

The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of The District of Columbia

Established Dec. 7, 1865

Officers:

President –
William N. Brown

Vice-President –
John P. Richardson

Treasurer –
Hulit Pressley Taylor

Secretary –
Seymour Selig

Historian –
Nelson Rimensnyder

Fire Dept. Liaison –
James Embrey

Directors:

A.L. Wheeler –
Past-president

Carl Cole
Damon Cordon
Jan Evans Houser
Lucinda P. Janke
Gary Scott
Sherwood Smith

AOI
4425 Greenwich Pkwy,
NW, Washington, DC
20007-2010

202-342-1638
202-383-1813 Lunch
RSVP's

Web site:

www.aoidc.org

E-mail:

aioifdc@gmail.com

September 30, 2013

Honorable L. Preston Bryant, Chairman
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW, North Lobby, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Bryant:

The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia, the District's oldest civic organization committed to the preservation, maintenance and promotion of both the L'Enfant Plan and McMillan Plan, would like to comment again on the recent recommendations regarding proposed changes to the Building Height Act.

The AOI is opposed to any changes in the Height Act. We are concerned that changes to the Height Act will be a slippery slope toward future, more frequent and more radical changes. We believe the NCPC staff has done an excellent job in analyzing the issues, hosting community forums and taking written and oral testimony.

The AOI is **particularly disappointed** in the recommendations of the District of Columbia's Office of Planning Director Harriet Tregoning and transmitted to the NCPC by Mayor Vincent Gray. These recommendation are contrary to what we seemed to hear at community forums and represent, we believe, an ill-advised attempt to assert District autonomy from the U.S. Congress at the expense of the District's century-old building height restrictions. This is not the time, place nor circumstance for this debate.

In 1946, the District's population was approximately 899,000 residents (we realize that 'residents' are not households, however...). Today, the city's population has enjoyed a revival and now approaches 633,000 residents. Let us encourage reasonable development within the current limits of the Height Act in blighted, underutilized areas of the city before we tamper with something that will forever change the character of our city.

As Vancouver, B.C. Planner Larry Beasley warned in his presentation to the NCPC in 2010: "Take care not to open things up too casually. I dare say, those height limits may be the single most powerful thing that has made this city so amazingly fulfilling."

The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia -- the District's oldest civic organization -- was established on December 7, 1865, to preserve memories and matters of historic interest. By virtue of our long presence and participation in the city's prosperity and improvement, we continue to work and strive for the city's stability, security and advancement -- to aid in every way the prosperity and well-being of the District while preserving the heritage of its past.

The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of The District of Columbia

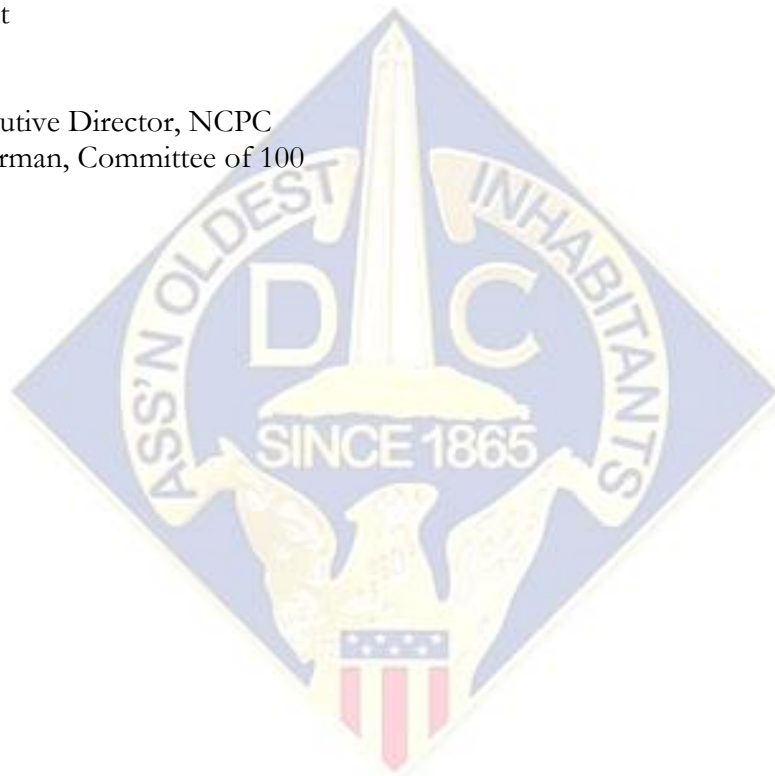
Established Dec. 7, 1865

Thank you for considering our organization's views on this.

Sincerely,

William N. Brown, President

Cc: Marcel A. Acosta, Executive Director, NCPC
Nancy MacWood, Chairman, Committee of 100



The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia -- the District's oldest civic organization -- was established on December 7, 1865, to preserve memories and matters of historic interest. By virtue of our long presence and participation in the city's prosperity and improvement, we continue to work and strive for the city's stability, security and advancement -- to aid in every way the prosperity and well-being of the District while preserving the heritage of its past.