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March 11, 2015

Zoning Commission for the District of Columbia

Public Hearing for Case No. 14-18 (Mid-City Financial Corporation)

To the Members of the Zoning Commission:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to give written testimony to the District of Columbia Zoning Commission in support of the razing of the Brooklyn Manor Apartment Complex in Brentwood and for the creation of housing for diverse and mixed-income residents who will take pride in their homes and the surrounding community. This change represents a feeling of hope and a new beginning and will replace the property that was allowed to decay and become overrun by drugs, homicides and other crimes and social ills.

For too many years, many of the residents exhibited behaviors that were detrimental to themselves, their neighbors and to those of us who live in homes on the surrounding streets. These behaviors were allowed to continue with seemingly little or no consequences.

The Brentwood Village apartments that had once been home to working parents who instilled wholesome values in their children and were replaced with some who showed undesirable behaviors and attracted others from outside of the community. Though there have been efforts to oust those who cause trouble, sadly these negative behaviors continue. The razing of these buildings and the erection of a new Brentwood Village with apartments and townhomes, open spaces for residents to walk and enjoy the outdoors and children to play, and an areas for wholesome shops to service the residents of the community is a new beginning and an opportunity to make matters right in an area which will house may people. Hopefully, this new complex will become a model of how diverse groups can live together and become a community of trust for the wellbeing of all.

There is hope among my neighbors that this long awaited change will come. We all look forward to these positive changes in our community with great anticipation.

Respectfully submitted, Earlese /

Earlene M. Jenkins A resident of Brentwood since May 1955