

**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: December 20, 2022

SUBJECT: Report on PR 24-1037, the “Director of the Office of Planning Anita Cozart Confirmation Resolution of 2022”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 24-1037, the “Director of the Office of Planning Anita Cozart Confirmation Resolution of 2022” was referred, reports favorably thereon, and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

Proposed Resolution 24-1037, the “Director of the Office of Planning Anita Cozart Confirmation Resolution of 2022,” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor on October 28, 2022. The purpose of PR 24-1037 is to confirm the Mayor’s nomination of Ms. Anita Cozart for appointment as the Director of the Office of Planning, to serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

The Home Rule Act places the central local planning function for the District of Columbia in the Mayor. The Mayor, during the history of home rule, has delegated this function to the Director of the Office of Planning. Pursuant to Mayor’s Order 83-25, dated January 3, 1983, which is the existing authority, the purpose of the Office of Planning is to “assist the Deputy Mayor for [Planning and] Economic Development and the Mayor in the performance of the planning functions of the District of Columbia, and in the preparation of plans for the physical and economic development of the city.”

The functions of the Director of Planning are also set forth in Mayor's Order 83-25, which provides that the Director of the Office of Planning shall:

1. Prepare, refine and implement the District elements of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital.
2. Prepare, refine and implement area and specific plans such as the Downtown and neighborhood plans.
3. Establish and implement procedures for citizen participation in the planning process.
4. Manage the collection of demographic and statistical information, including the computerized MAGIS system, in order to maintain accurate population and land use evaluation and projections.
5. Provide planning liaison for the District of Columbia government with other federal and regional agencies, task forces and committees as appropriate.

The Office of Planning is currently organized into seven divisions: Neighborhood Planning; Revitalization and Design; Citywide Planning; State Data Center; Development Review and Zoning; Historic Preservation Office; and Geographic Information Systems and Information Technology.

PR 24-1037 would confirm the appointment of Ms. Anita Cozart to serve as the Director of the Office of Planning, replacing Mr. Andrew Trueblood, who left the office in November 2018. Ms. Cozart served as Interim Director beginning in March 2018 and has served as Acting Director since her nomination by Mayor Bowser.

Ms. Cozart is currently a resident of Ward 5. She holds a Master of City and Regional Planning for the University of California at Berkley, and a Bachelor of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. She is co-chair of the District government's Black Homeownership Strikeforce and a Board Member for Smart Growth America.

Before serving as Interim Director, Ms. Cozart was Deputy Director of Community Planning and Design for the Office of Planning. In that role, Ms. Cozart oversaw OP's work on neighborhood planning and urban design. Ms. Cozart has led teams responsible for the most recent Comprehensive Plan amendments adopted by the Council in 2020 and 2021. She was also responsible for recent neighborhood planning efforts stemming from the Comprehensive Plan, and she developed the Streets for People program to activate downtown and support the District's economic recovery. Prior to joining the Office of Planning, Ms. Cozart was PolicyLink's managing director where she oversaw nationwide place-based equitable development initiatives. She has over a decade of experience using a racial equity lens in planning, housing, transportation, and infrastructure policy.

During her confirmation hearing, Ms. Cozart described her priorities for OP. With respect to small area plans, she stated that upcoming plans will include reports on Ivy City, Deanwood,

Foggy Bottom, and North Capitol Crossroads (North Capitol and Irving). Both a Friendship Heights and Tenleytown plan, and a Woodley and Cleveland plan are currently under development. With respect to the Comprehensive Plan, she emphasized that OP is currently thinking about what a future plan update may look like, including a shorter and easier to navigate plan in advance of a January 2025 kickoff for a new plan. In response to questions about how OP now integrated a racial equity lens in its work, Ms. Cozart testified that each of the recently completed small area plans has a section focused on disaggregating data from the perspective of the neighborhood and the participants engaged in the planning process. She also stressed the importance of setting benchmarks to measure the results when a plan is implemented. For other plans, including zoning cases, OP is now describing potential outcomes of development projects through a racial equity lens. In response to questions about public engagement changes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Cozart testified that virtual options have increased access to District residents that may not been able to attend in person meetings in the past, and that in some communities, options for in person engagement is important.

