

Ms. Essie Buffalo – Feb. 23 Hearing Testimony
Case No. 14-18A

I am 90 years old. I've been here since 1990, 26 years. Since I've been here for 26 years I've only paid low-income. So, how would you explain that? In every section they should have low-income units in them – they said that they would. In other places they've had low-income people who could buy the units, and nice ones for people who were working. When they build these luxury units like on 14th Street, it was like 1,500 to 2,000 a month. What Black person makes that kind of money? People are not making that kind of money. Until they do something about these apartments and these conditions that they are putting people in, there will be killings like there are now, and there will be worse.

Because people don't feel like they have anything to live for. People feel like they are nothing. The ones who are fighting are so small, and people are under so much pressure that it's hard to fight back. To McDuffie, I would say, why would he support this? Although he may make enough to buy a house, that doesn't mean everyone else has enough to buy a house. Some people don't even get enough social security to support a house. It's terrible. But they do, they look over the little man, and sit back and agree with the big man. We don't have nothing, we don't have money, we don't have jobs, we need to stand up and say why? Why don't we have jobs? Why don't we have houses? McDuffie and the zoning commission should support the demands of the Residents Association, and preserve affordable housing in Washington, D.C. for people of color.