



February 7, 2024

Mayor, City Council and Planning Commission,

I am writing to share my support for the excellent work of the Retool Gaithersburg team and their efforts to create an accessible and inclusive process and product. Through my role as the City of Gaithersburg Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Program Manager, I have had the pleasure of serving in an advisory capacity for the team as they seek to rework the City's Zoning Ordinance.

Upon review of the draft document, I found it to be accessible to read given the inclusion of graphs, charts, and terms for readers to have a multi-pronged understanding of the material. By providing clear language and definitions regarding expanded business usage, including degendered and uncoded words and concepts, and limiting historically unequitable businesses and practices, the ordinance showcases Gaithersburg's commitment to ensuring equitable outcomes and practicing inclusion in various forms.

I'm grateful for all the important work to create a Zoning Ordinance that reflects that City's value's for being an inclusive and diverse community.

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