



November 25th, 2015

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Anthony Hood, Chairman
D.C. Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210S
Washington, D.C. 20001
zcsubmissions@dc.gov

RE: Case No. 15-03-1315 Clifton St NW

Dear Chairman Hood,

My name is Talia Brock and I am a tenant organizer with the Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC). LEDC has been working with the tenants at 1309 and 1315 Clifton St NW since late 2013 to help the buildings through the TOPA process. From the beginning, the tenants at both buildings showed incredible perseverance and determination to preserve their homes and advocate for their rights.

LEDC supports the economic and social advancement of low to moderate income DC area residents by equipping them with the skills and tools to achieve financial independence and become leaders in their communities. Within LEDC, the Affordable Housing Preservation Program works to preserve multi-family rental housing as affordable and prevent the displacement of residents. Through this program, LEDC tenant organizers have been working with the tenants at 1309 and 1315 Clifton St NW to ensure that the housing needs of all the tenants were being met. In the beginning, these tenants experienced terrible living conditions, fear of displacement and lack of health and safety. The tenants wanted the option to continue living in the community that they've called home for many years. Aria Development Group was willing to meet the tenant's needs. Now, with the help of Aria and Elia Law Group, these same tenants can look forward to newly renovated apartments, security and financial stability.

LEDC fully supports the Tenant Association's agreement with Aria Development Group and the pending development project. These renovated buildings will help preserve affordable housing, as well as the diversity and the sense of community of the Columbia Heights area. The returning tenants have contributed to the DC community for decades, and will continue to do so in the future. They are members of your congregations, schools and offices. They are the people sitting next to you on the bus. They are your neighbors. The tenants are committed to seeing this process through, and your support will ensure that their tireless efforts to preserve their housing over the last few years were not in vain. LEDC commits to continuing support for the tenant association and will be a long-term partner in ensuring the success of this project.

Sincerely,

Talia Brock, Bilingual Tenant Organizer
Latino Economic Development Center