Ms. Cozart has a demonstrated commitment of service to the District. Her wealth of experience, particularly at OP, equips her with the tools necessary to serve as the Director of the Office of Planning. The Committee of the Whole believes that Ms. Cozart is more than capable to serve as Director recommends her appointment.

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| October 28, 2022 | PR 24-1037, the “Director of the Office of Planning Anita Cozart Confirmation Resolution of 2022” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor. |
| November 1, 2022 | PR 24-1037 is “read” at a Committee of the Whole meeting; on this date the referral to the Committee of the Whole is official and the 90-day period for Council review begins. If this measure is not acted upon by the Council before February 8, 2023, PR 24-1037 will be deemed approved. |
| November 4, 2022 | Notice of Intent to Act on PR 24-1037 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> . |
| November 10, 2022 | Notice of a Roundtable on PR 24-1037 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> . |
| November 21, 2022 | The Committee of the Whole holds a roundtable on PR 24-1037. |
| December 20, 2022 | The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 24-1037. |

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Ms. Cozart is the Mayor’s nominee for appointment as Director of the District of Columbia Office of Planning.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on PR 24-1037.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on PR 24-1037 on Monday, November 21, 2022. The testimony summarized below is from that hearing. Submitted copies of testimony are attached to this report.

Marcel Acosta, Planning Professional, testified in support of Ms. Cozart and spoke to his work with the nominee over the years and referred to her as the right person at the right moment to lead the District's planning office.

Anita Cozart, Nominee, testified before the Council regarding her background and desire to serve as the Director of the Office of Planning. She spoke of the projects she has worked on so far at OP, including her leadership in development of the Comprehensive Plan for the Executive, development of programs like Streets for People, and the other planning work ongoing to be released over the coming years. Her written testimony is attached.

There were no comments received in opposition to the nominee.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

PR 24-1037 is an exercise of the Council's discretion to approve or disapprove Mayoral nominations of subordinate agency heads in the Executive Service, pursuant to § 1-523.01(a) of the District of Columbia Official Code.

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

A Fiscal Impact Statement is not needed for a confirmation resolution. The annual compensation (including fringe) for the Director, which is \$189,991, is included as part of the annual budget for the Office of Planning.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1 States the short title of PR 24-1037.

Section 2 Confirms the appointment of Anita Cozart to serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

Section 3 Directs transmittal of the resolution to the nominee and the Mayor.

Section 4 Provides that PR 24-1037 shall take effect immediately.

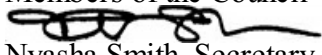
IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 24-1037 as introduced.
2. Nominee's responses to Committee pre-hearing and post-hearing questions.
3. Written Testimony and Comments.
4. Legal Sufficiency Review.
5. Committee Print for PR 24-1037.

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 : Monday, October 31, 2022
Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Friday, October 28, 2022. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Director of the Office of Planning Anita Cozart Confirmation Resolution of 2022", PR24-1037

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 approved on Wednesday, February 08, 2023 without Council action.

Attachment
cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services



MURIEL BOWSER

MAYOR

October 28, 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 with Mayor's Order 83-25, dated January 3, 1983, I am pleased to nominate the following individual:

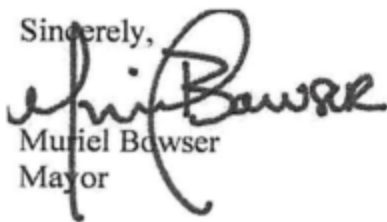
Anita Cozart
Crittenden Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017
(Ward 5)

for appointment as the Director of the Office of Planning, to serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

Enclosed, you will find biographical information detailing the experience of the above-mentioned nominee, along with proposed resolution to assist the Council during the confirmation process.

