2021 Financial Disclosure Statement.**

7. *Please list all professional and occupational licenses held by you.*

Not applicable.

8. *Please list any professional organizations of which you are currently a member.*

Not applicable.

9. *Please list all boards and commissions connected with the District government on which you are or have been a member, and include the term of service for each.*

Zoning Commission 1998 - Present

10. *Please list any other boards (e.g., Board of Directors of a non-profit) on which you are currently a member.*

President Emeritus - Woodridge Civic Association
Board Member of the Stoddard Baptist Home
Deacon of the Greater First Baptist Church of Washington, DC

11. *Do you have any outstanding liability for taxes, fees, or other payments to the District, federal, or other state or local governments, either contested or uncontested? If so, please provide documentation of attempts to pay the amount owed or to resolve the disputed claim.*

I have no outstanding liability for taxes, fees, or other payments to the District, federal, or other state or local governments.

12. *Do you or any member of your immediate family have any interest, financial or otherwise, that may directly or indirectly pose a conflict of interest for you in performance of your duties as a member of the Zoning Commission?*

No member of my family, including myself, has any interest, financial or otherwise, that may directly or indirectly pose a conflict of interest for me in performing my duties on the Zoning Commission.

13. *Please describe any local political activity (i.e., the District of Columbia local elections or campaigns) that you have engaged in over the past five years, including all campaign contributions to a D.C. candidate or political committee.*

Over the past five years, I have worked on and donated to election campaigns for the following individuals:

Name	Position	Contribution Amount
Muriel Bowser	Mayor	\$200/pf
Anita Bonds	Councilmember	\$100/pf
Phil Mendelson	Councilmember	\$100/2018
Kenyan McDuffie	Attorney General	\$200/pf

14. *Are you registered with any local, state, or federal government to lobby? If so, list the jurisdiction(s) in which you are registered.*

I am not registered to lobby with any local, state, or federal government.

15. *Why have you agreed to serve another term and how do you plan to continue to help the Commission fulfill its role and mission during your time on the Commission?*

I am honored once again to have been nominated for another term on the Zoning Commission because of my love for this city in which I was born and raised. During my tenure on the Commission, I have heard over 1,500 ZC and Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) cases over approximately 6,000 hours and have seen a number of projects realized. It has always been my number one goal to make sure the community is being heard and that their concerns are addressed. I have kept my focus on balance, inclusion, and coexistence when reviewing cases that come before the Commission. I have and will continue to encourage projects that far exceed Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) requirements including projects with deep affordability at 30%, affordable senior housing, and family-sized units. In most cases, the development has been a win-win for all interested parties in the city. I am glad to be a part of the Zoning Commission and, if reconfirmed, I will continue to make the best decisions that I can for the best interests of those in the city.

In addition, District agencies have been engaging in meaningful progress to address racial equity issues for quite some time in the city and the Zoning Commission is no different. I have always taken racial inequities in our City seriously, so the Zoning Commission in step with the Office of Zoning and the Office of Planning have developed a racial equity tool that is now being used on Zoning Commission cases. The Zoning Commission will hold a roundtable later this year to allow the public to give us feedback on how they believe it is working. The Zoning Commission takes racial equity seriously and is dedicated to making decisions with that lens. We are always open to improving the way we operate.

16. *Given that you are currently serving on the Commission, what challenges do you believe the Commission has experienced during your time on the Board, and how do you believe these challenges should be addressed moving forward?*

The biggest challenges the Commissioners experienced were 1) row dwellings being turned into 4-story multi-unit dwellings in a 2-story neighborhood, known as “pop-ups”; and 2) adding onto properties and building all the way back to their lot line, known as “pop backs.” Both of these issues were approved by the BZA over and over because they were allowed as long as the applicant met the requirements. However, we heard from so many residents, and even at the Office of Zoning’s oversight hearing before the Council, that something needed to be done to stop both of these from continuing to ruin neighborhoods.

Going forward, the Commission will continue to deal with challenges on the BZA as we dealt with the two mentioned above. We will discuss them as a Commission, and when necessary, we will refine our Zoning Regulations and Zoning Map, to address any issues we find.

FDS Filing Details for 2021

Name: Anthony J. Hood

Date of Appointment or Employment: 1/1/2021

Final Date of Service: 12/31/2021

Position: Zoning Commission

Agency: Office of Zoning

Position Held with the District Government During the Prior calendar year (If Not The Same As Above)

Position:

Final Date in Position:

Agency:

Non District Employment/Business

1) Did you have any non-District employment or engage in any outside business or other activity during the previous calendar year for which you received compensation of \$200 or more?

No

2) Was your spouse, registered domestic partner, or dependent child(ren) employed by a private entity or did they engage in any business endeavors during the previous calendar year for which they received compensation of \$200 or more?

No

3) In the previous calendar year, did you serve in any unpaid position or in any other formal capacity (without compensation) of a non-government board or other outside entity where you had influence over the entity's finances or decision-making (e.g., as an officer, director, partner, consultant, contractor, volunteer, or member)?

Position / Title	Name of Entity	Start Date	End Date	Website of entity
Board member Stoddard Baptist Home	Stoddard Baptist Home Nursing Facility	5/1/2021	5/1/2022	https://www.stoddardbaptisthome.org/
Deacon	The Greater First Baptist Church	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	https://www.thegfbcdc.org/

4) During the previous calendar year, did your spouse, registered domestic partner, or dependent child(ren) serve in any unpaid position or in any other formal capacity (without compensation) of a non-government board or other outside entity where they had influence over the entity's finances or decision-making (e.g., as an officer, director, partner, consultant, contractor, volunteer, or member)?

No

5) During the previous calendar year, did you have any agreements with a former or current employer, other than with the District of Columbia, for future payments or benefits (such as separation pay, partnership buyouts, or pension or retirement pay) or for future employment or for a leave of absence?

No

6) During the previous calendar year, did your spouse, registered domestic partner, or dependent child(ren) have any agreements with a former or current employer, other than with the District of Columbia, for future payments or benefits (such as separation pay, partnership buyouts, or pension or retirement pay) or for future employment or for a leave of absence?

No

Securities, Holdings and Investments

7) Did you have a beneficial interest in or hold any security at the close of the previous calendar year that exceeded, in the aggregate, \$1,000 or that produced income of \$200 or more?

No

8) Did your spouse, registered domestic partner, or dependent child(ren) have a beneficial interest in or hold any security, at the close of the previous calendar year, that exceeded, in the aggregate, \$1,000 or that produced income of \$200 or more?

No

9) Did you owe any entity or person (other than a member of your immediate family) \$1,000 or more (excluding: mortgages on your personal residence, student loans, automobile loans, credit card accounts or other revolving credit, and other loans from a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution) during the previous calendar year?

No

10) Did your spouse, domestic partner or dependent child(ren) owe any entity or person (other than a member of their immediate family) \$1,000 or more, (excluding: mortgages on your personal residence, student loans, automobile loans, credit card accounts or other revolving credit, and other loans from a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution) during the previous calendar year?

No

11) Did you have an interest in any real property located in the District of Columbia during the previous calendar year, aside from your primary personal residence, where your interest had a fair market value \$1,000 or more, or where the property produced income of \$200 or more?

No

12) Did your spouse, domestic partner, or dependent child(ren) have an interest in any real property located in the District of Columbia during the previous calendar year aside from their primary personal residence, where their interest had a fair market value of more than \$1,000, or where the property produced income of \$200 or more?

No

Regulated Professions

13) Do you hold any professional or occupational licenses issued by the District of Columbia government (i.e., are you licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia, or are you licensed by the District's Department of Health, the District's Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, the District's Department of Mental Health, the District's Department of Insurance Securities and Banking, the Metropolitan Police Department, the District's Occupational and Professional Licensing Administration, etc.)?

No

14) Does your spouse, domestic partner, or dependent child(ren) hold any professional or occupational licenses issued by the District of Columbia government (i.e., are they licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia, or are they licensed by the District's Department of Health, the District's Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, the District's Department of Mental Health, the District's Department of Insurance Securities and Banking, the Metropolitan Police Department, or the District's Occupational and Professional Licensing Administration, etc.)?

No

Gifts

15) Did you receive any gift(s) from any person that has or is seeking to do business with the District, conducts operations or activities that are regulated by the District, or has an interest that may be favorably affected by the performance or nonperformance of your duties in the total amount or with a total value of \$100 or more during the previous calendar year?

No

Additional Comments

N/A

Supporting Documents

I certify that I have:

- Not caused title to property to be placed in the legal name, possession, or control of another person or entity for the purpose of avoiding the disclosure requirements on this form;
- Filed and paid my income and property taxes or am in current good standing with the IRS and state tax collector because of an extension, payment plan or other arrangement or agreement;
- Diligently safeguarded the assets of the taxpayers and the District;
- Complied with my duty to report known illegal activity, including attempted bribes, to the appropriate authorities;
- Not been offered or accepted any bribes;
- Not directly or indirectly received government funds through illegal or improper means;
- Not raised or received funds in violation of federal or District law; and
- Not received or been given anything of value, including a gift, favor, service, loan gratuity, discount, hospitality, political contribution, or promise of future employment, based on any understanding that my official actions or judgment or vote would be influenced.
- Completed a full ethics training within the last 365 days;

I understand that:

- Submission of this report means that I have completed the report with all applicable schedules and that the report is ready for filing with BEGA.
- Once this report is submitted, it cannot be edited. All modifications thereafter can only be done by filing an amendment.

Additional Comments

Alejandra Jolodosky

April 25, 2021

Brookland Manor Coalition

Testimony before the Committee of the Whole on the reappointment of Anthony Hood to the Zoning Commission

Hello. My name is Alejandra Jolodosky and I'm testifying on behalf of the Brookland Manor Coalition in support of the Brookland Manor / Brentwood Village Residents Association.

As an advocate for racial housing justice in the DC area, I want to emphasize (like many others today) that over the past 20 years, there have been approximately 60,000 Black residents and families displaced from DC (source: US Census). Brookland Manor is currently facing the same threat greatly due to the actions of the Zoning Commission over the past eight years.

It started in 2015 when the Zoning Commission approved Mid City's (the developer that owns Brookland Manor) first stage of Planned Unit Development (PUD) application and called it a "transformative project that will benefit the existing Brookland Manor residents and members of the surrounding community." This "transformative" decision will result in eliminating all 113 four- and 21 five-bedroom units and a reduction in the number of three-bedroom units from 75 to 64. According to the Washington's Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, this decision will lead to the displacement of 149 families, which make up around 59% of the families living on the property. Displaced households with five or more people are already at a particularly high risk of homelessness. Family support structures, including access to jobs, nearby social-service related programs, and/or children's local schools are completely disrupted or dissolved. A 2019 study requested by CM McDuffie and performed by DMPED and CNHED validates these concerning findings.

In 2018, the Zoning Commission approved one of Mid-City's second-stage PUD applications unanimously. Although Mid City has promised to keep 373 out of the 535 units at Brookland Manor deeply affordable under Section 8 contract with HUD, the PUD proposed that 200 of these units would be mostly one-bedroom units for "seniors" only (192 one-bedroom, and 8 two-bedroom). This was approved even after Mid City's 2015 data submitted to the Zoning Commission showed that only 106 units were occupied by seniors, aged 62 or older (153 units if "senior" is defined as age 55 or older). <https://gqwash.org/view/63346/would-plans-for-brookland-manor-mean-fewer-affordable-apartments-yes-if-you-look-closely>). In other words, Mid City is promising more senior units than are needed, leaving many non-senior residents without a home; and for those non-senior residents who are lucky enough to find a home, they will be broken up from their senior family members.

The Brookland Manor/Brentwood Village Resident's Association asked MidCity to work with them to obtain money from the DC Housing Production Trust Fund to keep 535 units affordable at their current bedroom sizes. Ms. Elliot, the president the Brookland Manor Resident's Association was quoted last year in the Washington Post stating that:

"When the Brookland Manor planned unit development (PUD) came before the zoning commission, hundreds of us showed up to oppose the plan. I testified that it could be a win-win — provided the existing 535 units were maintained at current size and subsidy in exchange for the lucrative density increase. Instead, the zoning commission sided with MidCity, refusing even to require a 'no-displacement' pledge. We had no choice but to file a lawsuit appealing the

commission's decision. The Court of Appeals sided with the developer and the District to greenlight our displacement. This shows just how disposable poor Black and brown people are under current policy."

The PUD should be considered a public benefit but instead, it undermined DC's affordable housing crisis and did not account for the residents' health, safety, and welfare. From this example, which is one of many in the District, we can see that under the current leadership, the Zoning Commission has been dismissive of impacted residents and deferential to developers during the hearing process. Additionally, the Commission has perpetuated structural racism by failing to assess project impacts on low-income residents in both the direct and surrounding communities.

I urge the Council to vote NO on Anthony Hood and other nominees who will continue the city's status quo of Black displacement. Instead I urge you to call on the Mayor to choose candidates with demonstrated experience advancing equitable development, racial equity and deeply affordable housing. Due to the lack of gender and geographic diversity in the Zoning Commission, the Council should prioritize Black Women in Wards 7 and/or 8.

**Testimony for the Record of the Committee of the Whole Hearing on PR24-557,
“Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 2022”**

April 25, 2022

Submitted by Chris Williams, DC Grassroots Planning Coalition

I am here today to testify in opposition to the reconfirmation of Anthony Hood to the DC Zoning Commission. I support the position of many opposing Mr. Hood’s renomination, that i) his tenure has been characterized by poor leadership, which can be reasonably characterized as perpetuating racial violence against African Americans in the District of Columbia, ii) Council must disrupt the status quo, and iii) that the Zoning Commission has acquiesced to developers and the Office of Planning against public interest.

I reserve my statement for the ways in which the Zoning Commission has conducted affairs inconsistent with Zoning Regulations related to design review. Based on D.C. Municipal Regulations, the DC Zoning Commission regulations could not be clearer regarding the purpose of design review cases. It "allow(s) for special projects to be approved by the Zoning Commission after a public hearing and a finding of no adverse impact". Multiple projects in SW and the District have received this designation without a public hearing to assess impact, much less a finding of no adverse impact.” Let me be clear a finding of no adverse impact must be established **PRIOR** to the designation of design review. The Zoning Commission is not doing this. In fact, in the development at 4th and South Capitol, Anthony Hood recognized adverse community impact to Southwest with gentrification and displacement and encourage the developer to consider adding more affordable units, which totaled less than ten units in a 400 unit development. Many during today’s testimony have talked about Mr. Hood’s manners, likeability, and good humor, but these are not legitimate reasons for reconfirmation. We must evaluate Mr. Hood on his record and the legal standard. It is clear that under Mr. Hood’s leadership the Zoning Commission has flouted Zoning regulations on design review to perpetuate policies hardening Black displacement and gentrification in this city. In fact, it is highly improbable that the Zoning Commission can establish a reasonable finding of no adverse impact for design review cases given the acute forms of structural racism.

