

Testimony for the Public Hearing of CASE NO. 16-11

**Park View Community Partners & District of Columbia –
Consolidated PUD & Related Map Amendment @ Square 2890, Part of Lot 849**

**Before the Zoning Commission
Chairman Anthony Hood**

December 5, 2016
By Allison Fisher

I would like to thank the members of the Zoning Commission for holding this hearing. My name is Allison Fisher and I am leader with Jews United for Justice and a condo owner who lives one block away from the temporary Bruce Monroe park site. I stand here to support building I support New Communities Initiative and the decision to build at the temporary Bruce Monroe park.

I want to live in a DC and in a neighborhood that is open to all people and has quality affordable housing for all residents. DC has one of the highest economic disparities in the country. We need housing at all income levels so everyone can have a home in DC.

My neighbors, the people who have lived in Park Morton for decades, deserve quality, safe, dignified places to live and call home. They do not have this right now. Using the Bruce Monroe site now, will enable my neighbors to stay in the community and have affordable safe and quality homes. There is no time to wait. They have already been waiting for too long for this redevelopment.

I have sat through many meetings talking about this project. I have gone door to door to talk to folks in the neighborhood about what is happening. The time to debate if this project is happening is over. We owe it to Park Morton residents to ensure that they are able to move into quality new homes in the neighborhood as soon as possible. The Bruce Monroe site will make this happen.

This site will enable us to live out the build first principle. When I lived in Chicago I saw the last of the infamous Cabrini Green Buildings come down. Those neighbors were scattered throughout the city, causing even more instability, including kids having to change schools and community torn apart. I am glad that DC will not be making this same mistake.

As a newish neighbor, but one who plans to stay for a while, I recognize my role in gentrification. I also recognized that by advocating for more affordable housing, people will be able to stay in their homes and in DC. I am excited that this project will provide additional affordable housing. We need more affordable housing. We have lost over half of our affordable housing in the last 15 years.

The park is a benefit of living in this community. I am glad that it will remain open during construction and only half of it will be used for housing. I am also well aware that Ward 1 has the least park space of any Wards in the City. Stalling this project and jeopardizing the redevelopment of Park Morton and the dignity of our neighbors is shortsighted. The lack of park space is a larger issue and needs a larger plan to solve it.

Commissioners, you are the decision makers that can enable my neighbors to stay in the neighborhood. I ask that you approve using the temporary Bruce Monroe site for the Park Morton redevelopment.