

Villareal D Johnson, II

Washington East Foundation, Secretary

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ZONING COMMISSION on the District of Columbia

In support of the Development of Skyland Town Center

Thursday, February 17, 2010

441 4th Street NW,

Good evening members of the DC Zoning Commission

Thank you for granting me this opportunity to sit voice my position for the Skyland Development Project.

It is truly a great day for the residents of East Washington. It is great because each day we move closer and closer to an all inclusive comprehensive development project worthy our liking. Yes! If you can't tell by now I am here in favor of the Skyland Development Project. As a native Washingtonian born in the Hillside community of Ward 8 and as a current resident of Ward 7 I'm elated to say, let's move forward and make this a reality. For too long we have yearned for a development of this magnitude. I can remember as a youth busing to the shopping center for fast food or use of the post office. Now, I look forward to shopping for quality retail items and dinning at white table restaurants or visiting friends who will call this home.

I am aware that there are a few who are not satisfied and feel the need to protect their vested and personal interest. I support that as well. However, the good of the majority must prevail. We need this development as it will greatly improve the quality of life for just about all the residents East of the Anacostia River. This project will bring quality of life amenities, like needed goods, services and of course jobs. GOD knows we need jobs East of the River for residents. I know it will increase the density of the areas but increase density means more tax dollars and opportunities to have true community development opportunities to improve social conditions for residents.

I have participated in many of the charrettes. In addition to being a member of the Washington East Foundation, I have chaired the Housing and Economic Development committee for Marshall Height Community Development Organization and know that this project will present many opportunities to improve the quality of life for residents east of the Anacostia River. It will also give opportunities for persons from other parts of the city, Maryland and Virginia to discover what we already know about this side of town. It's a great place to live, work, shop and eat. Please let's move forward and look to resolve any concerns that will affect persons in the immediate area. Let's find amenable solution to get a win-win. But by all means let's get this done for the good of a whole and prosperous community.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 09-03
EXHIBIT NO. 94