

**Support for Case No. 16-11 (Park View Community Partners & District of Columbia – Consolidated PUD & Related Map Amendment @ Square 2890, Part of Lot 849)
December 5, 2016**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this evening. My name is Lori Leibowitz, and I am excited to testify in favor of the plan to develop the temporary Bruce Monroe Park. I own a home in ANC 1A, my older child goes to a neighborhood public school, and my younger child will be joining her there next year. I am deeply invested in DC and in my neighborhood. Every morning on my way to work, I bike past Park Morton and exchange greetings with my neighbors who live there, neighbors who are also deeply invested in the neighborhood.

It is incredibly important to me that these neighbors get to remain in the neighborhood continually during the Park Morton redevelopment and after. I want them to continue to be my neighbors. I love that I live in a diverse neighborhood with people from different backgrounds and different income levels, that my children are constantly meeting and playing with kids who have had different experiences from them.

At the end of my block is a subsidized, high-rise apartment building. The residents of the building are friendly and caring people who are active participants in our annual block party, playmates for my children and generally good neighbors. And, because there is a high rise at the end of my block of row houses, it means that there is also a small grocery store, a shoe repair place, a coffee shop, and a bus stop, amenities that the row houses alone would not be able to support.

I worry that many of my neighbors who do not live in subsidized housing are being pushed out of our community as it becomes a more expensive place to live. Our neighborhood and our city should be a place where the people who clean our offices, serve food at restaurants, and check out our groceries can afford to live without struggling to make ends meet. We need more housing for people who work in low-wage jobs, people with fixed incomes, people who cannot work full time, and people who are having trouble finding work at all. We need to preserve every single unit of affordable housing that we have and to significantly increase the number of units that are affordable for people who earn less than 30% of AMI. I do not want to see another neighbor get pushed out of our neighborhood or have to make tough choices about paying rent or buying school supplies. The development at Bruce Monroe is an opportunity to make sure we continue to be the kind of inclusive neighborhood where I want to raise my children.

As an added bonus, I am excited for increased density on Georgia Avenue. More density means more amenities for me and my family. More density and more affordable housing on Georgia Avenue is a win-win for me. It means that I can live my values and have more convenient access to the items and services that I regularly use.

I urge you to approve the plan before you to develop the former Bruce Monroe School site
Thank you for your consideration

Lori Leibowitz
1360 Otis Pl. NW