



HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

"Working Together for a Better Community"

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SKYLAND SHOPPING CENTER REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT SECTION 108 FINANCING

To: Councilmember Jack Evans, Chair Committee on Finance and Revenue and
Councilmember Harold Brazil, Chair Committee on Economic Development & Members of their
respective Committees

From: Pastor Franklin Senger

Date: June 17, 2004

Subject: Joint Public Hearing on PR 15-860, the "Skyland Project Retail Priority Area Approval Resolution of 2004" and PR 15-861, the "Fiscal Year 2004 Consolidation Plan Action Plan Amendment Authorizing the Use of Section 108 Loan Guarantee Funds for the Skyland Community Development Block Grant Section 108 Loan Guarantee Application Resolution of 2004".

Good evening, my name is Pastor Franklin Senger, President Emeritus of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association (HCCA). I am here today to testify in support of the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Application for the Skyland Project and the Skyland project retail priority area approval Resolution of 2004. On May 23, 2004, at the first hearing held for residents to testify on the Section 108 loan application, over 30 persons representing various organizations residing in East Washington, spoke in support of the financing process for the Skyland project. Today I would just like to make the following points in support of the legislation before the City Council:

- 1) The residents of the communities near the shopping center have been working for over 15 years to have the shopping center redeveloped so that it is an asset to the community and better serves our needs and have led the charge for the comprehensive demolition and redevelopment of the Skyland Shopping Center.
- 2) Economic development is occurring throughout the District, with thousands of new homes under construction in the neighborhood surrounding the Skyland commercial area. East Washington is ripe for redevelopment, with retail being the highest priority. East Washington residents have significant dollars to spend and currently travel to Maryland and Virginia to purchase goods. The current Skyland does not meet the community's retail demand. Moreover, the current Skyland has been a burden to the community in many ways i.e. crime, loitering, preventing redevelopment and investment, etc.

I would like to close by saying the East Washington, DC residents have waited a long time to see this project done and it has lingered enough. With the approval of the legislation before the City Council this project can come to fruition. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


Pastor Franklin Senger
President Emeritus, HCCA

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 09-03
EXHIBIT NO. 82