It is for these reasons that Anthony Hood should not be reappointed.

Sincerely,
Chris Williams

Committee of the Whole (Council)

From: Chris Williams <chriswilliams06@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 2:33 PM
To: dcoz@dc.gov; DCOZ-ZCSubmissions@dc.gov; anthony.hood@dc.gov; Henderson, Christina (Council); Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Committee of the Whole (Council)
Cc: Racine, Karl (OAG); Gunston, Emily (OAG); Swaruup, Vikram (OAG)
Subject: Fwd: If ZC Issues Order, It Will Break the Law

I am resending this April 2021 email to Mr. Hood on the Zoning Commission's violations of its regulations on designating design review. Please enter this email in the record with respect to my testimony opposing his reconfirmation.

Sincerely,
Chris

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Chris Williams** <chriswilliams06@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Apr 18, 2021 at 2:28 PM
Subject: If ZC Issues Order, It Will Break the Law
To: <dcoz@dc.gov>, <DCOZ-ZCSubmissions@dc.gov>, <anthony.hood@dc.gov>
Cc: Racine, Karl (OAG) <karl.racine@dc.gov>, Gunston, Emily (OAG) <Emily.Gunston@dc.gov>, Swaruup, Vikram (OAG) <Vikram.Swaruup@dc.gov>

Dear Chairman Hood,

Recently, the Zoning Commission approved two "design review" cases in Southwest (20-18 and 20-14). Your commission did not follow the law in approving those cases. You have not yet issued the final orders and I am alerting the Attorney General's Office (copied) in case you believe that defying the laws of the District are in your best interest.

Based on D.C. Municipal Regulations ([View here](#)), the DC Zoning Commission regulations could not be clearer regarding the purpose of design review cases. It "allow(s) for special projects to be approved by the Zoning Commission **after** a public hearing and a **finding of no adverse impact**".

The Zoning Commission had no such hearing and made no such finding. To prevent developers from applying for permits for these properties without a final order, you need to re-open this case and deny the request for a design review designation.

~Chris

Committee of the Whole (Council)

From: Parisa Norouzi <parisa@empowerdc.org>
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 9:42 AM
To: Committee of the Whole (Council); Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Cc: Parisa Norouzi
Subject: Testimony of Ms Minnie Elliott

Testimony for the Record of the Committee of the Whole Hearing on PR24-557, “Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 2022”

April 25, 2022

Submitted by Ms Minnie Elliott, Brookland Manor/Brentwood Village Residents Association

My name is Minnie Elliot and I am the president of the Brookland Manor Brentwood Village Residents Association in Ward 5. I oppose Anthony Hood's reappointment to the DC zoning commission.

Mr. Hood has rubber stamped hundreds of development projects including at my home, Brookland Manor, that have directly contributed to the displacement of nearly 60,000 black families from DC over the last 20 years. He has turned his back on us and sided with developers.

At Brookland Manor he rubberstamped the developer's plan without requiring them to bring back hundreds of affordable family units, and approved \$47 Million in taxpayer dollars. Mr Hood and the Zoning Commission did not come up with a way to hold the developer accountable for "minimizing displacement." They are allowing it to happen.

Also troubling to me is that Mr. Hood defers to the office of planning which carries out the Mayor's development agenda, and he failed to uphold key mandates in the comprehensive plan. The council must vote NO on Anthony Hood.

**Testimony for the Record of the Committee of the Whole Hearing on PR24-557,
“Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 2022”**

April 25, 2022

Submitted by Parisa Norouzi, Executive Director, Empower DC

“The zoning commission, obviously, is nervous about what we're doing because for the last 20 plus years, and I like Anthony Hood on a personal level, for the last 20 plus years they've been going at it with the result that there's been more displacement of DC residents, particularly black and brown, than any other jurisdiction in the country. So, yes, I'm sure they're a little concerned because we see things differently. Our public interest mandate is to stand up for vulnerable residents, not escort them out of town.”

- *Attorney General Karl Racine, Kojo Nnamdi Show, Dec 17, 2021*

I am here today to testify in opposition to the reconfirmation of Anthony Hood to the DC Zoning Commission. Mr Hood has served on the Commission since 1998 - nearly 25 years. His tenure corresponds with the District losing 60,000 Black residents due to gentrification related displacement. If stopping displacement is in fact a priority of the DC Council, the Council must disrupt the status quo and ensure new leadership on the Zoning Commission that has the expertise and ability to lead the District towards a more equitable future.

Clearly the issues of concern don't rest at Mr Hood's feet alone, however, as the most tenured member and the zoning chair, he is in a position of leadership. During the oversight hearings Mr Hood repeatedly talked about his concerns about gentrification, the need for housing that is more affordable, and even admitted that for years (years during his tenure) people have been adversely impacted.

Yet these admissions are no consolation when, under Mr Hood's leadership, the Commission has no articulated vision or plan to address these issues, and exhibits total deference to developers and to the Office of Planning. The Zoning Commission is meant to be an Independent body, and is to receive analysis from OP but not to be under their direction. Instead, the Zoning Commission operates as just another arm of the Administration's development apparatus.

When someone serves a post like this one for 25 years, they become ingrained in the system, and serve to perpetuate - not disrupt - that system. They develop relationships, long term relationships, with powerful development interests, represented by high paid attorneys, who dominate the realm of Zoning. They become distanced from the people they are there to represent. It becomes a monopoly - “the exclusive possession, control, or exercise of something.”

While community members and activists have been demonized for bringing zoning appeals, those actions were a result of Hood's own inaction. Yes, he says all the right things about affordable housing - but every time, he votes with developers and moves forward projects which perpetuate the conditions he claims to despise. It's almost as if we are expected to be comforted by the facade of concern alone, and not question his actions because he was so nice and friendly about it.

It disturbs me deeply when Mr Hood admits, as he did at the oversight hearing, that while he talked about gentrification for years he was, "told that wasn't in our purview." Someone independently minded, someone with vision, someone willing to disrupt the status quo wouldn't have given up that cause so easily.

Hood also admits that it was the courts, in the Barry Farm case of which I played a role, that set the law straight - the Zoning Commission is in fact charged with considering the impacts of gentrification and displacement. Imagine what might have been had Hood and the Zoning Commission done this during all of those years of rapid development and displacement. Maybe we would not have lost so many families, so many Native Washintonians, had that been the case.

But even now that Hood says the courts have set him straight, what is being done differently? Not much. The Council doubled down with the amended Comprehensive Plan, requiring racial equity analysis before each zoning decision. What has Hood done to implement this? He's again deferred to the Office of Planning for the analysis, an agency under the direct charge of a Mayor who did not support the racial equity requirement to begin with.

The Zoning Commission plays an important role in the development process. It is required to follow the Comprehensive Plan. But the DC Council, which approves the Comp Plan and the Commission members, pays little attention to what is happening at zoning... and reappoints the same person, year after year, without putting much weight behind its decision.

We call on the Council to use its authority to usher in new leadership to the Zoning Commission that is representative of the needs of the District - with more Black and brown people, women, people from Ward 7 & 8, and new voices with expertise in equitable development and racial equity.

We can not keep doing the same thing and expecting a different result. Or maybe the DC Council is satisfied with the status quo of Black displacement? This vote will tell us the answer. Vote no.

**To: Chairman Phil Mendelson Committee of the Whole
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20004**

**Mahdi Leroy J. Thorpe, Jr., LGSW, LPC
5/25/22 Testimony for PR 24-557, “Zoning
Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation
Resolution of 2022.”**

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman:

My Name is Mahdi Leroy J. Thorpe, Jr., I am President of the Shaw East Central Civic Association and Chairman of Shaw COPE – Citizens Organized patrol Efforts Red hats Patrol. I bear witness thee is no God except Allah and Prophet Muhmmad PBBUH is his profit.

I want to thank you Mr. Chairman for your years of services and the working relationship we have developed. I also want to thank your staff one of best in government.

CI have keen knowing Anthon Hood for decades and first met him when former DC Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly appointed me to run the Community Patrol Support office out her constituent Services Office in the Reeves Office Building. I was tasked with the duties of assisting at that time volunteer green hats, red hats, white hats yellow hats and orange hats patrol is int the city fighting crime and drugs. I founded the community patrol concept in DC with my red hats patrols and Anthony Hood wad of the first orange hat patrols in NE DC.

I have to rise above all these white libers testifying today attacking Mr. Hood as if they are the savior of black people – why don’t they go out in the community and deal with youth and crime. Mr. Hood is a role

model for black youth's he is very competent, a family man, grandfather, and married – you won't; see him hanging at clubs or being involved in scams giving contracts to his girlfriends because he is happily married. These folks attacking Mr. Hood should be lobbying Mayor Bowser to appointment more strong men like Mr. Hood on boards and commissions to role model for our young black males. Mr. Hood is only one vote on the Board of Zoning and these folks should be targeting the mayor for appointments not Mr. Hood.

Let add that the mayor has provide amenities in this city for mostly white people i.e... dog parks, bike lanes and beer gardens while her public polices have forced blacks out of DC into Maryland and West Virginia. Mayor Bower has ignored black people in DC and her power is controlled by white money in this city which dictates her politics adversely affecting people of color.

Nevertheless, I support the Mr. Hoods confirmation to the Zoning Commission. I would also advise Mr. Hood and the Board of Zoning to be aware of minority contractors such as Blue Skye, Smoot and McCullough whom have pimped black neighborhoods and have not given appropriate amenities to impacted black populations in Shaw i.e., Blue Skye Parcel 42 project at 7th & Rhode Island Ave, NW.

Respectively,



Mahdi Leroy J. Thorpe, Jr. LGSW, LPC

1704 5th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20001

(202) 286-5474

Testimony Submitted on 4/26/22

April 25, 2022

PR 24-557, "Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 2022."

Sandra "SS" Seegars
1107 Savannah St., SE
Washington, DC 20032
202-561-6616

I am Sandra "SS" Seegars, resident of Ward 8. I am here to support PR 24-557, "Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 2022."

I have been before Mr. Hood on several occasions. I find him to be attentive, fair, honest, and accommodating to those of us who do not quite understand the zoning regulations. He also tries to educate those who come before him. He does so without being bias. Understanding the regulations is not an easy task, which is why the Commission has tutorials and handbooks. I have also sat through many hearings of others. It seems that many of those who come before the Commission do not know the zoning regulations, or they do not understand them. It seems they believe that because they want something a certain way, the Commission has the authority to do it, even if it violates the regulations. What the public needs to do is try to have the regulations amended or stricken if they really feel they are not serving fairly.

Some are going to say that Mr. Hood is personally the blame for gentrification. They too are disregarding the regulations that Mr. Hood must follow. There are other agencies that should be assisting residents when it comes to affording the housing in new developments, such as, put more money in the Housing Trust Fund at Department of Housing and Community Development, provide suggestions at the Office on Planning that would accommodate low income resident, insist that HUD issues more vouchers under the Housing Choice Vouchers Program, get the rental laws at the Rental Housing Commission more in line with low to moderate residents, lower the AMI in the Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) Program, or amend the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital area to be more sensitive to low to moderate income residents. Mr. Hood does not regulate any of those. He merely regulates land and building usage.

Mr. Hood has acquired the knowledge needed to continue as a Commissioner, thereby, changing him now would not be beneficial to anyone. I am asking the Council to reappoint Mr. Hood.

That ends my testimony.

ANC COMMISSIONER RENÉE BOWSER TESTIMONY OPPOSING

ANTHONY HOOD RECONFIRMATION TO CHAIR DC ZONING COMMISSION

Good afternoon, Chairman Mendelson and all members and staff of the Committee of the Whole. My name is Renée Bowser and I am testifying today as a member of Empower DC, DC Grassroots Planning Coalition Steering Committee, and Single Member District 4D02 Petworth Commissioner. I am testifying against the reconfirmation of Zoning Commission Chair Anthony Hood. I oppose the reconfirmation of Mr. Hood because he has crafted the Zoning Commission as a tool in total support of developers no matter the cost to District residents in the path of development with the result that tens of thousands of Black and Brown residents have been displaced from this City! I want to be clear that Mr. Hood and his Zoning Commission are not the sole architects of government-led displacement of working class and poor residents from our City, but the Commission's decisions have had substantial impact in making the District one of the most gentrified cities in our nation.

The Zoning Commission (Commission) is tasked to use independent judgment to analyze the law and facts of zoning cases. The laws the Commission must analyze include the Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan), Small Area Plans (SAPs), and the laws pertaining to Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) when PUDS are under consideration. The DC Court of Appeals stated in Durant v. DC Zoning Commission, 99 A.3d 253, 261 (D.C. 2014) that “the Commission may balance competing priorities in order to evaluate whether a project would be inconsistent with the [Comp] Plan as a whole.” The court described its function in reviewing Zoning Commission action “is to assure that the agency has given full and reasoned consideration to all material facts and issues.” Id. at 259. But the court “can only perform this function when the agency discloses the basis of its order by an articulation with reasonable clarity of its reasons for the decision.” Id.

Time after time, however, the court of appeals found that Mr. Hood and his Zoning Commission did not independently evaluate the evidence before it. Quite the opposite, the court found “serious ground for concern that the Commission’s orders” did “not reflect careful and independent consideration by the Commission of the findings and conclusions that the intervenor [developer] submitted.” Cummins v. DC Zoning Commission, 229 A.3d 768, 776 (D.C. 2020). Instead, many times, Mr. Hood’s Commission adopted nearly verbatim the findings and conclusions that developers submitted for consideration, sometimes even adopting almost all of the grammatical and typographical errors in developers’ proposed orders. Cummins, 229 A.3d at 776-78;¹ Durant, 99 A.3d at 256-58.² Mr. Hood’s Commission followed the same practice of adopting nearly verbatim the

¹ Court found Commission’s inaccurate references to medium density residential areas cannot be explained away because references are essential predicate for detailed discussion of Commission’s reasons for concluding PUD is consistent with FLUM designation. Cummins, 229 A.3d at 778.

² Commission’s order was adopted essentially verbatim from developer’s proposed order which led the Commission to inaccurately characterize project as moderate density even though the project was medium density and to fail to even reference any of plaintiffs’ objections. Durant, 993d at 257.

developer's proposal in Barry Farm Tenants and Allies Assn v. DC Zoning Commission, 182 A.3d 1214, 1221, 1224 (D.C. 2018).