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

Sincerely,


Muriel Bowser
Mayor



Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To confirm the appointment of Anita Cozart as the Director of the Office of Planning.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the "Director of the Office of Planning Anita Cozart Confirmation Resolution of 2022".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the appointment of:

Anita Cozart
Crittenden Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017
(Ward 5)

as the Director of the Office of Planning, in accordance with Mayor's Order 83-25, dated January 3, 1983, to serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

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

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.



Anita M. Cozart

I am an urban planning and policy strategist advancing systems change to yield just and equitable communities. My preferred pronouns are she/ her.

I am based in Washington, DC. [REDACTED]

Education

Master of City & Regional Planning, University of California, Berkeley, 2003

Bachelor of Science in Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of Pittsburgh, 1999

Experience

District of Columbia Office of Planning

Interim Director

Jan 2022 - present

- Leads a 70-person, \$17M agency with responsibility for planning initiatives that advance the city's goals for housing, economic development, livability and resilience.
- Advises Mayor and senior executives on issues of land use, urban design, historic preservation and citywide planning.
- Represents the Mayor on a federal commission and a regional transportation planning board.
- Establishes the agency's vision, priorities and action plan related to racial equity.

Deputy Director

Oct 2019 - Dec 2021

- Led a division of 18 staff and \$4M portfolio of community plans and urban design projects.
- Provided oversight to the team that completed the Comprehensive Plan update to guide citywide growth and neighborhood development.
- Created and led implementation of the Streets for People program to activate downtown public spaces and support economic recovery.

Chief of Staff

Apr 2007 - Jan 2010

- Managed politically-sensitive, multi-stakeholder projects and partnerships, including a levee design, a military base closure plan, and a healthy community planning initiative.
- Directed the agency's external relations including legislative coordination and media activities.
- Supervised the agency's human resource staff and activities.

Community Planner

Dec 2003 - Jan 2007

- Coordinated community planning activities for the northwest sector of the city.
- Served as project manager for 4 community plans, including oversight of consultant contracts and delivery of 50+ community briefings.

Georgetown University

Adjunct Lecturer

May 2019 - present

- Leads an ethics seminar for graduate students in the Urban and Regional Planning Program.
- Serves as thesis adviser to graduate students.
- Received a 2021 Tropiana Award for Outstanding Teaching.

PolicyLink

Managing Director

Oct 2016 - Sep 2019

- Managed a staff of five and a portfolio of equitable development projects in 35 cities and regions.
- Directed federal policy advocacy activities related to transportation.
- Led a national philanthropic partnership focused on implementing housing affordability strategies.
- Spoke and wrote on equitable development for range of audiences including government officials, philanthropy, grassroots advocates, and private sector leaders.

Associate Director/ Senior Associate

Jan 2010 - Sep 2016

- Founded a coalition of 120 national, state, and local groups advocating for federal transportation policy that expands economic opportunity and fosters racial equity.
- Organized the 2015 Equity Summit, a national conference attended by nearly 3,000 leaders.
- Directed the organization's transportation policy research and advocacy activities.
- Analyzed federal policy to determine impacts to low-income people and communities of color.

PlaceWorks

Planner

Sep 2001 - Sep 2003

- Coordinated the public engagement process for the Smart Growth and Regional Livability Footprint Project for the San Francisco region's Association of Bay Area Governments.
- Recommended strategies for improved public engagement to the San Francisco region's Metropolitan Transportation Commission.
- Authored 12 state-mandated environmental impact review documents for general plans and campus master plans.

Relevant Leadership Activities

- Co-chair, District of Columbia Black Homeownership Strikeforce Committee
- Board Member, Smart Growth America
- Mentor, TransitCenter's Women Changing Transportation Program



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

Anita Cozart



Anita Cozart is the Acting Director of the Office of Planning (OP).

