

**May 12, 2015**

**Planning Commission Written Comments**

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**Ms. Huff** - The duties and responsibilities of our Planning Department are extensive in both number and kind. I found as I read through this document that I was very impressed with the expertise entailed in these duties and the sizable workload these tasks represent for a staff of only 37. I personally want to thank the staff for their diligence and hard work.

**Mr. Miller** - I was pleased to see two things in the work plan. First, I am happy to see that progress is finally being made on the Golden Belt and Cleveland Holloway historic districts. Next, I am very interested in the department's plans to improve citizen engagement, section 5. I am excited about a planning department newsletter and a planning academy program. The programs will help bring ordinary citizens into the process and will serve to reduce the alienation many citizens feel. It will also improve the quality of citizen input at those points when citizen input is mandated and important. Planning Commission members should participate in and support these initiatives by the department.