

Angela M. Bowen

I, Angela M. Bowen, am submitting this written statement in lieu of oral testimony in support of Case No. 14-18 (Mid-City Financial Corporation – 1st – Stage PUD & Related Map Amendment @ Squares 3953, 3954, 4024 & 4025).

I have lived in Ward 5 for over 30 years, and as such, am a neighbor in the area of the proposed redevelopment. As a neighbor, I have seen a number of positive changes to various apartment complexes, hotels, churches and commercial businesses. Many of the changes have made a significant difference in the services available to residents and have also played a role in deterring crime. Most recently, the Rhode Island Metro Station redevelopment added within short distances of the residential homes shopping, restaurants and banking establishments that have greatly improved the conveniences of the area. The former businesses in this area, unfortunately, attracted a population prone to drug activity and prostitution. I believe this population contributed to the burglary of my home and two auto thefts. In recent years, many of the homes in the area have undergone significant redevelopment, which consequently, reduced the number of homes and businesses that were either abandoned or in disrepair. As a result of this redevelopment, the area is beginning to thrive and become a more desirable neighborhood in which to live.

I believe that the proposed redevelopment of Brookland Manor will yield the same positive results. As President of Community Services Foundation (CSF), a nonprofit organization who is responsible for the residential programs for the youth and adults at over 22 Community Centers in the Washington Metropolitan area, I have witnessed the excessive loitering by those who patronize the liquor store and needle exchange business across from the Community Center at Brookland Manor. CSF provides constructive afterschool and summer enrichment programs that reinforce the elementary and middle school curriculum, provides adults job readiness assistance and seniors social activities to help them to age in place, as well as a variety of other services. When CSF provided recycling education to the residents, they had to witness inappropriate public behavior where loiterers misused the recycling receptacles for unsanitary discharge. Security gates have had to be installed at the entrance of the Community Center walkway to deter loitering near the playground where the youth enjoy outside activities. I believe that the redevelopment of Brookland Manor is being planned in a manner that will allow residents to have a Community Center that will be operated within the confines of responsible commercial shopping. This will help to attract residents to conduct the business which was intended and overall provide an enjoyable learning and living environment. The redevelopment of the apartments and townhomes that are planned will also create a sense of pride for the residents to maintain their homes and have their living arrangements greatly enhanced.

I fully support this redevelopment and recommend that it is approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela M. Bowen