Equally disturbing, Mr. Hood and his Zoning Commission disregarded the various laws that must be considered in reaching a considered decision, including examining possible adverse impacts of PUD projects. Most striking is how Mr. Hood's Commission handled the PUD process involving the residents of Barry Farm. The PUD process requires the Commission to judge, balance, and reconcile the relative value of the project amenities and public benefits offered, the degree of development incentives requested, and any potential adverse effects according to the specific circumstances of the case. Barry Farm, 182 A.3d at 1220. The policy of Far Southeast and Southwest Area Element of the Comp Plan was to ensure one-for-one replacement of public housing units on the Barry Farm site. Yet the developer proposed and Mr. Hood's Commission approved the project even though it would place 100 housing units off-site. Id. at 1229-30. Further, even though the Barry Farm Small Area Plan called for one-third public housing units, one-third workforce units, and one-third market rate units, Mr. Hood and his Commission unanimously approved the PUD with a majority market rate units, claiming that such affordability levels were generally consistent with the SAP. Id. at 1227. The court rejected the Commission's reasoning that making the majority of housing market rate was "generally consistent" with the SAP's affordability mix of one-third market rate. Id.

Mr. Hood's Commission also concluded that relocation of residents during the Barry Farm redevelopment process was outside Commission purview even though the Commission is mandated to consider potential adverse effects when evaluating a PUD application. Barry Farm, 182 A.3d at 1228-29. Rejecting the Commission's conclusion, the court said "the relocation issue is central to [residents'] everyday lives" and therefore "must be attuned to the realities" of the city's housing market and the fact that many residents have already been displaced from other parts of the city. Id. at 1230. In its remand, the court in Barry Farm cautioned the Zoning Commission to more fully consider and explain its determinations. Id.

In these and other cases, Mr. Hood's Zoning Commission simply did not acknowledge or give adequate consideration to any adverse effect or any tension with conflicting Comp Plan polices, SAPs, or PUD requirements that, by law, impact the development projects that the Commission was tasked to evaluate. This Commission's methodology of adopting nearly verbatim the position of the developers as Commission orders does not foster reasoned and independent judgment needed to tackle development in DC. DC Council should not reappoint a Zoning Commission Chairman who gives so little consideration to residents who are struggling to maintain a stake in our rapidly gentrifying city. Thank you.

April 25, 2022

Renée L. Bowser, SMD 4D02 Commissioner, (202) 882-1733,
Renee.Bowser@anc.dc.gov, [@ReneeLBowser](https://www.twitter.com/ReneeLBowser)

Testimony of Nick DelleDonne
Dupont East Civic Action Association,
Before Committee of the Whole Hearing:
Zoning Commission Nomination:
Phil Mendelson, Chair
Monday, April 25, 2022

Good afternoon, Chair Phil Mendelson and Council members. Thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Nick DelleDonne and I am president of the Dupont East Civic Action Association (DECAA), which is dedicated to community engagement and civic action. I am a member of the DC Grassroots Planning Coalition Steering Committee.

Today I urge the Council to reject Anthony Hood's reappointment as Zoning Commission Chair and advance the mandate for racial equity in DC development. Under Hood's 25-year tenure, the Commission has rubber stamped hundreds of large development projects that have directly contributed to the displacement of nearly 60,000 Black residents from DC over the past 20 years, earning DC the title "most rapidly gentrifying city."

The Zoning Commission is a key decision-making body in development and land use. The Commission is responsible for carrying out the mandates of the Comprehensive Plan in its development decisions.

But, while the Council was debating the Comp Plan, Mr. Hood in his capacity at Zoning Chair and representing the Commission wrote to this body urging passage of the Mayor's proposed Comp Plan asserting a backlog of cases before the Zoning. Hood ignored the fact that he had before him an existing Comp Plan that was in fact the law of the land and ignored his obligation to apply it before passage of the Comp Plan Amendment. It is a grievous ethical misstep for an agent of the Executive Branch of DC government to lobby the Legislative Branch when he should be impartial. It is an example why we urge you to reject his nomination.

Fortunately, the amended Comprehensive Plan passed last year established in the Council a new Office of Racial Equity (CORE). We ask the Council to request a Racial Equity Impact Assessment from CORE on Hood's nomination. Although confirmation resolutions are exempted,

Council rules allow members to request a REIA on any matter under their purview.

Only 3 of the 5 Zoning Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor - the others represent Federal interests. We urge the Council to call on Mayor Bowser to nominate those with demonstrated experience advancing equitable development, racial equity and deeply affordable housing. We also urge the Council to prioritize Black women who live in Wards 7 or 8, as the body currently lacks gender and geographic diversity.

Margaret Dwyer
Ward 3 Housing Justice
April 25, 2022

Testimony before the Committee of the Whole on the reappointment of Anthony Hood to the Zoning Commission

I am testifying today on behalf of [Ward 3 Housing Justice](#), a grassroots group organizing for affordable housing in Rock Creek West.

We were very involved with the effort to craft the amended Comprehensive Plan, and we are committed to the implementation of the provisions within it for development to advance racial equity, prevent displacement and include deeply affordable housing. In particular, we believe there can be no compromise to the requirement that all activities related to the plan be viewed and evaluated through a racial equity lens. Nowhere is this more important than at the Zoning Commission, a key decision-making body for crucial matters related to development and land use.

Over the past twenty years, over 60,000 Black DC residents have been displaced by development projects that have not been guided by a racial equity lens. Going forward, we need a Zoning Commission that demonstrates more independence from the Office of Planning and more commitment to applying a racial equity lens in all matters that come before it.

We urge the Council to call on Mayor Bowser to nominate people to the Zoning Commission with demonstrated experience advancing equitable development, racial equity and deeply affordable housing. The Council must vote no on any nominees without a history of demonstrated accomplishments in these areas. We also support the call to prioritize the nominations of Black women who live in Wards 7 or 8, as the Commission currently lacks gender and geographic diversity.

We recognize that Mr. Hood has served for over twenty years on the Zoning Commission, and we thank him for his service, but we urge you to vote no on his nomination. To be clear, our objection is not personally aimed at Mr. Hood. We believe that it is time for a clean break with past policies that oversaw the displacement of so many Black residents and the gentrification of so many Black neighborhoods.

It is time for new leadership at the Zoning Commission.

Thank you.

On the Re-Appointment of Anthony Hood as Chair of the DC BZA - April 25, 2022 City Council COW Hearing

I'm opposed since, over the last two decades and more, there has been a significant displacement of legacy residents, mainly Black and Brown residents, due to the high-density development and gentrification that the Mayor and BZA in general and Mr. Hood in particular, has shown little or no concern.

As the sole pro-se litigant and one of the many 200-footers against the PUD for the EYA development of the property at the Josephite Seminary, the BZA, in my opinion, took more interest in accommodating the developers for the sake of the new and prospective residents that have yet to come.

The attorneys representing the BZA presented an argument against my concerns over gentrification as insignificant and moot since that was a policy that was, already, an acceptable practice for so many years in this city.

For the 31 years that I've resided in Ward 5, my sense of value as a Black city resident is further diminished as I'm seeing an increased attention and response from the city to the new "gentry" as they fill into our neighborhoods as something extremely rare as my experiences as a legacy resident.

Meanwhile, on the EYA development of the Josephite Seminary, I see only non-DC-contractors and workers working the development as EYA is based in Bethesda, MD.

Far too little or no employment nor citizen tax benefits for me and my community from this and other developments - Oh, except for the chair of my ANC who should have been recused from weighing in on the particular PUD consideration since there is, in my opinion, a conflict of interest since that chairman is, I believe, is also an appointed city official who is benefitting from a six-figure salary.

Shame on the leadership of this city and on Mr. Hood, in part, for leading the charge.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorenz A. Wheatley

Shirley Rivens Smith
2000 Upshur St., NE
Washington, DC 20018
srsusasc@gmail.com
202-635-3138
202-321-3582 (cell)

Good morning, Chairman Mendelson

My name is Shirley Rivens Smith, I live in Ward 5 and is president of the North Woodridge Citizens Organization.

I am here this afternoon in support of Anthony Hood Confirmation to the Zoning Commission.

When I was young, our working families were friends and members of Greater First Baptist Church. Anthony Hood is still a member of Greater First Baptist Church.

I am eighty years old and I think Anthony Hood is in his 50's. The first time I had contact with him was when I move back home to take care of my mother after my father passed. At that time, he was president of the Woodridge Civic Association. I had lived and was active in Ward 4 for almost 20 years and didn't know about the strong connections of Ward 5. Hood was very engaged and helped people moving to the community to understand about the different organizations including the ANCs. He encouraged me to get involved in my neighborhood and introduced me neighbors and various community leaders.

With his encouragement I became a Ward 5 ANC Commissioner in the early 2000's. Because he was raised in Ward 5, he knows the history of people and our neighborhoods.

When I think of a person who is the pillar of character in Washington, DC. Anthony Hood comes to my mind because of his honesty, respect and fairness to people, caring and showing responsibility to and for our community.

Anthony Hood was born and raised in DC. He is and has volunteered, worked and support this community and city all of his life.

I strongly support Anthony Hood confirmation to the Zoning Commission.

Holly Muhammad
Advisory Commission 8A
Washington DC 20020
8a01@anc.dc.gov
202-422-4957
April 25, 2022

- **PR 24-557, Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 2022**

My name is Holly Muhammad I am an ANC Commissioner for ANC 8A. I would first like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to voice **my support for Mr. Anthony Hood**, a long standing committed public servant for our community.

I am here to support the re-appointment of Anthony Hood as the Chairman of the Zoning Commission. I have appeared before Mr. Hood many times at the Zoning Commission. He is fair and balanced in his decisions. He has supported the maintaining of our Black communities as much as possible while being the sole voice on the Commission in support of. No, we don't always get what we want but Mr. Hood is ONE vote on the Zoning Commission. He is not the problem. The problem is the so-called Smart Growth proponents and Smart Growth policies that are being promoted by those on the Zoning Commission and our D.C. Office of Planning. These so-called Smart Growth policies promote gentrification and is a tool that City Planners use in this city and across the country to eliminate Black people from the Inner-cities.

The gentrification that is taking place in this city was planned and written long before Mr. Hood was ever appointed to the Zoning Commission and there was not a Man that looks like Mr. Hood at the table during the planning. This gentrification that is hurting our city is by design and we will not sit back and allow those that lack knowledge to lay the burden of gentrification in his lap.

The Council must vote YES to confirm to re-appointment Mr. Hood as Chairman of the Zoning Commission. Mr. Hood is a positive role model for our young Black men. I am in support of Black women in leadership roles but not at the expense of our Black men. It does not have to be one or the other.

A vote of YES for the only Black man in a leadership position on the Zoning Commission IS a vote for racial equity in the District of Columbia.

Thank you.

ANTHONY MUHAMMAD

To: Chairman Mendelson, DC City Council April 23,2022

From: Anthony Muhammad

Ref. Confirmation Mr. Hood

Peace be unto you, Councilmember Mendelson, I'm Anthony Muhammad, a 3rd generation Washingtonian, I've live in every section of Washington DC, and I've been involved with the community from public schools, to been an ANC, a Ward Committeeman, CAC President etc..... a little over 60years.

I've known Mr. Hood from day one, on the Zoning Commission, of his 24 years on the Commission. Yes, he should be re-appointed. I ask Mr. Hood why is it a "liquor store on every corner in the Black Community, and a Church right by it". He said, it's all about how it is Zoned, this was the first time I found out how a community could be systematically blighted. So we invited Mr. Hood to our ANC meetings to educate the community on how, old Ward 8, was zoned R5, and the more influential communities were zoned R3. So, Mr. Hood brought the Title 11 zoning regulation, He, show us how from the height of the sealing, in your house, to the height of the fence, around your house, is regulated, by a regulation from Zoning.

We had many community meetings where Mr. Hood was the only person, from zoning, that would come to our community meetings . We would have many late night meetings at the zoning hearings, about projects that did not want to give the community a CBA, (Community Benefit Agreement) that we worked through, with Mr. Hood's help, for free.

Mr. Hood is an upright man, and has done the best he could with the tools he has, to keep the city moving in a progressive minor. There is not another person, that has the knowledge of DC City Zoning Regulations more than Mr. Hood. Yes Re-appoint Mr. Hood to the Zoning Commission.

Lloyd J. Jordan's Testimony
PR24-557, Zoning Commission Anthony Hood
Confirmation Resolution of 2022

Mr. Chairman and committee, thank you for allowing me to testify regarding Anthony Hood's nomination to the Zoning Commission.

The Zoning Commission's city members are volunteers. The Commission is not their job. Like the rest of us, they have to meet the regular life demands to provide for their families. But unlike the rest of us, a Commissioner has volunteered to take on the thankless job of being an adjudicator of the District Zoning laws. Most people do not understand the commitment and time to serve on a zoning board. Most people only know what they see in observing the actual zoning hearing.

Being a member of the Zoning Commission and the Board of Zoning Adjustment (collectively "Zoning Boards") is time-consuming and impacts your family, your real job, and your freedom. The time to review one case is daunting. Before the hearing date, a Zoning Board member must read and understand the proponent's filing, plans, statements, exhibits, expert reports, and amendments. They must read and understand any opposition documents and expert reports. The Office of Plannings report must be read and understood, and the reports from other DC agencies like the DDOT. The Zoning member must read and understand any documents submitted by the ANC. Added to this list of required intense studies are the documents from those granted party status for or against, and these positions may include expert reports. But the member's prehearing preparation is still not done. Before the hearing, the zoning adjudicator must read and understand the report of its attorney, which will analyze all the other information mentioned. A good estimate of time would be 4-5 hours per case. On the BZA level, I know my Saturdays and Sundays for at least 8-hours each day were spent reviewing cases for the next week's docket. You can multiply this prehearing time by two for a Zoning Commissioner's review.

DC's Zoning laws are codified. The laws have been developed and scrutinized on many levels from public input,¹ DC Council review, and sometimes by the DC Court of Appeals. In this framework, the Zoning Commission must regulate the height and bulk, lot occupancy of buildings, location of uses, and prevent undue population concentration and overcrowding of land. Commissioners do have limited regulatory law powers. There are times when the law dictates a certain decision that is opposite of the member's personal belief, yet the decision must follow the law. These responsibilities cannot be taken lightly.

¹ I wish there was more members of the public who would take the time to participate in preparing the zoning laws on the front end rather than commenting when it is real to late.

This is why Anthony Hood's nomination needs to be confirmed. Before being a member of the BZA, I did not know Anthony Hood. But from my time of observing him and working with him, I enthusiastically support him for the position. With all the federal involvement in the DC zoning process, the competing and diverse interests of our citizens, the challenges to providing affordable housing, and the economic pressure on the District, there is no one better suited to be the protector of the people of the District than Anthony Hood.

