

TESTIMONY OF DIANNE M. CAMP
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ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING IN CASE NO. 14-18
March 16, 2015

Good evening Chairman Hood and members of the Zoning Commission. My name is Dianne Camp. I have resided in Brentwood Village/ Brookland Manor since 1965. I've been a leaseholder since 1983 after the passing of my Mother. Before I talk about my thoughts on the new buildings, new streets, and new community green, I wanted to say a few things about the positive experience of living in this community for 50 years. I was raised in this community along with three siblings and my Parents. In the 1960s it was a quiet place with the most beautiful trees and landscapes. There were working class families most of whom were federal government workers. Some teachers, medical professionals etc. there were not a lot of children living here back then. There wasn't much to do but go to the Brentwood village shopping center. There was a five and dime where we could shop. A movie theater, drug store with a soda fountain, a grocery store the Buckingham Supermarket black owned along with small shops. There was a bowling alley where we would go to watch the adults bowl.

In 1970's things begin to change as they began to remodel the apartments to make them larger with more three bedroom apartments. They made four and five bedrooms apartments out of the smaller one bedroom apartments. When I grew up here there were more one bedroom on the property than twos and threes. The community changed completely. There were a lot of families with children even then it was still a

good place to live because we had more market rent and basic rent tenants and It was still very neighborly. It was a good place to raise your children.

In the 1980s everything changed not only in Brentwood but the whole city. I focused on raising my children allowing them to have the same upbringing I had. It starts in the home and that's where we stayed. I was raised with good morals and values and was given a foundation that is still in me today. There were a lot of challenges to deal with in the community but I don't want to elaborate on that because it wasn't easy but we survive it.

In the late 1990's is when I first met Mr. Eugene Ford and the president of Edgewood management this is when I began to advocate for change. I had never been involved in the community all the years I lived here. I always stayed to myself to raise my children properly. I did however build relationships with some neighbors especially the seniors. I realized that the children in the community needed something to do besides summer camp and after school programs at the Brookland Manor Boys & Girls club. So a group of us came together to make a change. We needed the swimming pool open again. It had been closed since the 70s. We needed the basketball court open again. We needed programs for our children and teens. So we began to partner with the city to bring in programs. We had a health Center in partnership with the Health Dept that brought in several services. The Teen Center that was ran by a non-profit and many more programs to follow. In 1998 we had an election and we began the Brookland Manor/Brentwood Village Resident Association. I was voted in as 1st Vice President.

The Edgewood/Brookland Collaborative helped many families get the services

that they needed. We accomplished a lot. The services were here all the residents had to do is use them.

By the year 2000 things had really turned around in the community. I retired as a cosmologist after 30 years. I had been doing some work with a non-profit and the Health Dept working in the Health Center. Eventually it turned in to full time employment as a Project Director for Community health workers. Edgewood management gave me a five bedroom unit (in-kind) to run the program focusing on uninsured and underinsured District residents. I was able to hire two residents. My main focus was to get my young men off to college. They all graduated by 20009. I am now completely retired and have the time to dedicate myself to this process. I want the residents to get involved and get the right information as we move forward during this process

I raised my children in this community and watched them leave to pursue very successful professional and personal lives. They went on to college to pursue their dreams. One is a Doctor and two hold high positions in the federal government.

I want to let the surrounding communities know and the city to know that we have some real good people in this community that are upstanding citizens that survived it all. There were many others along with mine to graduate college and become successful.

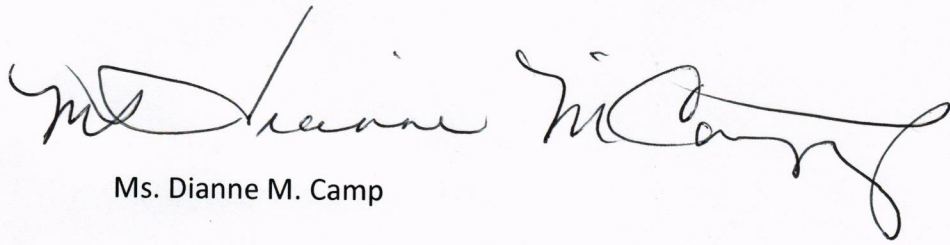
I believe that the new Brentwood Village community, as shown in Mid-City's plans and images, is exactly the type of mix of incomes, mix of residential types, creation of open spaces, and mix of residential and retail uses that we need in our community. I believe

that the proposed new streets and buildings, with restaurant and retail uses on the ground floors, and central community green will create a safe environment that will allow me and my neighbors to walk freely through our neighborhood. I think that the different types of housing (townhouses, a senior citizens building, two-over-two condominium buildings, and apartment buildings) offered to people of varying incomes will allow the new Brentwood Village to be a really inclusive neighborhood that will allow the existing residents of Brookland Manor to stay, and will allow us to have new neighbors who are interested in being a positive force for the future of our neighborhood.

I have attended numerous formal and informal meetings hosted by Mid-City regarding this project and the PUD process. I have found the Mid-City representatives to be very receptive to concerns raised by myself and some of my neighbors. I have listened to and read the information that they have presented on the tenant relocation plan and the construction phasing plan and I think that it is a plan that addresses the concerns of Brookland Manor residents. Most importantly, I know that the Brookland Manor residents and Mid-City are going to need to be able to work well together during this development process. I have trust and faith in Mid-City that they will live up to their up to their promises. I fully understand that this process is a fluid situation.

In conclusion, I request that you approve this PUD and Zoning Map Amendment application as it will be a truly transformative project that will benefit me and my

community. I want to thank you for your attention to my testimony this evening. I am available to answer any questions that you may have.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dianne M. Camp". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Ms. Dianne M. Camp