Director Cozart possesses over a decade of experience leveraging a racial equity lens to develop community planning, housing, transportation, and infrastructure policy. Ms. Cozart has served in numerous leadership roles within OP. Under Ms. Cozart's leadership as OP's Deputy Director of Community Planning and Design, her teams spearheaded the Comprehensive Plan update, launched future neighborhood plans, and developed the Streets for People program to activate downtown public spaces and support economic recovery. In addition, she is the former OP Neighborhood and Citywide Planner and Chief of Staff. Prior to joining OP, Ms. Cozart served as PolicyLink's managing director, where she oversaw place-based equitable development initiatives nationwide.

A Ward 5 resident, Director Cozart received a Bachelor of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master of City and Regional Planning from the University of California, Berkeley.



November 15, 2022

Anita Cozart, Acting Director
Office of Planning
1100 4th Street, SW, Suite 650 East
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Director Cozart:

Congratulations on being nominated for appointment to be Director of the Office of Planning. As you know, the appointment is subject to confirmation by the Council. The Committee of the Whole has scheduled a public hearing on your nomination for **Monday, November 21, 2022 at Noon via Zoom Video Conference**. Enclosed is a copy of the hearing notice.

It is standard for the Council to submit questions to nominees. I request your response to the following questions no later than close of business Friday, November 18, 2022.

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

Response: Please reference 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.

Response: Please reference 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.

Response: Please reference 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.

Response: Please reference 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.

Response: Please reference 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.

Response: Please reference Financial Disclosure Statement.

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

Response: None.

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

Response: George Washington Chapter of Lambda Alpha International.

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.

Response: National Capital Planning Commission, Commemorative Works Committee, Transportation Planning Board (term for all January 2022 to present)

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

Response: None.

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.

Response: No.

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 the performance of your duties as Director?

Response: None.

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.

Response: 2022 Campaign to re-elect Muriel Bowser: \$100 contribution, staffing table outside polling station.

14. Please discuss any past and present experience that you believe are relevant to support your appointment as Director?

Response: Prior to her appointment as Interim Director of the DC Office of Planning (OP), I served as Deputy Director of Community Planning and Design, my second tour of service at OP. In that role, I oversaw OP's work on neighborhood planning and urban design. My teams have spearheaded the recent Comprehensive Plan update, commenced the next generation of neighborhood plans, and developed the Streets for People program to activate downtown public spaces and support economic recovery. As Interim Director, I look forward to advancing implementation of the Comprehensive Plan, community plans, and zoning and preservation initiatives that support District goals around COVID-19 recovery, housing equity, resilience, civic resources and racial justice.

I have a history of public sector work primarily focused on Washington, DC. I previously served at OP as a Neighborhood and Citywide Planner and Chief of Staff. Prior to my return to OP, I served as a managing director at PolicyLink, where I led place-based, equitable development initiatives in cities across the United States. I bring to my current work at OP a decade of experience utilizing a racial equity lens with community planning, housing, transportation and infrastructure policy.

I hold a Master of City & Regional Planning from the University of California, Berkeley and a Bachelor of Science in Civil & Environmental Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh.

15. What are your priorities for the Office of Planning? Include in your answer a statement of vision or mission?

Response: The mission of the Office of Planning is to plan for the long-term growth of the District in a way that reflects our values of an inclusive and vibrant city. My vision for OP is two-fold -- that OP will earn the reputation as a regional and global leader in developing and executing plans that yield racially-equitable and prosperous communities, and that OP is deeply-engaged with as many District residents and stakeholders as possible as we realize our mission. My priorities for OP include: Implementing the 2021 Comprehensive Plan, including the placed-based planning efforts that align with the land use changes outlined in the Comp Plan; Laying the groundwork for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan rewrite; Accelerating land use and zoning activities that advance the District's goal of 36,000 new housing units, including 12,000 affordable units by 2025; and Supporting efforts to reimagine and reinvigorate Downtown.

At the November 21st hearing, you will be asked to make an opening statement indicating your interest in serving as Planning Director. The testimony of persons interested in supporting your nomination is helpful but not necessary. Interested parties should visit <http://www.ChairmanMendelson.com/testify> to register, or, alternatively, may submit written comments to the Committee regarding your nomination via letter mail or e-mail (COW@dccouncil.us).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or Evan Cash on my staff at 202-724-7002.