Anthony is intelligent, studious, courteous, patient, and compassionate. He sees all sides of the issue and understands the requirements of the Zoning laws. He has other qualities I have seen that have been a plus in zoning. He brings his personality, character, upbringing, and education, life experiences, work habits, and behavior to the table when interacting with people and cases. I have seen him be the voice of reason and calm when all others are confused and stuck in controversy. I want to publicly thank Mr. Hood for his dedication to this City and the sacrifices he has made over the years to ensure that DC remains a diverse, viable city.

District of Columbia City Council Committee of the Whole
Testimony of Shontá High, President of the Council @ Park Morton
Monday, April 25, 2022

Thank you to the Committee of the Whole for the opportunity to speak today. I would like to state that my interactions with Mr. Hood have not been productive in recent years pertaining to Park Morton. The most recent action was during the Zoning Commission Hearing where Mr. Hood ask for me and my team to provide a "Racial Equity Tool" to the Zoning Commission as they did not have one. That is according to Mr. Hood's recorded statement. My team and I worked diligently to complete and provide this "Racial Equity Tool" only for Mr. Hood to completely ignore it and side with the plans of Holland and Knight.

This truly believe this ultimately means the total displacement of Park Morton residents at the hands of Mr. Anthony Hood, the Deputy Mayor's Office on Planning and Economic Development, Mayor Muriel Bowser, the New Communities Initiative Councilwoman Brienne Nadeau, Ward 1 ANC Michael Wray, & the (former) Chairman of ANC1A, Kent Boese. How can we close the wealth gap if we are continuing to do the same actions with the same people that are allowing this?

On August 16, 2021, a news report on MSNBC showed that there is a \$1.6 trillion dollar revenue gap for small black owned businesses & a wealth gap of \$220 billion between white and black families. Removing Mr. Anthony Hood will assist with moving forward with closing this gap with the right person filling in the position.

I ask this Committee of the Whole, "What is the purpose of the citizens of this city speaking on what they want for their communities only to be ignored? What purpose does this committee of the whole serve to this city and its citizens if you completely ignore what we provide for you when asked? Why put us through the painstaking process of creating such a useful and workable too only for it to be ignored by the people who want to gentrify this city?"

Explain to me how citizens of this city from young adults to seniors continue to attend these meetings and express the disdain, disapproval, and the lack of care that this city has begun to show more rigorously against its disabled, low-income, senior, and working-class citizens? Even now rent is so high that one of our Park Morton seniors who is 74 years old and has been vouchered out of our community is still having to work in order to make ends meet. This is absolutely unacceptable.

Who are you actually working for? Because it's certainly not for the citizens of this city who have been asking for and pleading for your help. Elections prove to be the time that our voices are heard. Since we're the committee of the whole doesn't want to hear our voices now, they will see our votes will count later. Thank you.

Committee of the Whole (Council)

From: Ethan Pirk <ethan@wilsonpirk.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 24, 2022 11:22 AM
To: Committee of the Whole (Council)
Subject: 4/25 Council Hearing on Zoning Nominations

Ethan Pirk
SURJ-DC
April 25, 2022

Testimony before the Committee of the Whole on the reappointment of Anthony Hood to the Zoning Commission
.....

Thank you. My name is Ethan Pirk. I live in Ward 3 and I'm speaking on behalf of SURJ DC. SURJ DC is a chapter of Showing Up for Racial Justice, a national network of groups and individuals organizing white people for racial justice.

Community organizations and the Council have worked hard to develop a new Comprehensive Plan that would stem displacement and promote development that is more equitable. The Zoning Commission is a key decision making body and we need leadership that will carry out what the Council has worked so hard to build. Leadership that can also forge a path that follows Mayor Bowser's plan to create 12,000 new affordable homes by 2025. At the rate we're going, that number might never be reached.

In the past 25 years, we've had one development project after another create mostly market rate, small-unit apartment buildings that have ignored the growing need for affordable housing. Over 60,000 Black residents have been displaced by development projects that have not been guided by a racial equity lens. And many of those residents were from families who have lived here for generations. I want DC to be one of the best cities in the nation. Attracting high tax-paying gentrifiers has been the go-to plan for years. I know a city needs money, but money can't be the only thing we strive for. The soul of a city and treating its citizens with respect are also what make a city great.

Please withhold the approval of any candidate who keeps up the status quo of driving Black residents out of the city. Ask Mayor Bowser to appoint new nominees who could bring experience in advancing equitable development, racial equity and deeply affordable housing. I also support the call to bring gender and geographic diversity to the Zoning Commission.

Thank you.

Ethan Pirk
Ward 3

Ethan Pirk
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REPLY TO: ethan@wilsonpirk.com

Good morning/afternoon Chairman Mendelson and members of the committee of the Whole, My name is Reginald Black and I am a native Washingtonian ward 4 resident and the Executive Director of People for Fairness Coalition.

The People for Fairness Coalition (PFFC) is a group of homeless and formerly homeless men and women who have come together to fight for solutions that will address housing instability in the District of Columbia. Our mission is to end housing instability through our advocacy, outreach and peer mentoring.

We believe in the right to housing for all District of Columbia residents. To secure the right to housing for all residents the District of Columbia decisions in matters of zoning must be reflective of policy that advance racial equity and advance housing affordability to that i urge you to reconsider confirming mr hood for the zoning commission.

It is clear that community led initiatives like the ones represented here today should have had clear consideration in matters of zoning. Some of the decisions over recent years have not been fully explained nor have they considered the impacts of displacement and the reductions in affordable housing. One example of this is the continued and unaltered destruction of section 9 public housing units in the District of Columbia. In these particular cases Action H-1.4.E: Additional Public Housing comes to mind it states for the district to Support efforts by the DC Housing Authority DCHA's planning goals to use its authority to create 1,000 additional units of public housing units by studying the need for additional units and developing strategies to meet the needs of existing units., Use subsidized subsidies by funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD under the public housing Annual Contributions Contract (ACC), RAD, and other sources. This action is contingent on the availability of funds for a local rent subsidy to cover the annual operating costs for the new units. 506.1716. The properties of Barry farm park Morton etc zoning decisions clearly do not state this action step nor has the commission produced written evidence of how to achieve the net gain of 1,000 units of public housing within these projects residents have only been told they have no right to return. These decisions aren't not adequate enough to explain where the city progressed with housing element action H-1.4E.

Another disturbing fact is that zoning decisions have contributed to the exasperation of our housing crisis by not factoring in current stock and having data related to how the city addresses vacant rental units. In 2020 it was discovered that the District of Columbia had 10,000 vacant rental units in the city of which class A were some of the highest vacant. In 2021 that number jumped to 19,000 or so units. These numbers are not made up; they come from the [chief financial officer's economic trends report](#) which tracks such data every one to two months. Today as we speak there are currently 13,487 vacant units of which 13.4% of these vacant units are class A units. Zoning decisions with no clear focus on impacts including economic and revenue contribute to these facts. During the update to Homeward D.C. 2.0 it was discovered that roughly 10,000 or so residents touch the homeless services system which make leadership in zoning important those leaders must consider homelessness they must address displacement and make sure that the harm in communities is repaired.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

506.1716

Action H-1.4.E: Additional Public Housing

Support ~~efforts by the DC Housing Authority~~ **DCHA's planning goals** ~~to use its authority to create 1,000 additional units of~~ **for its public housing units by studying the need for additional units and developing strategies to meet the needs of existing units.** Use ~~subsidized subsidies~~ **by funding** from the ~~US Department of Housing and Urban Development~~ **HUD** under the public housing Annual Contributions Contract (ACC), **RAD, and other sources.** ~~This action is contingent on the availability of funds for a local rent subsidy to cover the annual operating costs for the new units.~~ 506.1716

Apartments

Vacancy rate for premium apartments (Class A) exceed average by a little over 5 percentage points.

- According to CoStar, for the quarter ending December, 2021, occupied apartments increased by 10,899 (7.8%) from the prior year. The overall vacancy rate fell to 8.2% and average rents increased 8.4%.
- In the fourth quarter 2021, Class A units accounted for 29.9% of all units in the city and 28.5% of occupied units.
- Over the past year effective rent in Class A apartments increased as well as for Class B and Class C.
- Vacancy rates at the end of December 2021: Class A 13.4%, Class B 8.7%, and Class C 5.6%. The rate for Class A and Class B decreased from last quarter, while that of Class C remained the same.
- There are 85 buildings under construction, adding 14,158 units to inventory; 81.6% of which is Class A properties that have the highest vacancy rate.

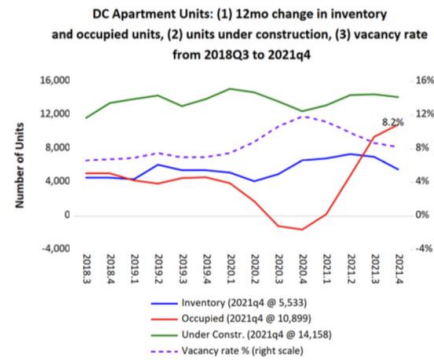


Table 14. Apartment Units in DC: 2016 to 2021q4

FY	Level				Change from prior year						Average Rent		1 yr ch in units under constr.
	Inventory	Occupied	Vacant	% vacant	inventory units	%ch	Occupied units	%ch	Vacant units	%ch	Effective rent per unit	1yr %ch	
2016	136,658	126,888	8,691	6.4	3,210	2.4	3,118	2.5	92	1.1	\$1,901	2.8	1,242
2017	141,821	130,460	10,190	7.2	5,163	3.8	3,572	2.8	1,499	17.2	\$1,911	0.5	180
2018	146,385	135,543	9,671	6.6	4,564	3.2	5,083	3.9	-519	-5.1	\$1,954	2.3	295
2019	151,845	140,093	10,530	6.9	5,460	3.7	4,550	3.4	859	8.9	\$1,997	2.2	1,400
2020	156,849	138,929	16,698	10.6	5,004	3.3	-1,164	-0.8	6,168	58.6	\$1,887	-5.5	558
2021	163,920	148,361	14,242	8.7	7,071	4.5	9,432	6.8	-2,456	-14.7	\$1,998	5.9	843
2021q4	164,963	150,159	13,487	8.2	5,533	3.5	10,899	7.8	-5,461	-28.8	\$2,004	8.4	1,675
1 Q ch	1,043	1,798	-755								\$6		

Source: CoStar. Vacant units include units not available for rental. Data is as of Jan 5, 2022

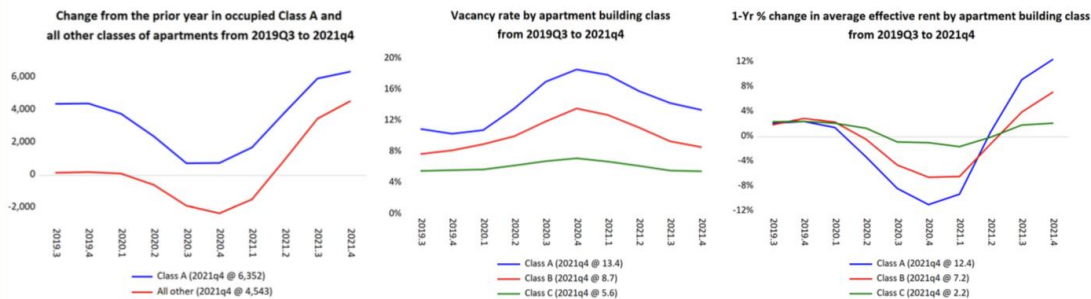


Table 15. Market rate apartment units in DC, Classes A, B, and C: 2021q4

Class	inventory					Occupied			Effective monthly rent		Under construction		
	Buildings	Number	1 yr ch	% ch	% vacant	Number	1 yr ch	% ch	\$ per month	1 yr % ch	Buildings	Units	Avg. size
Class A	218	49,410	4,635	10.4	13.4	42,780	6,352	17.4	2,611	12.4	44	11,555	263
Class B	953	56,496	971	1.7	8.7	51,598	3,626	7.6	1,904	7.2	40	2,595	65
Class C	2,004	58,882	-73	-0.1	5.6	55,614	917	1.7	1,401	2.2	1	8	8

Source: CoStar; includes units in privately-owned buildings with 5 or more units, including affordable units. Vacant rate includes units not available for rental. Sum of class A, B, and C may not equal total. Data is as of Jan 5, 2022.

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER ROBERT VINSON BRANNUM
ON THE NOMINATION OF ANTHONY HOOD
TO THE DC ZONING COMMISSION
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
APRIL 25, 2022

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I am Commissioner Robert Vinson Brannum. As I present my testimony on Mayor Bowser's nomination of Mr. Anthony Hood for reappointment to the Zoning Commission, I am reminded of words in a powerful gospel song, "Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come."

I come here today just as I am – not only as a Commissioner, but also as a friend of the Honorable Anthony Hood. I come today with a plea for the approval of Mr. Hood's confirmation to the Zoning Commission. Mr. Chairman, I will not recite or repeat the righteous qualifications of Mr. Hood because they are known to you and to others. However, let me proclaim to all within the hearing of these words, Mr. Hood has shed his community service blood for residents of the District. There have been comments and statements made against Mr. Hood which do not describe the man I know. I state clearly and for the record, neither I nor Mr. Hood take a backseat to anyone in the fight against racial injustice, racist gentrification, and displacement. This is not mine nor Mr. Hood's community service legacy and mission.

As a member of the Zoning Commission, Mr. Hood has been thoughtful, transparent, and open to the public's concerns. Mr. Hood weighs his decisions carefully as he

believes them to be in the best interests of the people of the District and in accordance with its rules and laws.

Any assertion Mr. Hood is insensitive to zoning issues related to gentrification and displacement is wrong. Let me add, Mr. Hood comes to this time of his service on the Zoning Commission rich in awareness, experience, and with an exemplary reputation. Mr. Hood rises with city-wide community adoration and respect for elevating service to the people of the District.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I say again, I come at this moment just as I am – biased against racism, bold in my opposition to bigotry, a marcher in the ongoing struggle against discrimination, but proudly, unapologetically in support of DC Statehood, and without hesitation, reservation, and as a friend – in strong support of the nomination of Mr. Anthony Hood to serve on the DC Zoning Commission, for he has done great things. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

#####



Testimony of Jeff Utz, Board of Directors, District of Columbia Building
Industry Association

Before the

Committee of the Whole

Chairman Phil Mendelson, Chair

Public Hearing

on

**Proposed Resolution 24-557, the Zoning Commission Anthony Hood
Confirmation Resolution of 2022, and**

**Proposed Resolution 24-576, the Board of Zoning Adjustment Lorna John
Confirmation Resolution of 2022**

April 25, 2022

12:00 pm

Good afternoon Chairman Mendelson, members of the Committee of the Whole, and staff. My name is Jeff Utz, and I am a member of the Board of Directors of the District of Columbia Building Industry Association (“DCBIA”). I am also a partner at the law firm Goulston & Storrs. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the nominations of Anthony Hood for reappointment to the Zoning Commission, and Lorna John for reappointment to the Board of Zoning Adjustment. DCBIA is pleased to voice its strong support for both of the reappointments before the Committee of the Whole today. We are equally pleased that both Mr. Hood and Ms. John have offered to continue their service to the citizens of the District of Columbia.

