

Testimony for 76 M St NW
Office of Zoning Hearing – CA 15-20
February 11, 2016

Barbara Wood, 76 M St NW #201

Good Evening, My name is Barbara Wood and I live in apartment 201 at 76 M Street NW. I have been at 76 M Street NW a long time. Over 40 years. I was born and raised in that neighborhood. Now, I am being told that I cannot remain in a community that I have been in for years. It is really unfair what is happening throughout the city. The black residents are being pushed out of the city. Developers are making promises that are not being honored and giving them what is equal to pennies to move. I've heard of this happening all throughout the city and now it is happening to me.

We are being treated like we are the ones holding up this process but we just want a fair deal. Let us come back, provide us with vouchers, help us. The Winn Development is paying out over 400,000 dollars in community benefits to organizations that are not directly affected by the proposed redevelopment of the neighborhood. I am directly affected and I am being offered next to nothing. I just want to be able to be a part of the neighborhood where I grew up.

Winn has now submitted drawings of a second plan that would develop around our building. Because we are asking for a fair deal, we are being told that we may have to stay in a building that suffers from extreme housing conditions. The ceilings are falling down, we have mice, roaches, and there are constantly people doing drugs and sleeping in our hallways because our front door is not secure. It is not right that we are being left out of all of the new development. We want to be able to take advantages of the things that are coming to our neighborhood. We want a fair chance.