

Ana Mendoza – Feb. 23 Zoning Statement

A security guard shouted at my son. They took a picture of my son and threatened to call the cops on him if he didn't leave the outdoor area. The security guards also harassed my friend and I while we were talking in our car even though we weren't doing anything. The security measures have escalated recently; violence was common on our street (14th St) and securities never did anything about that situation but that now they are more aggressive for petty things like my children and me being outside.

Right now my daughter's room has a broken window. When they were demolishing the buildings right next to her apartment on 14th St. the window in my pregnant daughter's room broke from the demolishing movement. My daughter requested that maintenance change the window and they changed it to one that is in worse conditions. Maintenance also won't fix the heater in one of the rooms of my children after multiple requests. The light outside of our apartment door doesn't work either. But I thought they'd fix it since it's part of entire building not just our apartment. Our ceiling also has a water stain that is expanding and maintenance won't fix it even after multiple requests. Maintenance also hasn't gotten rid of the rats, they just put rattraps but they don't work and the rats keep coming back.

Our family is big and the subsidy is important for us. I'm a single mother, and I don't want to move far because I need my kids to finish schooling in the area. The metro accessibility is important for my family and me. I don't want to move to a different community with people I don't know. We deserve a decent housing situation. We've lived through really rough situations at Brookland Manor and I want to stay to finally see the new changes. We don't want to leave our community, we're used to it here.

My twenty-year-old daughter applied for an apartment at Brookland Manor for the same subsidy I have. She's on the waiting list to have her own apartment with her new family. She doesn't have a car and it would be bad if she had to move somewhere without a train stop or accessible transportation. She doesn't have any credit so finding a place to live would be difficult outside of Brookland Manor. She doesn't want to live far from her siblings and me. We don't want to be separate from each other. That's our main concern. She has already been looking for daycare close by and for jobs close by so her and her newborn baby can live close to me so I can help her once the baby is born.