Commissioner Hood

Mr. Hood has dutifully served on the Zoning Commission for over 20 years and he has been the Chair of the Commission for the majority of that tenure. Throughout his years of dedicated service, Mr. Hood has exemplified what it means to serve the public and the District as a whole. He works diligently to ensure that the Commission’s review of the matters that come before it is conducted in a fair and evenhanded manner for all stakeholders, that all voices have an opportunity to be heard, and that all proceedings are in accordance with the Commission’s rules and applicable statutes and regulations. Under Chairman Hood’s stewardship it is assured that the Commission will conduct its business in

an orderly and open manner. Chair Hood is careful to ensure that the rights of all participants are appropriately protected and that the Commission's decisions are based on due consideration of all the information and evidence before it and the relevant legal standards, including ever evolving case law and updates to the Zoning Regulations themselves.

Chairman Hood is a staunch advocate for the public interest and participation in Commission proceedings. In particular, Mr. Hood maintains an ardent commitment to community outreach and engagement. Chairman Hood also, importantly, is purposeful in working to foster a collegial environment on the Commission that ensures open, robust debate and the exchange of views in reaching decisions. He shares his views freely and listens intently to the views of his fellow commissioners and those of the public, making the Zoning Commission a forum of reasoned decisions and an environment of mutual respect, even in difficult cases where views can differ greatly.

His years-long leadership on the Commission has been a true gift to the District and its citizens, and DCBIA wholeheartedly supports his continued service in this capacity.

Board Member John

DCBIA is also pleased to support Ms. John's reappointment to the Board of Zoning Adjustment, where Ms. John has served since 2018, including serving as

Vice Chair for a portion of that tenure. During her time, Ms. John has served as an important, steady and conscientious presence on the Board. Her diligent, consistent, and careful review of the full spectrum of projects that come before the Board has contributed greatly to the important work the Board does in reviewing applications and appeals. Ms. John's presence on the Board ensures that the Board's review of the matters before it is thorough, evenhanded, and in accordance with the legal standards that the Board is tasked with upholding. Like Mr. Hood, Ms. John encourages and enjoys a mutual respect among her fellow Board members and the public that ensures robust engagement. Importantly, Ms. John constantly pursues thoughtful consideration of cases that takes into account the views of all stakeholders and the relevant standards, along with the full extent of the evidence presented in each case.

In summary, on behalf of DCBIA I would like to reiterate our strong and unqualified support for the reappointment of both Mr. Hood and Ms. John. The citizens of the District would be well served by their continued service in their respective volunteer roles on the Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Adjustment.

* * *

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

PR 24-557 – “Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 2022”

Council for the District of Columbia: Committee of the Whole: April 25, 2022

Testimony in support from Paul A. Tummonds, Jr.; Director, Goulston & Storrs

Good afternoon Chairman Mendelson and Members of the Council. My name is Paul Tummonds. I am a Zoning and Land Use attorney at Goulston and Storrs and have been presenting cases to Chairman Hood since his first term on the Zoning Commission in 1998.

I am truly pleased to be here this afternoon on behalf of Goulston and Storrs to offer our strong and unqualified support for the re-appointment of Anthony Hood to the Zoning Commission. I am also here to offer our heartfelt gratitude to Chairman Hood for agreeing to extend his long history of service to the citizens of the District of Columbia, by continuing to serve in this very important position.

Since 1998, Chairman Hood has provided exemplary service to the District of Columbia through knowledgeable, fair, evenhanded, and diligent evaluation of zoning and planning issues that come before the Zoning Commission. Throughout his distinguished career, Chairman Hood has championed issues of critical importance to the Zoning Commission and to the District of Columbia. These issues include: enhanced commitments to the delivery of affordable housing, a commitment to making sure that all voices and opinions are heard in each and every case that comes before the Zoning Commission, and a commitment to balancing sometimes competing interests and contrary views.

I would like to take a minute to focus on three particular areas in which Chairman Hood’s leadership of the Zoning Commission is of paramount importance:

- 1) Affordable Housing. Chairman Hood has been a leader in pursuing policies and taking actions that have increased the amount and quality of new affordable housing units in the District of Columbia. Chairman Hood has also acknowledged that there is more work to be done, and I have no doubt that he will continue to move forward policies and procedures that will most effectively create more affordable housing units throughout the District.
- 2) Community Input. Chairman Hood is particularly attentive to the vital role that community stakeholders (whether they are Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, community organizations, or individual members of the community) play in all applications that come before the Commission. He is one of the first Commissioners to raise community issues and to routinely require applicants to return to discuss these issues with community stakeholders prior to the Commission moving forward.
- 3) Balancing Competing Interests and Contrary Views. Chairman Hood carefully considers all points of view and ensures that issues and concerns are fully addressed, in a meaningful and enforceable way, before making any decision. Chairman Hood pushes

the parties to work collegially and cooperatively to resolve their issues themselves. This is critical, because that dialogue and resolution often results in long-term mutual collective action by the parties as neighbors and peers. I will forever have imprinted in my brain Chairman Hood's encouragement to all applicants that come before the Zoning Commission to engage in a "Good Neighbor" policy.

Chairman Hood has always displayed his sincere commitment to making the District a better place to live, work, and play for existing and future residents. The citizens of the District, as well as members of the District of Columbia real estate development industry, will clearly be very well served with Chairman Hood's re-appointment to the Zoning Commission.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to answering any questions that you may have.

DRAFT
Committee of the Whole Public Hearing
Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 2022
Chairman Mendelson
Testimony of William H Jordan

Chairman Mendelson and Council my name is William Jordan a 30 plus year resident of DC's Columbia Heights community, former PTA officer, ANC Commissioner, activists, neighbor, husband and father. I am one who has benefited greatly from the love and support of the network of Black families who once anchored my neighborhood. Today, that network of Black families which formed the foundation of what should have been a Columbia Heights as a model for Equity and Racial Equity has been decimated. Decimated in large part to the actions and inactions of the Zoning Commission under Mr. Hood's leadership.

Given my experiences in Columbia Heights, I am here to register a vote of "No Confidence" in Mr. Hood's leadership. I am asking this committee to table Mr. Hood's re-nomination, until the following actions are completed:

- The Council's office of Racial Equity completes a Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) on the last 20 years of Zoning Commission actions, Mr. Hood's role and that of the Office of Planning.
- Upon completion of the REIA a public hearing be held on the REIA, Mr. Hood and the Office of Planning especially as it relates to PUDs, Map Amendments and etc.
- Zoning Commission completes the implementation of its Racial Equity Lens and Tools and public hearing held on its implementation of Lens and Tools.

Today in 2022, Columbia Heights (Ward 1) has become a model of inequity, racial and ethnic displacement. In the last 20 years nearly 50% of Ward 1 Black population and supporting institutions have been displaced. The racial inequity and the decimation of the Black family network today which hangs as a badge of shame on my community is due in large part to the ZC's broken PUD process. A process which is the modern for of the instrument of Urban Renewal commonly known as Negro Removal. The broken PUD process/system we have today occurred and continues today under the leadership of Chairman Hood.

Below I highlight 3 Zoning Cases which highlights the failure of the Commission, Mr. Hood's and OP's role.

- ZC 16-11, 16-12, (The Community Builders, TCB) – These cases relate to the Park Morton New Communities Initiative. 16-11 and 16-12 were setdown by the Commission as an interconnected pair. These cases together will good down as ZC's Plessey vs. Ferguson. As the cases stand today, they will set two dangerous precedents
 - Equity and Racial Equity principles will be rendered moot because the ZC will not consider the adverse impact of projects on racial equity.

DRAFT
Committee of the Whole Public Hearing
Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 2022
Chairman Mendelson
Testimony of William H Jordan

- Low and Moderate Income, Black Women head of households who live in public housing have no development rights that the development community must respect.
- 07-02, A,B,C (Donatelli Development) – Columbia Heights Highland Park project. This is my first real engagement with the ZC in particular as an ANC Commissioner. Lessons I learned.
 - A politically connected developer is basically above the law before the commission.
 - The PUD can be used to negate community benefits
 - The LaCasa Shelter was cut for 80 units to 40 units, the lost units converted to market rate rents. And stole units.
 - Family-sized units structurally eliminated.
 - OP outright lies with regards to affordability
- 10-26, A, B, C, D (Zuckerman Garvey) -Georgia Avenue. The ZC granted this developer 4 extension before the project was abandoned. However, the ZC excepted 10-26 as a comp in approving 16-11 and 16-12 density.
 - The ZC has two separate views depending on whether the project is perceived to serve Whites vs. Blacks.

I again I have “no confidence” in Mr. Hoods continued leadership. I urge the council to table the Hood Nomination and conduct the proposed racial equity analysis and hearings. Under Hood the ZC has become almost a hear no, see no, speak weakly agent of racial inequity in the city. To reverse this, we need stronger leadership and oversight and accountability and transparency.

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
PUBLIC HEARING - APRIL 25, 2022
Alma Hardy Gates**

RE: PR24-557, Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 2022

The Zoning Commission is tired. Covid has hastened its transition into what passes for a “Good Old Boys Club.” What happened to the robust discussions, the sharing of opinions, the basis for zoning decisions? It’s become too easy for the Commission to turn to the Office of Planning for opinions and solutions. If there’s an issue with the meaning or application of a regulation, OP writes some new zoning text which the Commission rarely declines to accept.

Anthony Hood has been sitting on the Zoning Commission for over two decades. He’s a good man, a real human being. He cares about racial equity, gentrification and issues arising from the community because he has roots in the community. For as long as I can remember, he has been the member of the Commission who listens to the most affected voices. But listening is no longer enough.

I support the reappointment of Anthony Hood to the DC Zoning Commission despite the fact the commission needs a thorough review of its purpose and the strength to withstand Mayoral pressure “to get the job done.” Mr. Hood, you need to get a backbone. You’ve got to set the direction and tone for the Commission; seek balance in zoning deliberations and decisions; and, start discussions rather than letting other voices drown-out your opinion by going last. It’s okay to vote “NO” even if you’re in the minority; it’s okay to ask ANCs to do their job and fairly represent their constituents; it’s okay to tell developers they’ve got to do more than the bare minimum. You must lead the decision-makers in the right direction.

Thank you, Chairman Mendelson, for the opportunity to offer an opinion and support the reappointment of Anthony Hood to the DC Zoning Commission.

April 22, 2022

The Hon. Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Committee of the Whole
District of Columbia Council
1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20004

Via: cow@dccouncil.us

Re: Testimony in Support of [PR24-557](#), “Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 2022”

Dear Chairman Mendelson and members of the Committee:

Please accept these comments on behalf of the Coalition for Smarter Growth, the leading non-profit organization in the D.C. region advocating for walkable, bikeable, inclusive, transit-oriented communities as the most sustainable and equitable way for the DC region to grow and provide opportunities for all.

We wish to express our support for Anthony Hood’s reappointment to the DC Zoning Commission. While we have not always agreed with Mr. Hood, he has always treated us and all those testifying before him fairly. He has navigated difficult situations as chairman, receiving criticism from all sides. I commend him for his efforts to maintain decorum and sense of fairness through Zoning Commission proceedings for all the individuals involved in proposals that are sometimes contentious. Sometimes, he might even be a little too accommodating, but he is judging the best way to conduct an official hearing where everyone feels heard. I respect that.

I want to acknowledge the entire Zoning Commission, including Mr. Hood, for their commitment to finding opportunities to use the development review and zoning process to yield additional affordable homes. Recently, the Zoning Commission has acted to expand Inclusionary Zoning to provide as much affordable housing as possible within the limitations of the law. Also, Mr. Hood in particular, asks applicants for deeply affordable housing – even of applicants which do not have the large public subsidies to pay for it. We appreciate his consistently raising the issue, and hope that projects that do have the major subsidies needed to pay for such costly deeply affordable housing will be given priority treatment at the Zoning Commission.

With the Comprehensive Plan Amendments now in place, Mr. Hood and the Zoning Commission are better able to use the Comp Plan to seek additional affordable housing benefits, and ensure that affordable and mixed income developments, especially ones offering deeply affordable and affordable family sized units, are given priority. These actions meet our housing needs and address racial equity as demanded by the Comp Plan.

Page Two

Coalition for Smarter Growth – Support for Anthony Hood, Zoning Commission

April 22, 2022

Serving on the Zoning Commission is a difficult, time consuming, and often thankless job. We appreciate the thoughtful approach Mr. Hood has brought to the process. Even if we do not always agree with him, we appreciate his leadership as a respectful chair who always allows everyone to have their say, while guiding hearings towards an efficient use of everyone's time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Cort", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cheryl Cort

Policy Director

TESTIMONY OF ELLEN McCARTHY
IN SUPPORT OF THE CONFIRMATION OF
ANTHONY HOOD
AS COMMISSIONER ON THE DC ZONING COMMISSION

April 25th, 2022

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the Council. My name is Ellen McCarthy. I am a 38 year resident of the District of Columbia. I have a masters degree in city planning, with more than 40 years experience, including 8 years as the Deputy Director and later, Director of the DC Office of Planning.

I am here today to support the renomination of Anthony Hood to the DC Zoning Commission. I first met Mr. Hood in 1998, when I was the Vice-Chair of the Committee of 100, and Tersh Boasberg, then the Chair, and I interviewed him when he was first nominated to the Commission. We came away from that interview impressed with Mr. Hood's commitment to the community and his leadership skills as head of his local citizens association, and the Committee endorsed his confirmation.

Later, I served as the Deputy Director for Development Review (zoning), Historic Preservation and (later, also) Neighborhood Planning. As such, I presented dozens of cases to the Zoning Commission:, text amendments like mandatory inclusionary zoning and map amendments to the Zoning Regulations as well as PUDs. I also presented the OP position on several cases before the Board of Zoning Adjustment, when Mr. Hod was sitting as a Board member on rotation from the Zoning Commission. Subsequent to my time at the Office of Planning, I appeared before the Zoning Commission several times as a consultant and/or a citizen.

