

FIRST RISING MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

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“83 Years of Walking By Faith”

Rev. Oran W. Young, Pastor

Deacon Harold J. Gilliard, Chairman
BOARD OF DEACONS MINISTRY
Sister Arlene Williams
CHURCH CLERK

Trustee John Holland, Chairman
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINISTRY
Sister Darleen Perry
TREASURER

February 3, 2020

Dear Madam/Sirs:

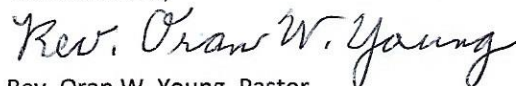
I appreciate your sensitivity to our concerns and the recommendation to meet with Mid City Development to work out our concerns. I am mindful of Commissioner Turnbull's statement that the developers should talk with the churches about the parking to try to minimize the impact (on the community) and the question was asked as to how Mid City is going to blend in with the neighborhood.

Three representatives from Mid City did meet with Rev. Juliano Andujo, myself and others on January 22, 2020 and we had a robust conversation. We re-iterated our concerns about the disruption caused by staging during construction, the low percentage of set asides in the midst of the city's housing crisis, and the effects on the infrastructure. We also had a broad discussion about the parking. After much discussion, Mid City placed on the table for our consideration; parking spaces set aside for Rev. Andujo and myself in another development, the possibility of making 30 parking spaces available (15 for each church) in a lot they know is available on Sundays through 2022, along with \$200.00 per week funding for transportation through 2022. All of these accommodations would go away after 2022. Subsequently, via email, Mid City inquired about the possibility of helping to fund a capital expenditure at our churches.

A follow-up meeting was penciled in for Wednesday, January 29, 2020; however, Rev. Andujo and I decided there wasn't any point in meeting since none of their suggestions solved the problems over the long term, especially as it relates to the parking. We requested Mid City to continue to think outside the box with future communication via email. To make matters worse, we also discovered there will be an entrance on 6th Street N.W., that would cause two current parking spaces on the street to go away. Common sense suggests that if a complex advertises parking, they are going to attract people with cars. Mid City offered no long-term solutions and rejected our proposals of increasing available spaces and building parking elsewhere based on restraints by the city and their investors. They have no answer for what will happen if the tenants and their guests take up more than their 100 parking spaces allotted in the proposed garage.

This project will not be a good blend in the neighborhood, but instead will dominate and transform the neighborhood with little concern for what happens to it after the project is completed. First Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church, along with other neighborhood churches, will continue to be a spiritual light for all in the community with our passion for uplifting the economic status of those with low to moderate income, as well as those in need of employment and housing. Therefore, we believe this development will be a hinderance to our mission and other churches in the neighborhood. Thus, we must continue to oppose this development in any form.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Oran W. Young, Pastor