

Prepared for the hearing on March 16, 2015 which was postponed until May 7, 2015

District of Columbia Zoning Commission
ZC Case No 14-18
Testimony by Marjorie Thomas-Barnes
Brookland Manor/Brentwood Village Residents Association

Members of the Zoning Commission,

My name is Marjorie Thomas-Barnes, and I am a former resident of Brookland Manor. I moved to Brookland Manor on December 22, 1969 and moved away in 1997 and I returned from 2003 to 2010. I'm here to make known that I cannot support Mid City Financial's plans to redevelop Brookland Manor. I have more than 20 relatives who live at Brookland who will be terribly impacted by Mid City's proposal.

I mention my relatives because I still have a home here at Brookland Manor. More than a home, I have a village. Some of my relatives have large families. They are one of the many people who will suffer if Mid City refuses to provide 4- and 5-bedroom properties. For example, my son and daughter-in-law live in a 4-bedroom apartment. He and his wife live with their 3 children and two grandchildren. With Mid City's plans, where will my son's family go?

My cousin lives in a 3-bedroom apartment at Brookland Manor with 3 children. Mid City's current plans propose a substantial reduction in the number of affordable units and their sizes. Right now, with this reduction, there are a lot of people who will not be able to return to the property because it will be unaffordable. If you're not a senior and if you're not making 50% or 80% of AMI, it will be hard to live at Brookland Manor. 50% and 80% AMI is unaffordable for many of the current tenants at Brookland Manor. This plan leaves many people stranded and possibly homeless.

When I lived at Brookland Manor, I loved it. It was very convenient, I could walk to the Grant, the metro station, and to local restaurants and stores. Brookland Manor was a community to me. I enjoyed my neighbors; we knew and looked out for each other, especially the seniors. With this in mind, it is important to me that Brookland Manor is a place that has great social services and is welcoming to families and children.

Unless these things can be guaranteed for the current tenants of Brookland Manor, I cannot support the plans for redevelopment.

Thank you