

To: Carol Mitten, Chair, DC Zoning Commission
From: Avi Rosenblit, Director, Jews United for Justice
Re: Copies of written testimony from 7.28.2005 Hearing

Dear Carol,

Enclosed please find the written testimony of three of the witnesses who testified before the Zoning Commission on July 28, 2005, in support of the CMIZ proposal for Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning, Case #04-33. These three witnesses asked me to send in their remarks on their behalf.

These witnesses are:
Laura Kumin
Rabbi Binyamin Biber
Kerry Sylvia

There are 10 copies of each person's testimony enclosed. Please contact me at 202-331-5835 if you have any questions.

Best,



Avi Rosenblit, Director, JUFJ

RECEIVED
DC Zoning
2005 SEP -1 PM 4:11

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 04-33
EXHIBIT NO. 108

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 04-33
EXHIBIT NO. 108

Testimony of Laura Kumin

Good Evening. My name is Laura Kumin. I have lived in DC for 28 years and have lived at my present address, 3620 Kanawha St NW in Ward 3, since 1983. I am testifying in support of the Campaign's proposal for mandatory inclusionary zoning.

Since I have lived in DC, I have watched the housing market make neighborhoods, including my own, less diverse. Those with smaller incomes are forced to move out - or never get to move in - as rents, housing prices and property taxes soar. It's not good for those people, it's not good for the District, and it's not good for those of us who were lucky enough to have moved in before the housing market took off. All of us benefit from living in economically diverse neighborhoods. I support the Campaign's proposal as a reasonable means to create and preserve affordable housing throughout DC.

I live near a vacant lot on Connecticut Avenue (between Kanawha St and Military Road), one of the few vacant lots left in Chevy Chase DC that would be suitable for multi-family housing. Like others in my neighborhood, I am concerned about what may be built there. I hope that if and when a building goes up on that lot, it will have units that are affordable to the metro bus drivers, grocery store clerks, waiters, salespeople and others who work in DC but who cannot afford the

rents and condo prices that now prevail in my neighborhood. New developments represent opportunities to serve the needs of the community as well as those of the private market. My husband and I want to see the values of affordability, economic integration, and long-term stability embodied in developments built in our neighborhood.

My family belongs to Temple Sinai and we're proud that our senior rabbi is among the clergy who have signed the statement of support for the Campaign's proposal. We have the right kind of leadership on this issue and we are pleased to follow his lead in publicly expressing support for the Campaign's proposal.

While I speak only for myself at this hearing, I know that my views are shared by many. As the chair of the Temple Sinai Critical Issues Committee, I have become involved in a network of temple social action committees called AtOne. The AtOne network has made affordable housing its #1 priority over the last year and in DC that means working for mandatory inclusionary zoning.

I am also a board member of Sinai Assisted Housing Foundation, Inc, a non-profit started by Temple Sinai members over a decade ago. Sinai House provides housing and social services to formerly homeless families. Our program and the 2-3 years that residents spend living in Sinai House furnished apartments in Shaw, prepare

them to become independent, stable, productive members of our community. I have seen Sinai House graduates come through the program with skills, a decent job and newfound confidence in their ability to improve their lives and the future for their families, only to find that suitable housing in DC is not attainable. That's not right – and we can do something about that. The Campaign's proposal is not a cure-all, but it will help. And we owe that help to the Sinai House residents and to others who work hard to make something of themselves and just want a decent, affordable place to live in DC.

Thank you.

Testimony of Laura Kumin

Good Evening. My name is Laura Kumin. I have lived in DC for 28 years and have lived at my present address, 3620 Kanawha St NW in Ward 3, since 1983. I am testifying in support of the Campaign's proposal for mandatory inclusionary zoning.

Since I have lived in DC, I have watched the housing market make neighborhoods, including my own, less diverse. Those with smaller incomes are forced to move out - or never get to move in - as rents, housing prices and property taxes soar. It's not good for those people, it's not good for the District, and it's not good for those of us who were lucky enough to have moved in before the housing market took off. All of us benefit from living in economically diverse neighborhoods. I support the Campaign's proposal as a reasonable means to create and preserve affordable housing throughout DC.

I live near a vacant lot on Connecticut Avenue (between Kanawha St and Military Road), one of the few vacant lots left in Chevy Chase DC that would be suitable for multi-family housing. Like others in my neighborhood, I am concerned about what may be built there. I hope that if and when a building goes up on that lot, it will have units that are affordable to the metro bus drivers, grocery store clerks, waiters, salespeople and others who work in DC but who cannot afford the

rents and condo prices that now prevail in my neighborhood. New developments represent opportunities to serve the needs of the community as well as those of the private market. My husband and I want to see the values of affordability, economic integration, and long-term stability embodied in developments built in our neighborhood.

My family belongs to Temple Sinai and we're proud that our senior rabbi is among the clergy who have signed the statement of support for the Campaign's proposal. We have the right kind of leadership on this issue and we are pleased to follow his lead in publicly expressing support for the Campaign's proposal.

While I speak only for myself at this hearing, I know that my views are shared by many. As the chair of the Temple Sinai Critical Issues Committee, I have become involved in a network of temple social action committees called AtOne. The AtOne network has made affordable housing its #1 priority over the last year and in DC that means working for mandatory inclusionary zoning.

I am also a board member of Sinai Assisted Housing Foundation, Inc, a non-profit started by Temple Sinai members over a decade ago. Sinai House provides housing and social services to formerly homeless families. Our program and the 2-3 years that residents spend living in Sinai House furnished apartments in Shaw, prepare

them to become independent, stable, productive members of our community. I have seen Sinai House graduates come through the program with skills, a decent job and newfound confidence in their ability to improve their lives and the future for their families, only to find that suitable housing in DC is not attainable. That's not right – and we can do something about that. The Campaign's proposal is not a cure-all, but it will help. And we owe that help to the Sinai House residents and to others who work hard to make something of themselves and just want a decent, affordable place to live in DC.

Thank you.