

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency**

**AGENDA**

December 11, 2019  
4:00 – 6:00 pm

- Call to Order
- Announcement of a Quorum
- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Commission Report Update/Oversight Hearing
- DC-OP Presentation on the DC Comprehensive Plan Update
- Staff Report from OCA
- Staff Report from DOEE
- Calendar Year 2020: Scheduled Meetings, Activities and Administrative Approach
- Public Comments
- Adjournment

In Person:

DOEE: 1200 First Street, NE, Room 790

Call-In:

Toll Free Conference Number: 866-459-6055

Passcodes: Participant: 9112782



## GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

### Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency

#### Quarterly Meeting

December 11, 2019

Offices of the District Department of Energy & Environment  
1200 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, DC 20002

4:00 – 6:00 pm

#### MEETING ATTENDEES

##### *Commission Members*

Uwe Brandes  
Alan Etter  
Maureen Holman (phone)  
Anthony Kane (phone)  
Sandra Knight  
Peggy Keller  
Melissa Lavinson (phone)  
Colin McCormick  
Chester McPherson (phone)  
Jason Turner  
Kate Zyla

##### *District of Columbia Staff*

Kevin Bush, OCA  
Melissa Deas, DOEE  
Stephen Gyor, DCOP

##### *Members of the Public*

Kevin Clinton, Federal City Council (phone)  
Charles Sharp, Black Emergency Manager Association  
Bernard Jones, Black Emergency Manager Association  
Namratha Somayajula, Human Rights Watch  
Cary Hinter, Public Service Commission

#### MEETING MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** -- Meeting called to order at 4:07pm by Melissa Deas. Kevin Clinton has stepped down from the chairperson position and Mayor Bowser has nominated Uwe Brandes to assume the chairperson role. Since he has not yet been confirmed, in absence of a chair, a motion was approved unanimously for Brandes to run the meeting.
2. **Swearing-in** -- Booker Rory, JR (MOTA) attended to swear in new member Colin McCormick.
- 3.
4. **Announcement of a Quorum** – A quorum is present.
5. **Approval of the Agenda** – A motion approved unanimously.
6. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion approved unanimously.
7. **Commission Report Update**



*Reflections from the Out-going Chair:* Kevin Clinton offered reflections on his tenure as chairperson in the previous year. Under his leadership the Commission completed and transmitted its Inaugural Report to the Mayor and to the Council.

*Presentation to MWCOG:* On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Uwe Brandes presented the findings of the report to the MWCOG Regional Resilience Summit and received very positive feedback. Government staff from across the region commended the positive leadership embodied by the climate change and resilience planning activities of the District of Columbia, including the Commission's report and the Resilient DC report.

*Upcoming Council Oversight Hearing:* The Commission will have a Council oversight hearing on January 16<sup>th</sup> at 11am. The Commission has received questions for that hearing, which have been provided to commission members. Uwe Brandes will circulate a draft initial response to the questions and these responses will be finalized in early January through online communications and a dedicated conference call. All members of the Commission are encouraged to attend the oversight hearing. Commission discussion clarified that while the Commission is able to accept and manage dedicated funds from both government and non-government sources, none have yet been identified.

## **8. Staff Report from OCA**

Kevin Bush provided an update on the implementation strategy associated with the ResilientDC report which is targeted to be released in April.

Bush reported that the Rockefeller Foundation has officially ended selecting new cities for the 100 Resilient Cities program, but has seeded a pool of money to keep the existing network of cities intact. Since the District of Columbia had already started the process of institutionalizing the position of the Chief Resilience Officer, the change in the 100 Resilient Cities program will have minimal impact on ongoing activities in DC. The primary impact is that access to centralized consulting expertise has been lost and the position of Deputy Director will no longer be funded.

Bush outlined ongoing activities which are creating a governance structure to implement the many measures and actions identified in Resilient DC, including: the re-instatement of the Mayor's Resilience Cabinet; a cross-agency budget review process which identifies alignment of next year's budget with the document.

Bush outlined the following key goals for FY2020: 1) work to implement the Mayor's affordable housing targets, 2) establish a workforce housing fund, 3) create an entirely new flood model, 4) support more MPD officers to patrol on foot and on bicycles. Commission discussion affirmed that many of these measures were outlined in the Commission's Inaugural Report.

Bush outlined that each agency has been asked to develop their own KPIs in response to measures outlined in the Resilient DC plan. Many of these agency plans have already been made public as a component of the budgeting process and are available on the OCA website.

