

To: Zoning Commission  
From: Miriam Savad  
Re: Case 14-18A  
Date: February 7, 2017

Dear members of the DC Zoning Commission,

My name is Miriam Savad and I am a Ward 5 resident. I am submitting this written testimony regarding case 14-18A. As a neighbor and resident I stand strongly in support of the Brookland Manor tenants who are fighting to save their homes. Mid-City Financial's proposed plan effectively eliminates family housing by eliminating most three, four, and five bedroom units and significantly reducing the overall affordability. As the Washington City Paper has reported, Brookland Manor residents have been subject to aggressive eviction tactics by the owners. A Washington Post investigation has found that Mid-City sued to evict residents more than 370 times in a 26-month period. The proposed plan is a continuation of aggressive and systematic displacement, and I strongly oppose Mid-City's proposal.

The Zoning Commission should not approve any plan that: discriminates against families by eliminating large bedrooms; that is facilitated by the forced displacement of residents through underhanded tactics such as a private armed police force or the erection of fences that restrict the freedom of movement of disabled persons and that restrict the ability of residents to move freely around their own community; proposes to eliminate affordable housing in the midst of an affordable housing crisis; and will result in the displacement of working class people of color in order to make way for luxury apartments while thousands sleep on the streets.

I support Brookland Manor tenants in their reasonable and viable demand that:

- The redevelopment preserve 535 units of affordable housing at the same bedroom sizes and current subsidy levels.
- Not be displaced from the property during the process of redevelopment.
- They gain access to employment opportunities through the rebuilding of their own community, which they have a fundamental right to be a part of.

Unless Mid-City immediately stops engaging in intimidation tactics to force tenants off the property or fundamentally changes their current plan to incorporate Brookland Manor tenant demands, I request that the Zoning Commission block this development moving forward. Any plan that does not cede to the reasonable and viable demands of Brookland Manor tenants cannot be considered a community benefit and should therefore not be approved.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.

Miriam Savad  
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