



February 23, 2017

Anthony J. Hood  
Chairman  
DC Zoning Commission

Kenyan J. McDuffie  
Councilmember  
Ward 5

Dear Chairman Hood and Councilmember McDuffie,

I am writing to you in support of RIA DC, the mixed –use development by MidCity.

Our company, Access Green is based in Ward 5, right on Rhode Island Avenue NE. Our company’s vision is “to reduce our harm on our plane through developing, installing and maintaining energy and water conservation measures, employing thousands of individuals seeking opportunity career pathways.”. The company’s owner also lives on Rhode Island Avenue in Northeast Washington.

Access Green is very familiar with Brookland Manor and MidCity Financial and knows of their long-term commitment to the Brentwood community and the city. Re-developments like RIA are challenging for sure. In our opinion, **RIA balances those challenges by offering significant affordable housing and career opportunities for underserved populations.**

Access Green’s commitment to DC’s underserved population (mainly opportunity youth and returning citizens) is in our DNA, the very fiber of our company. Our employees are young men and women from Wards 5, 7 and 8 who we have put on meaningful career pathways. I encourage anyone who wants to know how amazing our DC workforce is to come visit our company at 617 Rhode Island Avenue NE or visit our job sites. We are building a world class company from individuals often considered unworthy of careers or opportunities.

The re-development of Brookland Manor is a long time coming and the resulting development RIA will be better for all residents of the area, including our employees. What most people overlook is that all residents of the city, including those economically disadvantaged, want safer, cleaner places to live, shop and eat. RIA and MidCity strike that balance. They want the opportunity for career opportunities, which this re-development offers. Above all, they want better opportunities for themselves and their families.



At our company, we don't talk much about the latest trendy restaurants in the city. Sadly, all too often we hear about relatives killed by gunfire or overdosing and dying from drugs or relatives incarcerated for many, many years.

The way to change this is to give opportunities for young men and women and for returning citizens to be productive. A career for them is more than just a paycheck. It is self-esteem, a sense of purpose, an important signal to their families, their children that they are on the right path and can provide for themselves and their families. They are MVPs in life and not just part of those on the outside looking in at the incredible prosperity that is sweeping through our city.

There is probably nothing more frustrating than individuals wanting opportunities to advance themselves and not given those opportunities but seeing the rest of the city gleaming with advancement. It is that frustration that leads to desperate acts such as the abduction and death of Tricia McCauley in the Northeast Corridor.

Access Green's solution is to support responsible developments that promote affordable housing and that also offer career opportunities for underserved populations, which RIA and MidCity offer. The solution to the opportunity divide in our city and in our country is multi-generational. Offer underserved populations career opportunities today, safer communities, the pathways that can lead to their children earning college degrees should they choose and continued success and wealth creation.

The RIA Development provides opportunities for the community while still maintaining its commitment to affordable housing. We look forward to the opportunities it will offer our employees as they continue their career progression.

Sincerely,



Joe Andronaco  
President  
Access Green