

Testimony before the DC Zoning Commission Regarding Zoning Case No. 04-33G – Making IZ affordable

March 3, 2016, by Jovon Jameson,  
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Good evening. My name is Jo'Von Jameson. I am a lifelong resident of our fair city, Junior at UDC studying political science and I support Zoning case no.04-33g. One of the greatest challenges facing the nation's capital is managing the need for affordable housing both for current residents and prospective residents. As the capital of the nation, it is simply unacceptable for the city to become a place where the common person cannot afford to live. It is unrepresentative and shameful of the diverse economic classes that contribute both to this city and to the nation as a whole that DC is at risk of becoming a domain only for the elite.

I am native Washingtonian. My mother was born and raised here. Her mother was born and raised here. And despite being a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation dweller of the city, I face the very real prospect of being pushed out of it. Why? Because of the constant bloat of housing prices all across the city.

My mother worked hard to get where she is in a life and to provide the highest quality of life possible to her 3 children, despite being a single parent. She was able to do so, but with great difficulty. Sadly, a story like hers, would be difficult if not impossible to replicate now. It is because of people like her that we desperately need to see IZ unit housing prices adjusted. It should not be the case that a single parent, something many DC natives would identify with, is not able to live inside of the city. What message does that send to the nation and the world? How can we claim to truly represent the nation when so large a number of people fall below the income necessary to live in a single family home here?

As it stands the IZ housing units are not serving the people they were meant to serve. 80% of median income is too close to a market rate price to truly serve the function it was designed for. 60% would allow middle class households, especially single households, to invest in property. We have at our finger tips the means to ensure Washington, DC remains affordable for a variety of income groups in the long term. I feel strongly that we should seize this opportunity. It is because of this that I support Zoning Case No. 04-33G. Thank you for your time.

ZONING COMMISSION  
District of Columbia  
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CASE NO. 04-33G  
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