

Gregory A. Dear, Jr.  
Washington, DC

Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
(202)724-8000



Councilman McDuffie,

I hope this letter finds you well and in good spirit. My name is Gregory A. Dear, Jr. As a Job Development Specialist and Civil Rights Activist in Ward 5 of Washington DC, I want to thank you for your commitment to Ward 5, the District of Columbia, and your role in the struggle for that which seems to escape the recipe of American Democracy: opportunity of economic upward mobility regardless of race, sexual orientation, religion, class, and zip-code. I am writing you in light of recent examples of socio-economic enmity, a clear & dangerous disregard for federal law, and the institutionally orchestrated displacement of vulnerable men, women, children, and voters in your district: Brookland Manor.

As you and I both know, the distribution of wealth in America is such that money is power and these days power seems to trump the universal spirit of justice this Nation is rhetorically hailed to emulate. We cannot fight the money and misunderstanding that drives gentrification, but we can evoke a conscious movement promoting the social justice you guarantee your people. Nevertheless, we have to stop this institutional movement of reckless.

It is without doubt that families will either be displaced or separated as if they are an inconvenience to space as a result of the economic negligence and civic irresponsibility of Mid-City Financial Corps. Only demonstrations (like the one today at 5pm), and civic unrest will arise as a direct result of a social biased misunderstanding of true humane community development. While Mid-City plans to revitalize the 5th ward of this precious city, the corporation would inevitably destroy the lives of the citizens you ran for to bring in more affluent tenants that statistics tell us are upper class White Americans. This implies both classism and institutional racism which, as you know, has been an ongoing struggle in the ward 5, in the District and Nation.

Through the history of this struggle, the mantle of leadership has been assumed by some of the most compassionate of public affairs: The Freedmen's Bureau assisted newly freed men and poor white men displaced as a result of war, Franklin D. Roosevelt established



resources to help with poor communities (which inspired the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act), and lastly President Kennedy's Executive Order 11063 which prohibited discrimination in the housing communities. Empowered by loopholes in housing policy, Mid-City is in complete violation of the law and under the guise of development, they would seek to create a homogeneous community of people with higher income and less color.

This is not development; it's destruction. This isn't social justice but yet another reason to expect the marchers and demonstrators to come in the not so distant future. Meer's pretentiously egregious comment that embellishes his founders was an outburst of confusion: "Our founder did more for affordable housing than all these advocates combined." This isn't a competition. The Lip service embellishing the legacy of his founder will not change the horrifying fact that the precious people in the 4-5 bedroom units will be ushered into a socio-economic abyss stripped of an address and voting access because of the neglect of their leaders. Concordantly, neglect begets consequence and will do so in the name of the dearly departed Eugene Ford Sr.

Your people are crying out to you, but institutional powers would have it so that we cannot hear them because they cannot afford to be heard and not a enough pennies to have a home four walls and a roof. I humbly ask you to admit the deficiencies in the weak efforts at development, hold Mid-City accountable for their pledges made numerous times, establish a Rapid Rehousing/Job Placement task force, and allow me a visit to discuss solutions.

Thank you for your time and service. Please contact me at the information below.

Best Regards,

Gregory A. Dear, Jr.

[GregoryADearJr@gmail.com](mailto:GregoryADearJr@gmail.com)

757.739.3434