Mayor's Council on African American Elders

c/o Aging and Disability Services, Seattle-King County
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May 3, 2024

Office of Planning & Community Development
Re: The One Seattle Plan

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as the chairperson on behalf of the Mayors Council on African American Elders (MCAAE) a City of Seattle commission. The MCAAE has a charge to advocate for accessible, comprehensive services for older adults with a focus on African Americans. While we commend you and your colleagues for the thoughtful hard work that went into the current draft of the One Seattle Comprehensive Plan update, we would like to submit the following suggestions for improvements.

1. In the Housing section of the Plan we do not see any attempt to factor in the needs of older adults on fixed incomes. Even though it is a fact that older adults will be a growing demographic over the next decade. Older adults on fixed incomes represent a critical segment of affordable housing need that should not be neglected in the Plan.

2. We would also like to see some strategies for providing affordable housing for service workers. Older adults often depend on such workers to continue to live independently. The chronic shortage of these workers in our community is often attributed to the lack of affordable housing for them and their families.

3. While the Plan is forwarding-looking in terms of the pressures we will all experience due to climate change, it makes no mention of how we, as a city, will respond to increasing pressures from the migration of people to our City and region due to global political and economic pressures, as well as climate change. We believe a section that addresses the issues flowing from such immigration should be addressed.

4. Finally, the Plan has little to no content on the new transportation options that will certainly affect our neighborhoods in the next 10-20 years, i.e., autonomous vehicles and personal delivery devices. Envisioning our streets and neighborhoods as safe and walkable without considering the imminent pressures on these goals from autonomous devices appears remiss to us.

The MCAAE would like to see these areas fleshed out more fully in the Comprehensive Plan.

Again, thank you for your work to ensure that our city is the best it can be in the coming years.

Rita Howard, Chairperson
Mayor's Council on African American Elders

Co-sponsored by: City of Seattle King County