Sincerely,

Phil Mendelson
Chairman

enc.

PM/ec

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of Planning**



Public Roundtable on

**PR24-1037, the “Director of the Office of Planning Anita Cozart
Confirmation Resolution of 2022”**

Testimony of

Anita Cozart

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

November 21, 2022
12:00 pm
Virtual Meeting Platform
The John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Good afternoon, Chairman Mendelson and members and staff of the Committee of the Whole. My name is Anita Cozart and I am the Acting Director of the DC Office of Planning (OP).

As a proud resident of Ward 5, I am honored to have been nominated by Mayor Muriel Bowser as the Director of the Office of Planning. I welcome the opportunity to discuss my background, experience, and vision for OP.

To start with my background, I am currently in my second tour of service at the Office of Planning. Prior to my appointment as the Interim Director, from 2019 to 2021, I served as the Deputy Director of Community Planning and Design. In that role, I led OP's work on neighborhood planning and urban design. During my time as Deputy Director, I provided oversight to the teams that completed the 2021 Comprehensive Plan update and launched the most recent wave of neighborhood plans including two that the Council has recently adopted for Congress Heights and Chevy Chase. My previous tour of service at OP started in 2003 and ended in 2010. During that time, I served as a Citywide Planner, a Neighborhood Planner with a focus on Ward 4, and ultimately as Chief of Staff.

Between my two tours at OP, I was a managing director at PolicyLink, a nonprofit organization where I led place-based community development initiatives in 35 cities and regions across the United States. At PolicyLink, my focus was on embedding racial equity into housing and transportation policies at the local, state, and federal levels.

My deep commitment to public service and striving for excellence are values that I carry with me to this day. Coupled with my background and experience, I welcome the opportunity to lead OP in delivering on the important work ahead.

In January 2022 when I was appointed as Interim Director, one of my first actions was the launch of the Streets for People Initiative with over \$2.8 million in grants to Business Improvement Districts and Community Improvement Districts in the Downtown. This program supported over 100 recurring public space activation events to bring people back to Downtown. The Streets for

People program will continue into 2023 and lessons learned will support strategies to advance Downtown's economic recovery.

A key aspect of Mayor Bowser's housing goals is to ensure that all District residents have a fair shot at affordable housing, access to opportunities, and building generational wealth, particularly for communities of color. This year, I served as the co-chair of the Black Homeownership Strikeforce, which set a bold goal of 20,000 net new Black homeowners in the District by 2030 and issued recommendations to achieve the goal.

As Interim Director, I also oversaw the completion and submission to Council of three small area plans. This year, Council has approved small area plans for Chevy Chase and Congress Heights that OP developed in collaboration with community partners. In the coming weeks, OP will submit to Council for adoption the Pennsylvania Avenue East Small Area Plan. Each of these small area plans advances housing goals and supports equity and resilience through recommendations that are tailored to neighborhood needs. OP has initiated an additional five place-based planning efforts to implement the Comp Plan with several more launching in 2023.

The mission of the Office of Planning is to plan for the long-term growth of the District in a way that reflects our values of an inclusive and vibrant city. My vision for OP is two-fold -- that OP will earn the reputation as a regional and global leader in developing and executing plans that yield racially-equitable and prosperous communities, and that OP is deeply-engaged with as many District residents and stakeholders as possible as we realize our mission.

If confirmed as Director, over the next several years, I plan to focus on:

1. Implementing the 2021 Comprehensive Plan, including the placed-based planning efforts that align with the land use changes outlined in the Comp Plan;
2. Laying the groundwork for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan rewrite;
3. Accelerating land use and zoning activities that advances the District's goal of 36,000 new housing units, including 12,000 affordable units by 2025; and
4. Supporting efforts to reimagine and reinvigorate Downtown.

As I move these focal areas forward, I seek to make the work across OP's divisions more accessible, equitable, and impactful.

