

Community Ownership and the 2040 Plan

To: Mayor Vi Lyles, Charlotte City Council, City Planning Staff

From: A concerned citizen

As you know the 2040 Comprehensive Plan will transform land-use decision making, effectively removing most of the zoning framework that exists and replacing it with something different.

What this transformation means for neighborhoods and communities struggling with rising rents and displacement heavily depends upon the actions this body takes.

We are neither asking for our voices to be heard nor are we simply inquiring about what our fate will be when the dust settles. We are **demanding** changes to the way this process is playing out. For those of us concerned about equity with full reference to the way decision-making in this city has been driven by those with money, political access and organization we are making our presence as **primary stakeholders** known.

To this end we demand the following:

- Establish an anti-displacement stakeholder group to review the 2040 Plan, the UDO and the mapping of Place Types, with membership appointed by the newly formed Charlotte Community Benefits Coalition (CBC). (The vision of the Charlotte CBC is to give a voice to the needs of underrepresented communities for a more equitable Charlotte. Its mission is to broadly distribute the benefits and resources of new and existing development to distressed communities and historically disenfranchised groups).
- Expand representation on the Ordinance Advisory Committee (OAC - the volunteer body currently reviewing and advising the UDO) to include more neighborhoods from the crescent, the Community Benefits Coalition, representation of tenants/renters, and representation of housing advocacy groups
- Create Community Benefits Zones in which each “zone” has its own deliberative body of neighborhoods that will be referred potential development projects to which the body can decide whether or not to pursue a CBA and support the project or reject the project outright.

As people who live and work in this city we should be in the front and center of the 2040 process.

We are not passive recipients of what technocrats, wealthy elites and disconnected developers decide for us, but rather we are active agents who will make our voices heard. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
A Concerned Citizen