In the approximately 24 years that I have known Mr. Hood, I have found him to be diligent, thorough, and fair -- truly one of the finest public servants I have worked with. One thing that has especially distinguished his service on the Zoning Commission is his commitment to the community. He has always been conscious of the fact that zoning can be arcane and inaccessible to people who do not practice land use professionally, and he leans over backwards to assist members of the general public or community groups to understand the rules and to make their positions known effectively. He has pushed developers presenting their proposed projects hard to increase their commitment to providing affordable housing units and has joined with other members of the Commission to be sure that new text amendments, such as those for penthouse structures, required contributions to affordable housing if any of the habitable space was used for remunerative purposes such as office or residential.

He also has always been concerned about First Source pledges and traffic mitigation agreements, to be sure that they are actually benefitting the District or mitigating negative effects on neighborhoods. Being a good Zoning Commissioner is hard work -- it takes dedication to slog through the enormous amounts of paperwork that Commissioners must review, but Mr. Hood is always diligent and prepared.

Last, Mr. Hood has years of experience on the Commission. As you know, Mr. Chairman, two of the five members of the Commission are federal appointees. In years past, they have had an outsize influence on the Commission because their length of service gave them an institutional memory allowing them to

cite precedents and understand some of the more obscure aspects of land use law that mayoral appointees, who often serve no more than one term and sometimes less, may not be familiar with. Having a long-serving DC representative on the Commission helps even the playing field and is one more reason I urge the Council to confirm Anthony Hood to serve on the DC Zoning Commission.

Thank you.

Jeannette Mobley

3725 17th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20018 · 202-441-0200 · jmobley3725@yahoo.com

April 21, 2022

Re: PR 24-557, the “Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 2022”

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Committee,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support of Chair Anthony Hood’s reappointment to the Zoning Commission, which he has led so skillfully and competently. I have known Chairman Hood for over 30 years and because of his outstanding character, leadership style that embraces everyone’s opinions, his ability to weigh all the facts prior to making a decision and his commitment to the community at large places him in high regard with the Washington community. He is quite often sought out when a “chair or leader is needed on a community issue.

He was repeatedly elected as President of the Woodridge Civic Association and after 20 years of exemplary service was voted into current position of President Emeritus. He serves as a Board Member of the Stoddard Baptist Church and is a Life-long member and Deacon of the Greater First Baptist Church of Washington, DC.

I have witnessed firsthand how he encourages citizens to speak up during the zoning hearings and how serious he takes their testimony into account. He has worked to encourage affordable housing as well as deep affordability on projects before the Commission. He also works to ensure projects are built within the character of the neighborhood.

It is my understanding that during his tenure, he has heard over 1,500 ZC and Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) cases totaling over approximately 6,000 hours; implemented the new phase of Inclusionary Zoning Regulations called IZ+, which adds IZ to areas that were not previously required to provide affordable housing; continues to approve projects with hundreds of affordable units, including 78% of the approved units at 60% AMI or below during the last six years; encourages greater ANC participation in cases, conducted extensive outreach/training; and is working to implement a racial equity lens on all Zoning Commission cases.

Mr. Chairman, we all know that Chairing an important board as this takes real commitment and cuts into family time because of the amount of effort it takes to review the cases and associated documents prior to hearings. So, I thank Chairman Hood for his public service and wholeheartedly endorse his reappointment to the Zoning Commission.

Kind regards,

Jeannette Mobley

Ward 5 Resident

Testimony submitted by: Nolan Treadway
PR24-0557 - Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 2022
Monday, April 25, 2022

Thank you, Chairman Mendelson, Councilmembers, and staff.

My name is Nolan Treadway. I am a Ward 5 resident and I am testifying today in support of the nomination of Anthony Hood for the DC Zoning Commission.

I formerly served as ANC Commissioner 5C07 in the Woodridge neighborhood, serving two terms after first being elected in 2012. As ANC Commissioner I had the occasion to work with Anthony Hood in his capacity as President of the Woodridge Civic Association. Mr. Hood was a great leader for that organization and for our community.

Shortly after being elected ANC, it was announced that Langdon Park would be the site of a new memorial to Chuck Brown. While there was tremendous support for the concept of a memorial to Chuck Brown, those who were around at the time will recall there was some controversy about if an amphitheater should be included in the design. I recall Mr. Hood being a calming influence in those discussions and his leadership helped to reach a compromise design which I think has proven very successful and well-liked.

More recently, I served as co-chair of the Ward 5 ANC Redistricting Task Force, of which Mr. Hood was a member. Here I got to see not only his leadership in our meetings but I also witnessed the diligence and care he puts into preparation.

I cannot say I'm close personal friends with Mr. Hood, but I have spent a lot of time in the same room with him at community events and meetings in Ward 5. He is a valued member and leader in our community and I'm grateful for his service on the Zoning Commission and all the ways he serves our shared neighborhood, ward, and city.

I encourage the Council to support his reappointment to the Zoning Commission.

Thank you.

**Before the Committee of the Whole
Budget Oversight Hearing for the Office of Zoning**

Statement of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City

**Re: PR24-557, Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation
Resolution of 2022**

After much deliberation, the Committee of 100 on the Federal City (“C100”) has decided not to join the drumbeat of voices calling for removing Anthony Hood from the D.C. Zoning Commission. In reviewing our oversight testimony during the past few years, the opposite view would have been justified, perhaps compelled. During Mr. Hood’s quarter-century tenure, he has presided over the displacement of thousands of low- and middle-income African-American households, the spoiling of significant portions of District’s distinctive rowhouse architecture, and the regulatory capture of the Commission by the zoning bar and the D.C. Office of Planning.

Regrettably, Chairman Hood has presided over this outcome while genuinely lamenting displacement and listening attentively to District residents. Empower DC accurately described him in its oversight testimony as “the friendly face ... who always votes no.”

Why, then, is C100 not opposing him?

First, based on the current mayor’s record of appointments to zoning authorities and other bodies, we are persuaded that any replacement will not be less of a cheerleader for developers and more sensitive to citizen concerns. Second, Mr. Hood is one of only five votes and replacing him without substantively restructuring the zoning operation – and its mindset – will accomplish nothing. The state of the Commission is an institutional problem demanding institutional reform. We also note that the D.C. City Council actively contributed to weakening the Commission: it intentionally amended the Comprehensive Plan to allow unfettered development flexibility and simultaneously watered down the ability to appeal adverse decisions. The Council has exercised minimal oversight, notably brushing off the Chairman’s improper status request regarding the Comp Plan legislation, which suggested a desired outcome.

We have attached to this statement a copy of our March 29, 2022 oversight testimony that describes some specific cases illustrating the systemic problems at the Commission, including the abuses of the rulemaking process, i.e., designating some substantive amendments as “technical.” We also address the D.C. Attorney General’s recent move to distance that office from the Commission. The absence of meaningful oversight tacitly greenlights lax behavior.

Reforming the District’s broken zoning function requires zealous commitment by the Commission and the Council in its oversight capacity. If Mr. Hood is reconfirmed, we hope, despite the past, that he will lead the Commission to regain its independence. We hope its

decisions will reflect thoughtfulness and equity. It is universally agreed that “everybody likes Anthony Hood.” If he can summon the zeal, he can draw on that well of good will to start an era of reform.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Committee of 100 on the Federal City

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura M Richards". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue ink color.

Kirby Vining, Chair
Laura Richards and Shelly Repp,
Co-chairs, Zoning Subcommittee

The Committee of 100

on the Federal City



Before the Committee of the Whole Budget Oversight Hearing for the Office of Zoning

Statement of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City

March 29, 2022

Founded 1923

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Vice-Chair

Sheldon Repp

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Marilyn Simon

Jim Smailes

Evelyn Wrin

The concerns of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City are essentially the same as those we raised last year, but we do so with an increased urgency. Our principal issue remains the Zoning Commission’s excessive deference to the Office of Planning for substantive and procedural guidance. The level of deference threatens the Commission’s independence, as OP is not structured or intended to be a neutral body. OP is by statute charged with providing planning expertise to the Office of Zoning. The Home Rule Act never envisioned the situation we have today, where OP is driving the rulemaking agenda.

Since enactment of the 2016 Zoning Code, OP has brought forward a large number of rulemaking cases that purport to “clarify” or make technical amendments to recently enacted rules. These “clarifying” amendments have altered legal standards and removed restrictions protecting key elements of Washington’s built environment (chiefly rowhouse neighborhoods).

The severity of the situation is so great that the D.C. Attorney General declined to serve as the Office of Zoning’s legal arm: it does not advise on pending cases, assure the legal sufficiency of proceedings or defend zoning decisions before courts of appeal. Also, the AG’s office has begun proposing its own amendments to the Zoning Regulations and as well as weighing in on pending cases.

Without supporting every choice the AG’s office has made – we think its intervention in pending cases should be made pursuant to announced standards to avoid the appearance of arbitrary action – we applaud its activism and hope it continues under successive AGs. Importantly, the AG’s actions demonstrate what citizens have complained of for years: the Commission and BZA relies too much on OP and fails to exercise its own judgment.

In some major instances, the results are completely illogical. In Case 14-13E, decided last year, the ZC approved “clarifying” amendments that made encroachments to the penthouse rules applicable to lower-density neighborhoods. The Commission, prompted by OP, determined that whether a structure is a rowhouse depends on its use – not its form. If an attached structure, something most of us call a rowhouse, is a single-family dwelling or

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info@committeeof100.net

contains two dwelling units, it is a rowhouse and existing rule prohibiting intrusive penthouse elements continue to apply. If an identical structure contains three units or more units, the structure is *not* a rowhouse and restrictions were removed.

In 2020, in case 19-21, the Commission eviscerated additional rules governing roof structures applicable to other zones. The two-pronged rulemaking addressed penthouses and rooftop solar installations. C100 and numerous other witnesses pointed out that, contrary to OP's claim, the amendments would eliminate all special protections for a large class of buildings that are among those most in need of it. Witnesses further noted that OP's proposal deleted a critical element of rules limiting the visual impact of penthouses by requiring a roof structure to be set back from exterior walls by distances equal to the rooftop structure's height.

The Commission ultimately eviscerated the hard-fought for pop-up rules in a decision at odds with the majority of the testimonial evidence and in derogation of common sense. And in a further anomaly, the Commission accepted OP's request to exclude from the rule structures in historic districts and landmarked buildings because those are subject to the jurisdiction of the Historic Preservation Review Board. Typically, zoning and historic preservation run on separate tracks. Finally, the Commission changed a substantive legal standard – the definition of what constitutes a “significant intrusion” – and did so under the guise of “clarifying “amendment.” when clearly it was substantive.

In these circumstances is any one surprised that the AG's office disassociated itself from the zoning function.

BZA treatment of hearing participants. We also raise issues concerning the treatment of neighbors by the Board of Zoning Adjustment in recent cases. As an example, at the March 2, 2022 BZA hearing for case #20638 (Harrison Wisconsin Owner, LLC) a group of neighboring residents who opposed the proposed development had filed untimely request for party status. At the March 2 hearing Chairman Frederick Hill asked the residents to explain their reasons for filing late. Several residents explained to Chairman Hill that they had not received proper notice of this hearing. Chairman Hill remarked that they must have received their Public Hearing Notice because NO PUBLIC HEARING NOTICES WERE RETURNED to their office.

However, a check of the docket reveals that 16 Public Hearing Notices were returned prior to the hearing date. (Exhibits 22-25). Chairman Hill proceeded to deny the party status request due to the late filing. The BZA could have easily checked the short docket (only 43 Exhibits) and quickly ascertained whether any public hearing notices had been returned. Furthermore, while the residents were denied party status because their request was filed late, at the March 2 hearing Chairman Hill accepted submissions from the Coalition for Smarter Growth and Ward3Vision, both pro-development, even though their submissions were also filed untimely. The neighbors were held to a different standard.

Also, at the end of the public hearing for this case and another case (case #20472 -the River School), one or more BZA members read lengthy statements approving the proposed development immediately following the end of public testimony. It certainly appeared that these statements had been drafted earlier before testimony concluded, or even before the beginning of the hearing. Finally, Chairman Hill in both these cases opened deliberations by declaring his vote and the reasons therefore. This practice would seem to discourage alternative positions from the other members.

These instances create at least the appearance of prejudgment and suggest a lack of fundamental fairness of the BZA process for residents.

* * *

The bottom line is that the zoning function is almost irretrievably broken and commands less and less trust and respect among District residents. We urge the Council to move toward amending the charter to provide the Office of Zoning with independent planning staff and to provide funds for this purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear.

Committee of 100 on the Federal City

Laura M. Richards Co-Chair,
Zoning Subcommittee

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Zoning Commission**



Public Roundtable on

**PR24-0557, the “Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of
2022”**

Testimony of

Anthony Hood

**Before the
Committee of the Whole
Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairperson**

April 25, 2022
12:00 pm
Virtual Meeting Platform
The John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Good Afternoon, Chairman Mendelson, Councilmembers, and staff.

My name is Anthony Jerome Hood. It is my pleasure to be before you today offering testimony on my nomination for reappointment to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia. As you may know, I have served on the Zoning Commission (ZC) since 1998 and I am currently employed at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a Printing Officer.

I have been a community activist for the past 40 years, advocating on behalf of the residents of Ward 5 and beyond. I am the Former President of the Woodridge Civic Association and was voted into my current position of President Emeritus after 20 years. I also serve as a Board Member of the Stoddard Baptist Home and am a life-long member and Deacon of the Greater First Baptist Church of Washington, DC. I am a proud resident of Ward 5 and have served my community in many other capacities over the years.

You may not know this about me, but my first experience with zoning was 25 years ago when a trash transfer station was being located in my neighborhood. It was a case in which I fought alongside my community against the trash transfer station's placement in our community in what we would call today an issue of environmental justice. Although we did not achieve the result we hoped for, my actions caught the eye of then-Mayor Marion Barry and he nominated me to the Zoning Commission.

I am honored once again to have been nominated for another term on the Zoning Commission because of my love for this city in which I was born and raised. During my tenure on the Commission, I have heard over 1,500 ZC and Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) cases over approximately 6,000 hours, and have seen a number of projects realized. It has always been my number one goal to make sure the community is being heard and that their concerns are addressed. I have kept my focus on balance, inclusion, and coexistence when reviewing cases that come before the Commission. I have encouraged projects that far exceed Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) requirements including projects with deep affordability at 30%, affordable senior housing, and family-sized units. In most cases, the development has been a win-win for all interested parties in the city. I am glad to be a part of the Zoning Commission and, if reconfirmed, I will continue to make the best decisions that I can for the best interests of those in the city.

