# TESTIMONY BEFORE THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

## REHEARING IN THE APPLICATION OF KASS MA, LLC
## DOCKET NUMBER 16457

Rec'd.
FEB 23 2000

FEBRUARY 16, 2000
and continued
FEBRUARY 23, 2000

My name is Paticia Neal and I am a resident of Anacostia, residing at 1434 T Street. S.E., Washington, D.C. 20020. I have lived in Anacostia for 27 years and at my current address for 22 years. I have known my Anacostia neighborhood to once be vibrant, safe and clean. My neighbors were proactive and involved in issues and actions that threatened the safety and stability of our community. My neighbors were professionals, business people, and families who practiced and managed businesses in the community that they lived in and sent their children to the public and private schools in our community. My neighbors took pride in the upkeep of their property and held each other to the same standards. Our Anacostia community very seldom saw a lot of police action. Our community didn't have a lot of abandoned, boarded-up or shabby, unkept buildings.

When my neighborhood was like as I describe above, the people who lived there were homeowners, long-time apartment dwellers and working people who had a vested interest in keeping the neighborhood peaceful and attractive. Among other urban issues, crime, over-crowdedness, and neglected property, have driven many of my neighbors to the suburbs.

Today, I bring before the board my request to deny the application of KSI to build apartment buildings along Good Hope Road, S.E. The single- family homes will be a welcomed addition but the apartment buildings will be an extraneous addition to a community that is already overwhelmed with apartment complexes. Single family homes will help to return families and working class people to our community. These are the types of people who are the anchors for community stability and revitalization. Homeowners tend to stay longer in communities and their investment helps to foster their allegiance to the community. Apartment dwellers tend to be a lot more transient and a lot less attached to the property that they live in.

BZA
Case No. 16457
Exhibit No. 115

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16457
EXHIBIT NO.115

Anacostia is a predominantly black community that is loaded with its share of apartment dwellers and transient individuals. It has been my experience and observation that in predominantly black communities, apartment dwellings tend to attract undesirable people of low–income means and young people who are just getting started on their own. These people come with all types of social issues and behaviors that adversely affect communities.

Already, apartment buildings and complexes that are abandoned or not yet fully occupied surrounds the area that KSI wants to build more apartment buildings. I believe it to be good economical and social sense for KSI to buy and renovate some of those apartment buildings that already exists and build all houses on the sites that they have marked for apartment complexes.

For the sake of those of us who have lived a long time in the Good Hope Road area and have invested a large portion of our income into buying our homes, I urge you to help us to stop further corrosion and influx of our community.

Deny KSI's application to build more apartment complexes.

Signed: Patricia G. Neal

Date: 2/23/00