With respect to accessibility, one of my actions as Director will be to expand and enhance ways for all residents to easily engage with and inform OP's work. To accomplish this, we will pursue emerging technology, innovative engagement approaches, measurable evaluation methods, and new platforms to share our planning work. I will build upon work underway including: the use of 3D modeling software that illustrates how zoning and urban design can be used to envision great places and spaces along Wisconsin and Connecticut Avenues; the OP Demographic Data Hub, which serves as a one-stop-shop to help people understand population trends citywide and in their communities; and the web-based Public Input platform, which expands opportunities for residents and stakeholders to provide input into OP's ongoing planning initiatives. Looking ahead, the 2025 Comprehensive Plan rewrite is a key opportunity to create a new guide for growth and development that District residents and stakeholders can easily navigate. I look forward to working with the Council to identify approaches to accomplishing that outcome.

With respect to equity, OP's approach has centered the 2021 Comprehensive Plan's priority of racial equity by exploring a key question: How have the District and its neighborhoods changed, how will they continue to change, and for whom? With this question in mind, OP has incorporated several practices in our work, including:

- Understanding and acknowledging the role urban planning has played historically in furthering discrimination and inequitable outcomes in Black communities and communities of color;
- Disaggregating demographic and community participation data by race, gender, and other socio-economic factors, where possible;
- Engaging diverse community voices through a transparent and open process;
- Developing a community-informed vision for equitable and inclusive growth that is rooted in participation; and
- Setting benchmarks for equitable outcomes of the plan or initiative.

Embedding and approaching racial equity as both a process and an outcome has been a key aspect of my career, so I look forward to giving leadership to OP's work in 2023 to develop and begin to implement an action plan that leverages our activities to advance racial equity in a meaningful and measurable way.

Finally with respect to impact, OP plays a key role in shaping our built environment through land use, design, and place-based planning, which impacts how people live, work, and play in our diverse communities. The land use and urban design elements of the 2021 Comp Plan provide a vision and goals for enhancing the quality of the built environment in the District. To this end, OP has developed and will continue to implement streetscape standards for developing areas like Buzzard Point and Union Market to foster new public spaces that welcome residents and visitors into outdoor environments that promote environmental resilience and relate to industrial and commercial activities that historically defined these neighborhoods.

Another way OP will continue to impact the built environment is through review of proposals for zoning changes, particularly in areas impacted by land use changes adopted in the 2021 Comprehensive Plan. Advancing zoning designations that support these land use changes is a critical step toward realizing more housing in the District, including affordable housing, and OP continues to move this work forward. It is critical that as we do this work we also continue to apply a racial equity lens guided by disaggregated data, community engagement, and strategies to address displacement pressures facing many communities.

In conclusion, I am excited about the opportunity to lead the Office of Planning and am grateful to Mayor Bowser for nominating me. Each day I am proud to work with the one-of-a-kind OP team who have such a deep knowledge of our city, a passion for service to our residents, and a commitment to moving DC toward a stronger and resilient future. Thank you for this opportunity to testify today and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Committee of the Whole (Council)

From: Anne Ford <amford612@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 11:29 PM
To: Committee of the Whole (Council)
Subject: Confirmation Of Anita Cozart / Director of Office Of Planning

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Commitee Of The Whole DC

Dear Committee members

My name is Anne Ford. I chair WIN at my church in ward 6 Holy Comforter Saint Cyprians Roman Catholic Church. I am on the strategy team of WIN . I also co chair on the executive board of NLSP. I recently had the opportunity as the only community member besides Rev Graylan to join Ms Cozart on the Black Homeowners Strike Force. Ms Cozart I find to be quite capable to handle the position of Director Of Office of planning. She displayed excellent expertise and professionalism while serving as Co Chair on the strike force. I believe she is highly qualified to fulfill that role as , she moves up from Interim to Director. Healthy , sober and mentally fit demeanour. Knowledgeable and a native Washingtonian who strives to serve this community with whatever goals there are in fulfillment of this position.. Ms Cozart position is tasked with planning for the long term growth of the District of Columbia, to ensure its reflects our values of an inclusive and vibrant city. These are the goals of your mission statement. Help the District work towards a positive future in which all District residents can thrive regardless of income, race ,age or background. Ms Cozart demonstrated this while interacting with myself and the team on the strike force. Part of the discussion of the strike force stated guides of land use and development in the District , including historic preservation. I am speaking as a resident of DC and community base, and teammate. Finally Ms Cozart is fit to serve as Director Of Office Of Planning. Lets confirm her as Director.

