

Brookland Manor/Brentwood Village Resident Association Public Testimony

In regards to the case (14-18A), I, Karen Me, am writing to express my opposition to the 2nd stage PUD, in support of the Brookland Manor/Brentwood Village Resident Association.

I am a senior at Georgetown University who has worked with Brookland Manor residents regarding MidCity's redevelopment since January 2015. As a community organizing intern with Organizing Neighborhood Equity in DC (ONE DC), I conducted outreach via phone banking, one-on-one visits, and door knocks in Brookland Manor to develop leadership capacity of residents. Within this role, I have meaningfully engaged with residents and learned more about what they want for their community, especially in the face of this redevelopment. Every single resident I have interacted with have expressed to me that this 2nd stage PUD is NOT what they want or need.

In solidarity with the Brookland Manor/Brentwood Village Resident Association, I demand the following:

- Zoning should not approve any plan that discriminates against families by eliminating large bedrooms.
- Zoning should not approve any plan that is facilitated by the forced displacement of residents through underhanded tactics such as a private armed police force.
- Zoning should not approve any plan that is facilitated by the forced displacement of residents through 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.
- Zoning should not approve of a plan that proposes to eliminate affordable housing in the midst of an affordable housing crisis.
- Zoning should not approve of a plan that 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.
- I support the Brookland Manor tenants in their reasonable and viable demand that they not be displaced from the property during the process of redevelopment.
- I support the Brookland Manor tenants in their reasonable and viable demand that they gain access to employment opportunities through the rebuilding of their own community, which they have a fundamental right to be a part of.
- I implore the Zoning Commission to block this development from moving forward, until or unless Mid-City Financial immediately stops engaging in intimidation tactics to force tenants off the property.
- I implore the Zoning Commission to block this development from moving forward until or unless Mid-City Financial fundamentally changes their current plan to incorporate Brookland Manor tenant demands.

- In Zoning guidelines, it makes clear that any plan that is not considered a “community benefit” should not be approved. 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 reading, and I sincerely hope this testimony clearly demonstrates why the 2nd stage PUD ought to be opposed.

Karen Me
02.20.2017