



# So What Else, INC.

Serving our Community, Children, and Planet

February 14, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Brookland Manor Apartments, a community center located in Northeast Washington DC.

We have worked with Brookland Manor for several years, and we can say with confidence that they are one of the best, strongest youth centers we work with. Mid City Development's commitment to providing the programs all these years at no cost to the residents of Brookland Manor is admirable, and they do a fantastic job creating a community for their youth. Their long history and experience, dating back to the apartments' construction in the 40's, shows in their well-developed sports program, and their reading and educational activities are not only well-designed but incredibly well-received by their youth. Where some youth lose interest in "youth centers" as they grow from children to teenagers, Brookland Manor manages to keep them engaged and active in the community center life. Their garden program in particular is worth mentioning—youth-built and maintained, it serves as a lesson in environmentalism and botany, in sustainability, and in responsibility.

As a youth development provider that's grown and evolved over the years, we at So What Else have seen many different kinds of community centers in many different kinds of communities. Over the years at Brookland Manor we've provided free after school programs and summer camp, and it remains one of the few sites we conduct 2 full, consecutive weeks of camp at the end of each summer. Brookland's staff, facilities, and relationship with their youth are truly extraordinary, and we are thankful that we are able to work with such an engaged, involved center that truly puts their youth first. Centers like Brookland Manor are integral to their youth's future successes, and we are happy to support them in this letter and in any other way we can.

Sincerely,

David Silbert  
Executive Director

One Preserve Parkway, Suite 150  
Rockville, MD 20852  
[info@sowhatelse.org](mailto:info@sowhatelse.org)  
[www.SoWhatElse.org](http://www.SoWhatElse.org)

ZONING COMMISSION  
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