



March 13, 2015

DC Zoning Commission  
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 200-S,  
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Case #14-18  
Mid-City's First Stage PUD Application

Dear Zoning Commission:

I write in support of Mid-City's First Stage PUD Application (Case Number 14-18) and wanted the Zoning Commission to know about my 45 year+ relationship with the applicant, his contributions to our community and city, and the importance of retaining the Section 8 contract and creating a new mixed income community.

I have known Gene Ford, Sr. and have worked with him and Mid-City for some 45 years.....first through the property management of the Edgewood Terrace property in Ward 5, later through different affordable housing and charitable ventures throughout the city, and always as a friend. Gene is one of the pioneers of the affordable housing industry and was instrumental in the creation and implementation of a number of the FHA mortgage programs. Many of his most significant contributions to the city's affordable housing production and management came through urban renewal programs at a time when many other developers had left the city. Gene and Mid-City have always operated affordable housing in a responsible way and have provided programs in their communities to enrich the lives of the residents. Gene was singularly responsible for the creation of CPDC (a not for profit housing owner) which has recently celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and he has contributed his time, talent, and treasure to making it the success that it is today. Many of Gene's other charitable and community contributions have been made quietly although their impacts has been felt profoundly, i.e. the successful development of Edgewood Terrace in 1972, a community of housing units, integrated socio-economically and the first development in the city providing day care, library, grocery store, public and market rate housing on one site..

I understand from Gene and Mid-City that the proposed redevelopment of Brookland Manor would include the retention of the project based Section 8 contract. The Section 8 contract is an invaluable asset for this community, Ward 5 and the city. It will allow for there to be a significant affordability component at the property that otherwise might not be possible. (I understand that the affordability commitment is 20% versus the normal inclusionary zoning requirement of 10 %.) The significant affordable housing commitment should be considered a community benefit and amenity. So too should Mid-City's plan to renew the Brookland Manor community

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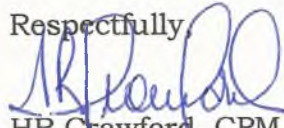
Phone (202) 547-4300 • Fax (202) 547-4017

ZONING COMMISSION  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.14-18  
EXHIBIT NO.55

and create a new mixed income and mixed use neighborhood that will enhance opportunities for existing and future residents.

Gene and Mid-City have always honored their commitments in my 45+ years of experience with them and they have always balanced private and public purposes to achieve a result that enhances communities and brings people together. The city has an historic opportunity to do something transformational in Brentwood - this would create a powerful legacy for a man who has been a friend to me, the city, and our neediest neighbors.

Respectfully,



HR Crawford, CPM  
President