Thanks
Anne Marie Ford

Uwe S. Brandes
2908 13th Street NW
Washington, DC 20009

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Council of the District of Columbia
Committee of the Whole
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

November 15, 2022

Re: Confirmation of Anita Cozart as Director of the Office of Planning

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

It is with great enthusiasm that I highly recommend Anita Cozart be confirmed Director of the District of Columbia Office of Planning. I have known Anita for over 10 years, first as Chief of Staff in the Office of Planning, then as Deputy Director of Policy Link and more recently as Deputy Director of the Office of Planning.

Ms. Cozart is an urban planning professional of national stature. In addition to her extensive experience with planning issues in the District of Columbia, at Policy Link, she has been a national innovator in the still emerging practices of social equity planning. She has worked in many cities across the country, she is a national leader within professional circles, and she serves as adjunct faculty at Georgetown University.

Ms. Cozart commands the interdisciplinary knowledge necessary to be an effective urban planning. She is both an acute and attentive listener, and an exceptionally clear communicator. She understands that people – social equity -- are at the center of the arcane professional jargon and governance frameworks which define the professional practice of urban planning. In addition to being diligent and attentive, she is approachable and welcoming of alternative points of view. Importantly, she commands the respect of her peers in both the public and private sectors and she is an effective and responsible manager.

I highly recommend her confirmation.

Sincerely,



Uwe S. Brandes
Chair, District of Columbia Commission on Climate Change & Resiliency
Professor of the Practice, Georgetown University
Director, Urban & Regional Planning Program
Director, Georgetown Global Cities Initiative

Committee of the Whole (Council)

From: Alex Baca <abaca@ggwash.org>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 12:56 PM
To: Committee of the Whole (Council)
Cc: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cozart, Anita (OP)
Subject: support for anita cozart appointment

Dear Chairman Mendelson and the Committee of the Whole,

On behalf of Greater Greater Washington, where I serve as D.C. policy director, I am writing to support the permanent appointment of Interim Director Anita Cozart to director of the Office of Planning.

A particular focus for GGWash in the coming years will be the full rewrite of the Comprehensive Plan, beginning in 2025; we hope to see a considerably shorter document, focused explicitly on land use, that sets better parameters for the type of developments that will satisfy the District's goals, including housing production and sustainability goals.

But the Comp Plan is not the sum total of what the Office of Planning does. Ms. Cozart's dedication to community planning has already enriched the agency's presence in neighborhoods across the District. Additionally, her enthusiasm for both citywide and neighborhood planning will serve her staff well as they navigate the numerous thorny topics that OP will need to address to keep its work contemporary, and reflective of current political concerns here. Those include straightening out what racial equity in planning and zoning means; considering the fairer distribution for planning, distribution, and repair zones; and enabling more housing, and more affordable housing, in parts of the District where it has been historically prevented.

We look forward to working with Ms. Cozart in her capacity as director of the Office of Planning.

Thank you,
Alex

--

Alex Baca
D.C. Policy Director
[Greater Greater Washington](https://www.ggwash.org)
abaca@ggwash.org / (410) 562-5597 / she, they
[Support our work.](#)

"...driving may kill a lot of people, but it also helps a lot of people get to work on time, so, it;s impossible to say if its bad or not," —[@dril, 2014](#), and, also, in essence, many American political leaders



GOLDEN TRIANGLE

TESTIMONY OF

**LEONA AGOURIDIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GOLDEN TRIANGLE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

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

**Public Roundtable on PR 24-1037, the “Director of the Office of Planning Anita Cozart
Confirmation Resolution of 2022”**