The District has greatly evolved during my tenure on the Commission. The increase of new residents has necessitated thousands of new housing units, including affordable units. There has also been a large amount of new development cases that have included community benefits and amenities in many of our neighborhoods. During this time, the Zoning Regulations were also revised for the first time in 60 years, after nine years and over 60 hearings and meetings. Some other recent initiatives include, but are not limited to the following:

- Implementing the new phase of Inclusionary Zoning Regulations called IZ+, which adds IZ to areas that were not previously required to provide affordable housing;
- Continuing to approve projects with hundreds of affordable units, including 78% of the approved units at 60% AMI or below during the last six years;

- Encouraging even lower AMIs between 30% and 50%, including 34% of affordable unit cases approved over the last six years; and
- Continuing to encourage greater ANC participation in cases, by conducting extensive outreach/training.

District agencies have been engaging in meaningful progress to address racial equity issues for quite some time in the city and the Zoning Commission is no different. I have always taken racial inequities in our City seriously, so in response to the Comp Plan drafting process last fiscal year, I asked the Office of Planning (OP) to apply the racial equity lens in its case reports to the ZC, so that we can consider these impacts in our decision-making process. We will also have a text amendment before us shortly that will call for applicants to submit racial equality impact statements for our evaluation. In addition, I have been working closely with the Office of Zoning (OZ) to ensure that all staff, the Commission and Board are provided training and I understand several employees will be participating in a nine-month racial equity certification program. I also understand the OZ has undertaken several racial equity-related initiatives as well. I want to make it clear: the Zoning Commission takes racial equity seriously and is dedicated to making decisions with that lens.

I want to take a moment to thank some of the people who have supported me throughout the years. First, I would like to thank the Honorable Mayor Muriel Bowser for the nomination for my reappointment. Her support is not taken lightly, and I greatly appreciate her reappointing me. Next, I would like to thank:

- OZ staff for the service they provide and their many accomplishments;
- Other government agencies including the Office of Planning, and the Mayor's Office on Talent and Appointments;
- Everyone who has both supported and opposed my appointment and reappointments through the years, because they all have made me work harder to be the best Commissioner that I can be for all who reside in the District of Columbia; and
- The many colleagues who have sat with me over the years and whom I admire and value greatly.

Last, but not least, I want to give thanks to my wife, Camille, and the rest of my family for allowing me to spend so much time in service to the city.

Before I conclude my testimony, I would like to extend one last thank you to the Council of the District of Columbia for their steadfast support of me over the years. Thank you and I will answer any questions you may have of me.



April 25, 2022

Phil Mendelson, Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1320 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20004

RE: Re-Confirmation of Anthony J. Hood to the
District of Columbia Zoning Commission

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

On behalf of the African American Real Estate Professionals of DC, whose members comprise some of the most active District residents involved in the real estate community, we are pleased to write this letter of support regarding the confirmation of the Anthony J. Hood as a member of the Zoning Commission for another term.

Chairman Hood, a lifelong resident of the District, has served admirably for 24 years having been appointed by each Mayor since 1998. Over the period of his service, he has shown balance in his approach to ensuring the interests of the residents and members of the development community alike are taken into consideration. He has ensured that equitable development has been at the forefront of the Commission's approach to the development of tens of millions of square feet of space in the District, including housing, office, retail, and public use space such as schools, recreation centers, libraries, parks and other facilities.


Under his leadership, Chairman Hood has overseen the preparation, adoption and amending of the District of Columbia Zoning Regulations and District of Columbia Zoning Map. He has not only worked cooperatively with the appointees of the Mayor, Architect of the Capitol and National Park Service, but with all of the agencies who affect zoning in the District of Columbia, as well as Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, community groups and thousands of District residents. Throughout all of this, he has ensured that the Zoning Commission has taken a fair and equitable approach to cases that came before the Commission.

We highly support his re-confirmation to the District of Columbia Zoning Commission.

Very respectfully,

Heather Howard
President
AAREP DC

Corey Powell
Vice President
AAREP DC



Bernita Carmichael
DC Native
569 Ingraham Street NE
Washington, DC 20011
4/25/22

Chairman Philip H. Mendelson
Chairman
DC City Council
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW (Suite 504)
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Philip H. Mendelson:

This letter is being generated in support of re-nominating Anthony Hood as the DC Zoning Commissioner. I write this letter of support as a firm believer in our homegrown talent, believer of valuing local institutional knowledge, and most of all commitment of service Mr. Anthony Hood has demonstrated over the years. Mr. Hood service to our government, private sector, community, and the aspiring DC men and women of color has gone unmatched. We're more than lucky as a city and a community to have Mr. Anthony Hood knowing many have moved on from DC and yet he's still here serving with a servant's heart for everyone.

In closing, we hope to have a clear win of keeping Mr. Anthony Hood in the DC Zoning Commission during a time where we need him present applying his institutional knowledge as we all work collectively and unified for a strong pandemic recovery for DC.

In Service,
Bernita Carmichael
DC Native

Committee of the Whole (Council)

From: Ron Eichner <ron@newlegacypartners.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 4:19 PM
To: Committee of the Whole (Council)
Subject: Anthony Hood

I am writing to support the re-appointment of Mr. Hood to the Zoning Commission. It is a difficult job and he has done admirably.

The notion that he should have done a different job - achieving racial justice in housing in the city - is romantic, but absurd, even if it is heartfelt. He was tasked to interpret the Code and the Comp Plan. He has done that in the face of powerful and conflicting demands.

Ron Eichner
Legation St DC



Stoddard Baptist Home Foundation, Inc.

1818 Newton Street, Northwest • Washington, D.C. 20010 • (202) 328-7400
www.stoddardbaptistfoundation.org

OUR STRATEGIC MISSION

"To form and sustain safe, viable and caring communities for those in need"

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Rev. Henry A. Gaston

Rev. Dr. John L. McCoy

Ms. Aria Miles

Rev. Carey E. Pointer, Sr.

Mrs. Juanita B. Thompson

Mrs. Muriel M. Wade

April 20, 2022

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 504
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

On behalf of the members of the Board of Directors, we submit this letter of support for the "Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 2022". Since 2012, Mr. Hood has faithfully served as a board member and is currently on the following boards:

- Secretary, Stoddard Baptist Home Foundation
- Vice Chairman, Stoddard Baptist Services

We are confident that Mr. Hood will continue his excellent service to the Zoning Commission for the purpose of providing both interactive and static maps for easy viewing of zoning information for every property in the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

Rev. Binkley J. Garrison
Chairman

Steven A. Nash
President and CEO



Designation Numbers:

9672: SBH Foundation, Inc.

9673: Stoddard Baptist Home, Inc.



Designation Number:

94544: Stoddard Baptist Home, Inc.

74410: SBH Foundation, Inc.

April 19, 2022

**The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004**

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

The purpose of this correspondence is to support the reappointment of Anthony Hood as the DC Zoning Commission Chair.

Chairman Hood has a longstanding history on the Commission as a fair and considerate member who places a lot of emphasis on citizen participation in the decision-making process. He has impeccable knowledge of zoning and planning and applies it well within the context of the DC Comprehensive Plan and other relevant DC regulations. His leadership on the Commission is prominent as he has mastered a unique art and experience of striking a balance in his decisions and direction he provides to the Commission. Being as we are a city of rapid change, Chairman Hood's immense institutional knowledge as well as track record on the Commission make his continued Chairmanship that much more vital to continue to bridge the old with the new. The city has benefited and will continue to benefit from the hard work, dedication and commitment of Commissioner Hood.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Commissioner Hood's nomination. He is a great asset to the DC community.

Kind regards,



Fred Greene III
Executive Vice President

Committee of the Whole (Council)

From: Saud Jabali-Nash <snash@hepconstruction.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 5:09 AM
To: Committee of the Whole (Council)
Subject: Support for Anthony Hood

Good morning DC Counsel,

I would like to voice my support of Anthony Hood to be reappointed to the DC Counsel. He was renominated by Mayor Bowser and I think he will continue to do a an excelllent job for the residents of the District. Thank you.

Saud Jabali-Nash
HEP Construction
Ward 7 resident and Ward 8 business owner

April 23, 2022

Committee of the Whole
District of Columbia City Council

Dear Chairman Mendelson and members of the Council,

Please consider this letter as my official and enthusiastic endorsement of Mr. Anthony J. Hood for re-appointment to the Zoning Commission (PR 24-557). My “roots” in DC go back to the North Michigan Park neighborhood over 60 years and I’ve known Anthony Hood for at least 50+ of them. Thru these years I have witness him grow into an advocate for what is right for the citizens, not of only Ward 5, but of all the citizens of the District of Columbia.

His over 40 years of community activism speaks for itself as a lifetime commitment to fighting for the residents, and the city of DC. His integrity is above reproach when it comes to his work efforts and his devotion to his many endeavors over the years. His service on Zoning Commission for many years has been one of his most rewarding accomplishments. He brings to the Commission the “corporate knowledge” that is such a valuable asset when making decision that affect the residents of DC. He brings a balance to the issues of inclusion, racial equity, development, senior housing, family-sized units, affordable housing, etc. to name a few.

I often refer to Anthony as “Hood” since we share the same first name. I truly believe that he processes all the characteristics that you should look for in a member of the Zoning Commission: honesty, integrity, loyalty, professionalism, personal commitment, strong work ethic, and compassion. And lastly a ***True Love for the People and City of DC.***

I applaud the Honorable Mayor Muriel Bowser in her nomination for his re-appointment and I can think no other individual more justifiable in serving on the Zoning Commission. I enthusiastically recommend the re-appointment of Anthony J. Hood. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anthony "TJ" Jackson

Anthony "TJ" Jackson
Senior Reentry Systems Engineer
The Johns Hopkins Univ/Applied Physics Laboratory
240-228-6199

***Ward 5 - Born and Raised
North Michigan Park – NE DC***

**Before the Committee of the Whole
Budget Oversight Hearing for the Office of Zoning
Testimony of Naima Jefferson**

**Re: PR24-557, Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation
Resolution of 2022**

After much deliberation, I am submitting this testimony in opposition of Mr. Anthony Hood's appointment to the D.C. Zoning Commission. In reviewing oversight testimony during the past few years, and the rate of displacement and disparity that has occurred throughout our city, this view is compelled. During Mr. Hood's quarter-century tenure, he has presided over the displacement of thousands of low- and middle-income African-American households, the spoiling of significant portions of District's distinctive rowhouse architecture, and the regulatory capture of the D.C. Commission by the developers, special interests, and the D.C. Office of Planning.

Chairman Hood has presided over this detrimental outcome while genuinely lamenting displacement and listening attentively to District residents. Yet, he has always had the power and ability to make the right choice but has chosen not to do so. His continued appointment is viewed based on the limited amount of land use, planning, and zoning expertise in the city. No. There are plenty qualified candidates to fill this role. His continuous reappointment is based on an archaic political structure of a small select group of people clamoring to maintain control in a very changed world and city.

Chairman Hood is not the only person in which the citizens should place blame. The state of the D.C. Zoning Commission is an institutional problem demanding institutional reform. The D.C. City Council actively contributed to weakening the Commission: it intentionally amended the Comprehensive Plan to allow unfettered development flexibility and simultaneously watered down the ability to appeal adverse decisions. Many on the D.C. Council have exercised minimal oversight. Now is the time to hold Chairman Hood accountable for his improper request regarding the Comprehensive Plan legislation!

Over the years, I have seen multiple cases illustrating systemic programs at the D.C. Zoning Commission including abuse of the rulemaking process and Chairman Hood exercising racial bias by allowing more residents of white communities to exercise discretion in testimony and concerns versus residents of color. Moreover, Chairman Hood has overseen the approval of way too many now empty and vacant projects or projects that failed to deliver on affordable housing promises and community benefits. Moreover, many of these zoning cases failed to incorporate proper market and environmental analysis and failed to consider project impacts equitably so that growth is responsible and without major adverse impacts to residents.

Lastly, when reviewing Chairman Hood's resume before the D.C. Council and his BEGA Public Financial Disclosure Statement, one cannot help but notice that his non-District

employment is nowhere to be found.¹ Is the public to believe that Chairman Hood receives no compensation whatsoever from over twenty years in federal service with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency? ²Did the D.C. Council not read the letter to Chair Mendelson regarding his financial disclosures and outside activities and reconcile it with the BEGA Public Financial Disclosure Statement to view the discrepancies? One cannot use the excuse that this was a simple oversight that has occurred year after year, without the D.C. Council taking note of this omission on the public record. It's time for change, transparency, and accountability. As such, I urging to D.C. Council to take a look at the public record that is right before your eyes and am requesting that the D.C. Council not reappoint Chairman Anthony Hood.

¹ See the Committee Report under PR22-9745:
https://lims.dccouncil.us/downloads/LIMS/39635/Committee_Report/PR22-0745-CommitteeReport1.pdf

² Id.

Testimony for the Record of the Committee of the Whole Hearing on PR24-557,
“Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 2022”

Submitted by Coy McKinney, member, SW DC Action

I am writing this testimony in opposition to the confirmation of Anthony Hood to the Zoning Commission. While I oppose Chairman Hood’s confirmation, I must also express some gratitude to him for allowing me a seat at the table with developers and encouraging me to continue my advocacy for affordable housing whenever I testified. Unfortunately, those gestures did not result in any substantive changes, thus, I believe a change in leadership is needed at the zoning commission.

I have been a resident of Southwest, D.C., since 2010. In the relatively short period of time that I have lived there, I have witnessed gentrification and displacement occur in real time. The median income of residents living in the area has increased 117%, the median sales price of homes has increased 55%, and the Black population has decreased a little over 20%. The direct cause for these dramatic changes has been the approval of housing developments by the zoning commission that are overwhelmingly market-rate and priced beyond the median income of Black households in the city.

Since 2019, nearly 5,000 units have come online in Southwest and Navy Yard, but only 3% have been affordable. This is in spite of Southwest’s Neighborhood Plan stating that residents wanted the area “to remain an exemplary model of equity and inclusion” and the previous Comprehensive Plan stating that affordable housing should be pursued as a civic priority (H.1.2.1). The zoning commission and the Office of Planning could have required more affordable housing but repeatedly chose not to.

