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Good Evening Commissioners,

Thank you once again for allowing me to speak about Parkside. Parkside has sentimental value and holds a special place in my heart. My name is Michelle Jones, a Washingtonian. My earliest, fondest and fun filled recollection was as a child in Parkside. Parkside was the place I spent summers and weekends with Raymond and Emma Walls my maternal grandparents. My grandparents lived at the end house on Barnes Street closest to Nevel Thomas; there was a front and back yard, along with two entrances to the house. My grandfather was a Gardner, so of course; he maintained a beautiful flower and vegetable garden, one that he was so proud of. Right now, I can visualize the azaleas in the yard along with the tomatoes growing on the vines. Parkside was a well maintained community which had a clinic, small grocery store and there was Green House cleaners DC Transits bus stops on the Avenue as I recall, all within walking distance of each other. The DC Recreation Center was located within Nevel Thomas and there were always plenty of activities for the children. At any rate, that was over forty years ago. Over forty years when Parkside was leveled. Forty plus years when the city government disrupted households, split up families and made a promise to those families that the city knew it would not keep. The promise was the first- right- of- refusal once Parkside was rebuilt. The promise however carried a stipulation of twenty-years. An additional twenty-plus year has been added and the majority of those persons whom the promise was made are now deceased. It is indeed "A Dream Deferred".

To conclude, Howard Hamilton Mackey the designer and architect of Parkside as well as the first African-American appointed to this Zoning Board designed a housing project which was family oriented, community and neighborhood friendly. I trust the current developer and architect would be just as conscience with their design. And will work with all of the stakeholders who live in the area and surrounding community to design an area which will have character and dignity for all its residents. I trust that this Zoning Board will diligently ensure that all of the environmental and transportation impact issues which is front and center and will have a major impact on the area will not only hear but make sure the issues are addressed properly. Thank you and I have waited over forty years to share this information. I was a mere 15 years of age when my grandparents and others were forced out. I have a birthday next month and if it is God's will I will turn 56. The Parkside project is long over due.



ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 05-283
EXHIBIT NO. 46