



Regional Plan Association

... a research and planning agency supported by voluntary membership to promote the coordinated development of the New York- New Jersey-Connecticut Metropolitan Region.

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RPA WELCOMES REPORT BY NEW YORK CITY COMMISSION ON THE YEAR 2000

Regional Plan Association commended the New York City Commission on the Year 2000, which issued its report this morning, saying "New York City needs a confident vision of its future and a cohesive strategy for making the most of its advantages."

Promising a more complete analysis after it has had a chance to examine the report more closely, RPA called on the city to conduct an ambitious program to distribute and encourage discussion of the Commission's messages.

A complete copy of the Association's statement is attached.

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The New York City Commission on the Year 2000 An RPA Comment

The Commission on the Year 2000 was established by Mayor Koch in response to calls from civic groups and the media to consider the problems facing the city toward the year 2000 and to recommend appropriate solutions. It was established at a time when the tri-state Region was beginning to reassert its preeminence after more than a decade of economic decline and fiscal stringency. Three years later, the Region's recovery looks considerably stronger than it did when the Commission was formed. Clearly, New York City needs a confident vision of its future and a cohesive strategy for making the most of its advantages.

What the Report Does

The Commission's report seeks to build on New York's strengths in confronting pressing economic and social issues. Its recommendations are comprehensive and interrelated, with emphasis on the human side. "Poverty must be faced as the city's most serious and pressing problem," it says. "As the long-term solution to poverty and dependency, education must have the highest priority." The availability of jobs and job training is an important part of any solution.

On the physical side, the report emphasizes utilization of the city's waterfront, the need for substantial investment in housing and the establishment of regional centers in each borough, all of which are in keeping with Regional Plan Association's policies.

Importantly, it calls for establishment of an Office of Strategic Planning in city government.

RPA's Reaction

RPA applauds the 2000 Commission. The city has long needed a comprehensive, well-considered plan for its future. As soon as the Association has had a chance to evaluate the report itself, it will publish an analysis. One thing is already clear, however: the report is a beginning, not a culmination. Now the city should consider an ambitious program to distribute and encourage discussion of the Commission's messages. Each of the city's community planning boards, the relevant city and regional agencies and all citywide civic organizations should be asked for a thoughtful response.

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