

**Ms. Valarie Scott – Feb. 23 Testimony**  
**Case No. 14-18A**

My name is Ms. Valarie Scott and I have been living at Brookland Manor since 1993; over 20 years. I am here today to testify against MidCity's proposal because they do not respect the needs of Brookland Manor residents or those of our families.

During the redevelopment, I have seen people harassed and bullied by security in the community. It has gotten to the point where you can't even sit out on your front porch with your family and have a good time. I've seen people harassed by security for leaning on the gate and stepping on the grass. They come up to you for no reason telling you that you need to move. I've seen where you can't even have visitors as much as you used to, you're held accountable for visitors.

My mother, who is in her 70's, got evicted from her home at 1345 Saratoga because my brother was outside drinking a beer. After that, she started getting infractions. He wasn't living with her, he was just visiting. He had to go to court stating that he needed to sign a paper that he was banned from a property – he never signed the paper, so security here harassed my mom saying that she had unlawful people on the property and that she would get evicted.. She went to landlord-tenant court – she didn't even understand the paper they gave her, and she had signed a paper for them to get rid of her. Once she signed, they've been harassing her. She had to be evicted a certain amount of times. Maintenance wouldn't come to her house, they blocked her mail. When she got evicted, she was waiting to go back in to get some of her items, they wouldn't let her go back in and get them.

Once my mom got evicted, they had a picture of my mom and brother circulated. My mom came to visit me one time and they told my mom she couldn't come up here – they did that twice. One time she had to go to my neighbor's house and call me to tell me they wouldn't let her up here. One time security knocked on my door and told me my mom couldn't come up here, and I told them I would see them in court. I got a notice that my mom was banned that I would be evicted if she came to visit me.

In another incident, I got an infraction notice for having my rug in the hallway drying on the rail because I had washed it.

Despite all of this security harassment, there have been many times when I've seen the security guards buying drugs from drug dealers that they say they want off the property. I have also seen security officers in my hallway smoking drugs on multiple occasions.

In addition to the security guards, they have a bunch of new fences. I feel like I'm at Potomac Gardens because this makes it so you can't go through the property and it's difficult to get around, especially for seniors and people with disabilities. Also, it's a fire hazard because emergency exits are blocked by the fences. MidCity is putting our lives at risk.

We also have to deal with apartments that don't meet our needs or the needs of our families. I got downsized from a four bedroom to a three bedroom saying that I don't have the family composition anymore. A tenant I know Amelia Wilson was in a 4 bedroom, they downsized her to a three bedroom, then they said

they would get her bunk beds and downsized her to a one bedroom. They split families up by saying “don’t you want your own unit” - they knew they would get evicted because they wanted to separate them, because sooner or later they would lose their place. And many got put out after that.

You have all these vacancies on the property, they are moving people all around the property, and they’re evicting people and downsizing people to try and move them out so they have to build back fewer units. We have so many homeless in D.C. Look at all these units over here that’s vacant. There are so many people here that are homeless. They’re singling people out to try and find a way to get people out of here. It’s all politics that white people can stand outside with beers because it’s white America. They target black people and Latinos too, and with immigration laws. They target anyone who doesn’t fit into white America. They have everything the money, resources, jobs, banks. It’s a system failure and MidCity is taking part in it.

To be clear, I think that McDuffie, the Mayor are supporting these typed of things because of money – it’s all about the dollar bill and MidCity Financial has a lot of money. You’ve gotta get voted back in, who do you think got you into office. It’s us the constituents who got you in there now, we should be more important to you. We don’t matter, but we should!