**November 21, 2022
12 p.m.**

Good morning, Chairman Mendelson, members of the Committee of the Whole, and staff. My name is Leona Agouridis, and I am Executive Director of the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District (“BID”). The BID is a nonprofit established by District law to provide clean, safe, and vibrant environments, and retain and attract businesses to one of our core D.C. neighborhoods, the Golden Triangle. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the confirmation of Anita Cozart as the Director of the District of Columbia’s Office of Planning. Anita was the first planner hired at the Golden Triangle BID. I saw first-hand years ago her sense of vision and direction as she brought new ideas and initiatives to the organization. Since then, I have watched her leadership grow, I have witnessed her steadfast commitment to the District and all of its residents, and I have admired the perspective and purpose she brings to her work.

Today, I am pleased to be before you to support her nomination as the next Director of the District's Office of Planning.

The pandemic has devastated central business districts ("CBDs") throughout the county and the Golden Triangle is no exception. With 34 million square feet of office space, virtually no residents or cultural institutions, and ground floor retail that is dependent on office workers, the Golden Triangle has been especially hard hit, arguably more than any other neighborhood in the District of Columbia.

While there are no simple solutions to the problem, we know that a strong and resilient central business district will require an absolute transformation of the built environment, adding residential, cultural, and entertainment uses, as well as retail. Public spaces need to be reimagined and rebuilt to entice people to the area, and significant effort needs to be made to attract businesses, especially growth sectors like technology, to the area. As the BID remains laser focused on these efforts, we have been extremely fortunate to have a partner in District's Office of Planning, undoubtedly due to the vision and leadership of Anita Cozart.

The Office of Planning's *Streets for People* program has proven to be a lifeline for the Golden Triangle. It has been critical in our recovery efforts and has injected life and vitality into the neighborhood at a time when it is needed most. Under Anita's leadership and that of her predecessor Andrew Trueblood, OP has taken this visionary initiative and created a community-centered recovery program that rethinks how our public spaces are utilized. Anita and her entire team have been creative, collaborative, and responsive partners throughout an incredibly challenging time for our central business district.

Looking ahead, the BID is excited about several new initiatives in partnership with Anita and the Office of Planning. From working to reimagine and replan the Golden Triangle and

CBD, to collaborating on a new public realm plan for the neighborhood, there is lots to be done as a part of our recovery and we are excited to have Anita and the Office of Planning by our side as we embark on what is a truly transformative time for the neighborhood.

Even before the pandemic, the Office of Planning has been an essential partner in the BID's work, providing thought leadership as well as technical and practical expertise. Anita and her team are steadfast in their resolve to serve all of the District, centering equity across all eight Wards of the city, not just the downtown and central business district. The work of OP is more important now than ever, and Anita is the ideal leader to take the agency forward into what still are very challenging and unprecedented times for the Golden Triangle and District of Columbia.

The pandemic has created a new sense of urgency and broad recognition that we must act boldly and comprehensively to reimagine the CBD. Anita is well positioned to continue to support our efforts in rethinking the neighborhood. We look forward to continuing our very successful partnership with OP under Anita's leadership. I wholeheartedly encourage the Council to confirm her as the District's next Director of the Office of Planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 Committee of the Whole
3 December 20, 2022

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9 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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11 24-1037

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13 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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18 To confirm the appointment of Anita Cozart as the Director of the District of Columbia
19 Office of Planning.

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21 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That
22 this resolution may be cited as the “Director of the Office of Planning Anita Cozart
23 Confirmation Resolution of 2022”.

24
25 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the appointment of:

26 Anita Cozart
27 Crittenden Street, N.E.
28 Washington, D.C. 20017
29 (Ward 5)

30
31 as the Director of the Office of Planning, established by Mayor’s Order 83-25, dated
32 January 3, 1983, and in accordance with section 2 of the Confirmation Act of 1978,
33 effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01), to serve at the
34 pleasure of the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

35 Sec. 3. The Council shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to
36 the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor

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