

**Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)**

---

**From:** John Iskander <jiskander@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 8:53 PM  
**To:** DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)  
**Subject:** case #14-18A

Dear members of the Zoning Commission,

I am writing in support of Mid-City Financial's redevelopment of the Brookland Manor Properties, which is coming to you as case #14-18A.

I live in the neighborhood of this property. Honestly, I am often against what developers are doing in our neighborhood, so it is quite unusual for me to write in support of a proposal such as this. But what Mid-City is doing is really quite unique and of great value to our neighborhood. Additionally, they have been forthcoming, transparent, and responsive to the desires emanating from the community. I met Michael Meers and the architects and others through our ANC meetings, and I have been very impressed with them.

The buildings that they are tearing down unfortunately became a major magnet for crime and delinquency in the neighborhood. Redeveloping them is thus incredibly important to us as neighbors, and to the residents themselves whose lives will be immeasurably improved in fairly short order.

Mid-Century is asking for Zoning Commission approval for their first group of buildings, which will immediately house the current residents, and eventually become a senior living building. This is a great solution in the short and long terms, and I support it wholeheartedly.

The plans that Mid-Century is proposing are ones that will immediately improve and beautify the area. They have integrated modern function and traditional design, thus enhancing the beauty of Rhode Island Avenue, in a way that very few new developments do. Their proposed design is one that has depth, plasticity, ornamentation, as well as clean lines, making for a design that will be great to look at and lovely to live in. Please encourage this by approving Mid-Century's proposal.

Moreover, the general plan that Mid-Century has put together is one that takes seriously the challenge of urban design, integrating income levels, creating a walkable and attractive area, and engendering what the immortal Jane Jacobs called "eyes on the street." This is something that we are urgently looking forward to, as it will have immense and positive impacts on our broader neighborhood.

I thus urge you to grant rapid approval to the Stage 2 plans being proposed by Mid-Century.

Thank you,  
John Iskander  
3304 20th St NE, 20018

--  
John Iskander