The zoning commission approved all these developments despite being presented the facts on what their approval would lead to. Since 2018, I, along with my fellow Southwest neighbors who care about affordable housing, have submitted written and oral testimony in over 10 zoning hearings pointing out the harm approving projects with minimal, if any, affordable housing will have on the neighborhood. We submitted evidence that the housing market is segmented, meaning building expensive units may only lower other expensive units, but will do nothing, or increase the price of less expensive units. We submitted a report from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government that recommended 75% of new housing should be for those with low and moderate incomes. We also submitted the Mayor’s own Housing Equity Report from 2019 which stated that the overwhelming majority of new housing units have been for people priced at 120% AMI. Undeterred by all this evidence, the zoning commission

continued to vote in favor of projects with the bare minimum amount of affordable housing. On several occasions, Chairman Hood discussed his desire for more affordable housing, or that he agreed with the arguments we placed on the record, but would then vote to approve projects anyway.

Below, I will share some examples. In 2018, in case 02-381, Chairman Hood stated that:

“some of the concerns I’ve had, not just with this case, I hear all this about affordable housing, and we talk about it all the time, and I’m getting ready to start really getting on this . . . and I understand it’s more than just zoning and we’re not going to be able to fix it here, there are other things that come into play so that’s a whole other argument for a whole other time that I think there will be discussion, I’m going to be having for the remainder of my time here about this whole affordable housing issue.”

Unfortunately, that “other time” to get into the affordable housing issue never came. Even with this quote, Chairman Hood and the zoning commission approved the project that contained 8% affordable units.

In 2020, case 20-18, which featured another project that contained 8% affordable units, Chairman Hood responded to testimony against the project saying:

“The regulations are what they are. I agree with 100% of what Mr. McKinney said for sure . . . but in order for the zoning commission to, by law, and I know the courts have told us that gentrification is within our purview, and if you’ve been following what we’ve been doing, I’ve been putting it in my purview, but we also have to say that the regulations are the regulations, so I need people, who I heard today, help us push and get more affordable housing. Demand it. The zoning commission is not the end all, save all.”

Despite admitting that gentrification is within his purview, Chairman Hood and the rest of the commission approved the project.

Just a few weeks later, JBG Smith brought a project that did not contain any affordable units. The developer said that they were not required to include any affordable units because it was in a “design review” jurisdiction. The community, ANC, and even Ward 6 Councilmember, Charles Allen, submitted their opposition to the project. The developer agreed to make 3% of the units affordable. During the hearing Chairman Hood and some of the other commissioners expressed how much they did not like this result and hinted that they would change the design review rules so that affordable housing would

be included. This much needed change never happened. In fact, a total of over 3,000 new units of market-rate housing were proposed with this designation in 2021 and none of those developments produced anything more than a monetary contribution to the Housing Production Trust Fund.

The final example I will share comes from January of 2022. Another development offering only 8% affordability was the subject of the hearing. Chairman Hood lamented that in the past he was told to "proceed with caution" in terms of affordable housing but now it's "you can get it done" but he's still waiting to have a dialogue about how to do it. Hood said all this while also choosing not to apply it to this project.

The stakes are too high for inaction. During Chairman Hood's tenure, DC has become the most intensely gentrified city in the nation. On repeated occasions, Hood said he was going to take action with regards to affordable housing, but never did. If we're ever to get serious about affordable housing in this city, it's clear that we need new leadership at the zoning commission.

Committee of the Whole (Council)

From: Ruthanne Miller <rgmiller55@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 9:07 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Committee of the Whole (Council)
Subject: Zoning Commission Anthony Hood confirmation hearing (PR 24-557)

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Members of the Committee of the Whole,

I would like to voice my strong support for the confirmation of Anthony Hood as commissioner to the Zoning Commission. I had the privilege of working closely with Mr. Hood when I served as chair of the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA). As you are aware, zoning commissioners rotate in participating on BZA cases. As a result, I had the opportunity to witness Mr. Hood's demeanor at the hearings and his analyses of cases in deliberation. Mr. Hood listened to every witness with an open mind and treated all hearing participants with the utmost respect. He also had an open mind in deliberations, listening carefully to arguments of his colleagues prior to making his decisions. At the time of my tenure on the Board, the Zoning Commission was just beginning consideration of the major rewrite of the zoning regulations. Mr. Hood invited me in my capacity as chair of the BZA to sit with the Zoning Commission at those initial hearings. From that experience I can attest to Mr. Hood's skillful and considerate conduct of hearings. The hearings were held in an orderly way where all participants were treated fairly and were fully heard. In my view, this manner of conducting hearings should not be taken for granted.

Mr. Hood has an exceptional base of knowledge for having served for over two decades on the Zoning Commission. He not only has knowledge of the law, but he also has a unique understanding of the rationale for the regulations and how the regulations have been applied over the years. It is extremely valuable for the Commission and the public to have someone with this understanding and perspective on the Commission.

Since my service on the BZA, I have watched zoning hearings, including recent hearings, broadcast on the internet, and note that these traits of Mr. Hood continue. As you and members of the Committee of the Whole most likely know, the Zoning Commission, as well as the BZA, selects its chair every year. It is a testament to Mr. Hood that his colleagues have continued to select him as their chair year after year. Finally, the City has greatly benefited from Mr. Hood's leadership in policy matters as well as his conduct of hearings. The Office of Zoning, under the leadership of Mr. Hood, has been a trail blazer in transparency, most notably, making zoning hearings immediately accessible to the public on the internet for decades.

For these reasons I urge your favorable consideration of Mr. Hood's reappointment to the Zoning Commission.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne G Miller
202-455-9351
[Rgmiller55@gmail.com](mailto:rgmiller55@gmail.com)

Committee of the Whole (Council)

From: Robert Miller <millersway55@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 9:12 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Committee of the Whole (Council)
Subject: Zoning Commission Anthony Hood confirmation hearing (PR 24-557)

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am writing to request the Council's support for the confirmation of Mayor Bowser's reappointment of Anthony Hood to the Zoning Commission.

It is my understanding, from your statement last week at the Office of Zoning budget hearing, that Anthony's Council confirmation hearing might be scheduled for April 25, 2022.

Having served on the Commission with Chairman Hood for nearly a decade now, and having served before that for even more years as the land use counsel on the Council's Committee of the Whole, interacting with him and many other community stakeholders regarding zoning oversight and budget hearings, I can unequivocally attest to Anthony's integrity, fairness, and commitment to the best interests of the District of Columbia in all matters before the Zoning Commission.

Chairman Hood's outstanding leadership of the independent Zoning Commission and DC Office of Zoning has consistently demonstrated an even temperament and willingness to listen to, learn from, and meaningfully address diverse views and concerns on often-contentious zoning cases. While we have not always agreed on the many specific procedural or substantive issues before the Commission, Anthony has set the bar for adherence to both the sacred "Golden Rule," and his own-established "Good Neighbor" policy which has been widely employed and prodded, often with success, at the public hearings of both the Zoning Commission and the Board of Zoning Adjustment, where a Zoning Commissioner is a rotating participant.

The residents and businesses of the District of Columbia are very fortunate to have benefitted from Anthony Hood's wisdom and experience on the Zoning Commission for over two decades. He always strives to maximize due process, and equitable outcomes that are consistent with the law, for participants in zoning proceedings. As vice chair of the Commission, I am personally grateful that Anthony is willing to continue his public service on this body.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for your leadership and support for Anthony Hood's (and my own) past reappointments to the Zoning Commission.

I strongly urge your continued support for his reappointment at this time. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or comments which you or others might have.

Sincerely,

Rob Miller
202-744-1778
millersway55@gmail.com

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Barbara D Morgan <dmorgan620@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 24, 2022 8:24 PM
To: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Fwd: PR 24-557 "Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 20022"

-----Original Message-----

From: Barbara D Morgan <dmorgan620@aol.com>
To: pmendelson@dccouncil.us <pmendelson@dccouncil.us>
Sent: Sun, Apr 24, 2022 8:19 pm
Subject: PR 24-557 "Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of 20022"

I am entering my statement for the approval for Mr. Anthony Hood to continue to serve and be reappointed to for the Zoning Commission.

Mr. Hood a native Washingtonian has served as a Civic President in Ward 5. This experience with the many problems that comes before groups such as Civic Associations has prepared him to serve. He has been on both sides of the government this has prepared him for the hearings coming before the Zoning Board. Mr. Hoods knowledgeable about the cases coming before his committee which he has served in reference to preparing, adopting and subsequently amending the Zoning Regulations and the Zoning Map in a means not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital.

When we appeared O Street Neighbors and Friends(OSNF) Mr, Hood listed to our concerns and made a recommendation that we work with the Developer and see if we could both come to an agreement. We still have not reached an agreement on the Planned Unit Development. We are working to resolve this problem.

Mr Hood is conscientious , I don't think you could fine a better person to reappoint .

Committee of the Whole (Council)

From: Sheila Reid <sreid@avantire.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 6:16 PM
To: Committee of the Whole (Council)
Cc: Mr. Anthony J Hood
Subject: Support of Anthony Hood for D C Zoning Commission

Good Evening, Chairman Mendleson and the D C City Council

As someone who has worked directly with Anthony when I served as Chairwoman of the D C Board of Zoning Adjustment for several years so I know first hand the level of hard work, sacrifice, and commitment he has given to the D C Zoning Commission. He has always been a man of integrity and honor who believes deeply in always making decisions that are in the best interest of those he serves. His job is a difficult one because he is often faced with making decisions that do not always please everyone because- as I know - that is impossible to do. Nonetheless, rest assured Anthony has always put forth his best effort to give the very best service possible which sometimes means sacrificing his own time, and family time to do so. I strongly support his re-appointment because I believe that the City is more than likely going to experience more changes in the years ahead, therefore, it is imperative that you have someone like Anthony, a native Washingtonian with several years now of zoning experience and expertise, to continue to serve on the zoning Commission. Anthony is no doubt the best person for this position as the City will be in excellent hands on his watch. Should you have any questions or need additional testimony from me, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

*Sheila Cross Reid, Former Chair DC BZA
President and CEO
Avanti Real Estate Services, LLC
3421 14th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20010
(202) 265-4663 (O)
(202) 251-1694 (C)*

"EACH ONE-TEACH ONE"

Committee of the Whole (Council)

From: carm8954@aol.com
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 8:28 AM
To: Committee of the Whole (Council)
Subject: PR 24-557 Re-Appointment of Anthony Hood

Council,

My support to reconfirm Anthony Hood is based on his "Experience, Leadership and Knowledge."

Residents are not always privy to all of the ins and outs of what happens behind the scenes of the Commission but, I know that from the residents' side of the Commission, Mr. Hood has been exemplary in providing guidance to the residents in understanding the rules of Zoning as it relates to the ever-changing environment of the city.

As a long-time resident and community leader when presenting community cases in front of the Zoning Board, Mr. Hood's rulings have always been presented in a fair and consistent manner.

I would like to offer my support in the re-appointment of Anthony Hood.

Regards,

Carmen Roberts-Williams
1009 Decatur Street NE
Washington, DC 20017
North Michigan Park
202-841-5256

Committee of the Whole (Council)

From: joyce paul <jarpaul2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 8:56 PM
To: Committee of the Whole (Council); joyce paul
Subject: Confirmation for Anthony Hooks

Testimony on Monday,
April 25, 2022

My name is Joyce Robinson-Paul, a former ANC Commissioner in the Ward 5 neighborhood. I have watched many neighborhoods change over the years. The biggest complaint is residential parking each time zoning is relaxed to benefit the developers. I am totally against your confirmation. We pay taxes in this city and our concerns should be addressed. Seniors are having to park blocks away due to relaxing laws and accommodating new development. Stop putting the people before new development. Mr Hood should be replaced with someone who can help stop gentrification and create favorable affordable housing. McMilan is a nightmare with segregated housing for senior citizen, what a mess that you have created over the years. If you were voted in, we would have voted you out.

Sincerely,

Joyce Robinson-Paul
Former ANC Commissioner 5E

Sent from my iPhone

Committee of the Whole (Council)

From: John Wheeler <johnwheeler.dc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 4:15 PM
To: Committee of the Whole (Council)
Subject: Confirmation hearing for Anthony Hood (Zoning Commission)

My name is John Wheeler. I live in Ward 3 and am a retired federal employee.

I've participated in many Zoning Commission hearings when Mr. Hood was the chair as well as when he was a member. My interests have been transit oriented development and affordable housing.

No member of the Commission does more than Mr. Hood to make sure everyone is heard and are treated fairly. It is a very tough job and he does it very well.

Vivian Y. Wilds
5016 Eastern Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20017
viyonnewilds@yahoo.com

This is my letter of support for the re-confirmation of Anthony Hood as Chair of the Zoning Board.

I am a long-time resident of Ward 5 and a home-owner in the Riggs Park neighborhood. I have known Anthony Hood for a period of thirty years or more. Mr. Hood is known for being a committed person to the progress and growth of Ward 5 and throughout the city.

I have had the privilege over the years to be at community activities where Anthony was an active participant or serving in leadership. He possesses humility to connect very well with people. He is a dependable person, one who you can be assured will listen to people and follow through with some solutions. Certainly, he can't solve all the many problems in this city, but there are improvements and future developments to the nation's capital which are moving towards a new progressive city.

I know Anthony as a person who demonstrates great faith and as a person who grew up in Washington, he knows the pros and cons of the city. My thoughts are centered around the knowledge that Anthony has pride in seeing the city on the move.

In closing, I have no doubt that Mr. Hood will be vigilance in up-holding the specifics and regulations of keeping the city an ideal place to live. I encourage the City Council to reconfirm the appointment of Anthony Hood to the Zoning Board.

Sincerely,

Vivian Y Wilds

Committee of the Whole (Council)

From: Delonte Wilkins <dwilks2020@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 11:19 PM
To: Committee of the Whole (Council)
Subject: Testimony

Zoning commission needs a whole new process for those who oversee something so important and critical as zoning. I sat in many zoning hearings as it was clear rigged process in favor of developers and no regard to the impacts of community damages.

I would like my testimony present this hearing coming up

Delonte wilkins

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 **Committee of the Whole**
3 **May 3, 2022**
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6 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION
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9 24-557
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12 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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17 To confirm the reappointment of Mr. Anthony Hood to the Zoning Commission for the District
18 of Columbia.
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20 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
21 resolution may be cited as the "Zoning Commission Anthony Hood Confirmation Resolution of
22 2018."

23 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the reappointment of:

24 Mr. Anthony Hood
25 Channing Street, N.E.
26 Washington, DC 20018
27 (Ward 5)
28

29 as a member of the Zoning Commission for the District of Columbia, established by section 1 of
30 An Act To regulate the height, area, and use of buildings in the District of Columbia and to
31 create a Zoning Commission, and for other purposes, approved March 1, 1920 (41 Stat. 500;
32 D.C. Official Code § 6-621.01), for a term to end February 3, 2026.

33 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution,
34 upon its adoption, to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.

35 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.