## **9. Staff Report from DOEE**



Melissa Deas reported that the Building Energy Performance Standard (BEPS) Task Force, established by the Clean Energy DC legislation has had its first meeting.

DOEE is working on an updated urban heat study which measures impacts of individual urban heat island interventions. Tree canopies and building typologies appear to have the greatest impacts.

DOEE is meeting with Ward 7 community members monthly in order to identify the needs of a potential future Resilience Hub in Ward 7.

DOEE is supporting a DDOT study on alternative flood interventions on Buzzard Point. Preliminary observations are that a living shoreline would meet most of the planning objectives but it might be one of the most expensive alternatives.

## **10. DC-OP Presentation on the DC Comprehensive Plan Update**

Stephen Gyor of the Office of Planning presented the amendment process to the DC Comprehensive Plan. More information at Plandc.dc.gov. The process has been underway since 2016, and OP has received over 3000 comments. The draft plan has 4 major themes – housing, equity, resilience, and public resources. The drafting of the amendment process has integrated recent planning documents prepared by other agencies, including all of the work completed by DOEE under the umbrellas of Sustainable DC, Clean Energy DC and Resilient DC.

The Comprehensive Plan includes a dedicated “Resilience Crosswalk” which is a chart showing where resilience is discussed within the plan. Neighborhoods and land areas which correspond to the 500-year floodplain have been designated as priority areas for future study. The issue of the social determinants of health are seen as critically important throughout the document.

Discussion confirmed that the Comprehensive Plan update does not include new dedicated climate modelling associated with climate change mitigation or adaptation. However, the theme of climate change is identified as one of two overarching priorities, along with affordable housing. The previously completed Comprehensive Plan (2006) had only briefly identified the issue of climate change. Resilience and social equity are themes that are featured throughout the updated plan.

Discussion confirmed the dynamic nature of climate change will require additional study and attention in the next iteration of the Comprehensive Plan, which is not an amendment cycle, but a complete re-write. The generalized policy map is illustrative and accepts that there will be change.

Discussion confirmed that greenhouse gas reduction goals associated with the built environment and with transportation appear in multiple sections. The plan recognizes that the built environment is the number one contributor of greenhouse gas emissions and proposes transit-oriented land uses as a key solution. Recent energy legislation is not discussed in the Comprehensive Plan because it is already law.

Discussion confirmed that the Commission may choose to submit dedicated comments on the Comprehensive Plan in addition to the submission of the Inaugural Report and that it would do so in advance of the January 31 deadline for government agencies. The Commission’s Inaugural



Report will be submitted as a public comment to the Office of Planning by the December 20 deadline.

## **11. Calendar Year 2020: Scheduled Meetings, Activities and Administrative Approach**

The Commission engaged in discussion regarding the administration of the upcoming year of meetings. Items discussed included the following:

- The need to make the work of the Commission as transparent to the public as possible. The creation of the Commission website is a good first step towards this goal, but additional work is needed to develop the website into a user-friendly source of information. Commissioners were encouraged to identify future improvements beyond the need to list all commissioners on the website.
- The timing of the quarterly Commission meetings will be the subject of a member survey.
- Commissioners expressed support of an executive retreat to further refine the dedicated strategy for 2020 activities.
- Additional digital tools will be introduced to make the administration of Commission work easier for members.
- A calendar will be created which identifies all meetings.

The Commission engaged in discussion regarding future activities, including:

- The need to focus on items which have not yet been discussed by the Commission.
- The need to build more capacity within the Commission itself.
- The need to focus on increasing community engagement.
- The need to hear from additional government agencies, including the possibility of hearing from multiple government agencies in a panel discussion format.
- Refinement of the specific content proposed for the 2020 Commission Report.

## **12. Public Comments**

Members of the public were invited to make comments and clarifying discussion ensued. Comments were made by the following organizations:

- The Black Emergency Managers Association International. Representatives underscored the internationalization of professional practices in emergency management and the international significance of practices innovated in Washington, DC.
- Human Rights Watch. Representatives expressed interest in the population health risks at the nexus of rising temperatures, heat island effect and pregnancy.
- DC Public Service Commission. Representatives invited the Commission to provide comments on a [Notice of Inquiry](#) seeking guidance on the need to identify metrics associated with reporting greenhouse gas emissions as well as the reporting regimes to be adopted in the District of Columbia. The deadline for comments is January 13.

## **13. Adjournment**



The Commission's next quarterly meeting will be scheduled in the month of March.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55pm.