

COMMITTEE OF 100 ON THE FEDERAL CITY

January 7, 2008

Dear Committee of 100 Member,

Happy new year. Thank you for your continuing support of the Committee's work and your commitment to a well-planned city. .

January Membership Meeting. We think you will find the January meeting particularly interesting. Our speaker is Neil O. Albert, the District's Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development. Given the District's dizzying pace of development, Mr. Albert clearly has much to say relevant to our mission. Thanks to Meg Maguire for persuading him to clear a space in his schedule for us. Please plan to join us at noon, on Wednesday, January 16, 2008, at the Sumner School, 17th and M Streets, NW. If you want lunch, let us know at 202-628-8031 or email treasurer Buck Clarke at buck@clarkerealtypartners.com.

About Our Speaker. Before being appointed Deputy Mayor, Mr. Albert co-founded and was president and CEO of EdBuild, an educational services firm working to increase the number of high-performing schools in Washington, DC. Before that, Mr. Albert was Deputy Mayor for Children, Youth, Families and Elders and director of the District's Department of Parks and Recreation. Mr. Albert has held public sector executive management positions for more than 15 years.



Mr. Albert also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the DC Sports and Entertainment Commission. Before coming to Washington, Mr. Albert served for five years as the director of Nonprofit Assistance Programs for the Fund of the City of New York, where he led that foundation's management consulting practice to New York City nonprofit agencies. Mr. Albert also served as director of contract agency finance for the New York City Department of Youth Services. He holds an MBA in finance from the New York Institute of Technology.

Other C100 Programs. Meg took on the task of scheduling speakers for membership meetings for the 2007-2008 program year and has done a stellar job. We heard from Council Chairman Gray in September and Allen Lew, D.C.'s school reconstruction czar, in October. An upcoming meeting on environmental issues will include the novel development of "green demolition."

Election Results. As is traditional, November was devoted to the Annual Meeting. Trustees elected were Ward Bucher and Meg Maguire, both elected to their first terms; Andrea Ferster and Jim Nathanson, re-elected to new terms; and Loretta Neumann and former Chair Barbara Zartman, both returning to the board after a hiatus. They join Mike Berman, Kent Cooper, Eric Graye, George Oberlander, Charles Robertson, Mary Pat Rowan, Dick Westbrooke and John Yago, who are beginning the second year of two-year terms. Officers elected were Laura Richards, Chair; George Clark, Vice-Chair; Richard Houghton, Secretary; and Buck Clarke, Treasurer. Outgoing Chair Don Hawkins begins a one-year emeritus term. Dick Wolf, Sally

Berk and Ann Hargrove, all anchors of the Committee for many years, are leaving the board with thanks and kudos for their service.

Planning Commission? At this time last year, the Committee hoped for the speedy creation of a planning commission. We had spent the past two years developing a legal and policy framework; publicized the concept, including a forum at the Building Museum; the idea enjoyed wide support; and the new D.C. Comprehensive Plan contained a provision calling for a short-deadline study on a planning commission. During the early weeks of the Fenty administration, then-Chairman Hawkins and a small group of C100 members discussed implementing a planning commission with the Mayor and top administration officials.

The administration did not embrace and move forward with the idea, despite pre-election statements of support. The study called for in the Comp Plan is nearing completion, but is likely to turn on *whether* the District should have a planning commission rather than *how* such a commission would function. We have met with Paul Zucker, the outside consultant under contract to conduct the study, and continued to press arguments in favor of a commission. We received a courteous hearing, but Mr. Zucker expressed a strong predilection for streamlined procedures that combine planning and zoning review. We await the study's outcome, but with no great optimism.

Zoning Overhaul. A key initiative shaping the District's future is the overhaul of the city's 1958 Zoning Code, an undertaking begun in November 2007 and schedule to run through November 2009. If your eyes glaze over when zoning issues are raised, try to think of zoning in Barbara Zartman's memorable phrase as a "social contract" between polity and citizen. Or as a bulwark between your castle and the tannery next door.

A Zoning Review Task Force has been convened, and issue-specific Working Groups are scheduled to begin meeting this month. Task Force meetings are open to the public observation and Working Group meetings are open to public participation. We will have more information on these at the membership meeting and urge you follow this closely. We will be asking members with particular subject matter expertise to join specific Working Groups. There are four C100 members on the Task Force. Barbara Zartman is our official representative; George Clark is representing the Federation of Citizens Associations; Laura Richards and Ellen McCarthy are representing Chairman Gray; and Nancy MacWood is representing Councilman Brown.

Vision Awards. We moved the awards presentation from December to the spring. Watch for developments.

Thanks again for helping keep the C100 a forceful voice on federal city planning issues.

Regards,

Laura Richards,
Chair