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'The Era of Urban Supremacy Is Over'

On the last day of February, Glen Lee, the chief financial officer of Washington, D.C., issued a warning to the mayor and members of the District of Columbia Council, who are undertaking such costly ventures as free bus service and expanded affordable housing.

"The Covid-19 pandemic," Lee wrote, "has brought about significant changes in the District's population and economy, with potential long-term implications." Revenue estimates, he said, have "been lowered due to 1) a more pessimistic economic outlook and 2) a deteriorating real property market."

In Lee's view, there are still more danger signals:

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The New York Times

by Thomas B. Edsall

March 15, 2023

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