



Miles Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church 501 N Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Members of the Zoning Commission of Washington, DC:

This letter summarizes a meeting and subsequent interaction between Mid City Corporation and Pastors Juliano A. Andujo of Miles Memorial CME Church and Oran Young of First Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church on Wednesday, January 22, 2020. Prior to the meeting, I researched the project, met with community leaders, neighborhood residents, clergy alliances, and legal persons to ensure prior to this meeting.

The meeting was a waste of time. Mid City rejected our requests for fifty additional parking spaces on their site, underground parking under our church, and a reduction in the size of the project. Not only that, Mid City was vague in its process of how it displaced residents and demonstrated no knowledge of their whereabouts. Mid City made no compromises for parking, the location of the loading dock, the size of the project, location and inclusion of true low income residents, or presenting any practical solution for the immediate community. Their offers included the following: possible, temporary parking across New Your Avenue which included a price; fixing of the sidewalk; an awning; and to pay our utility bills. Afterwards, Mid City made attempts to counteroffer; yet those attempts were meager, untimely, and distasteful as well. This disregard for residents, community leaders, and religious organizations reminds me of a quote from Robert Moses, "...when you operate in an overbuilt metropolis, you have to hack your way with a meat ax." That meat ax hacked up New York but we are DC.

I have a signed petition from eight community clergy supported and meet with six more local pastors today whom reject this project. Why do we reject this project? For community residents of African American descent, this project says simply but emphatically, "Get out!" For religious organizations, this project and ones like it is death to our survival. In addition, this project will bring irreparable harm to our community, irreversible ills to our religious organizations, ill will among our local residents of low income, and irreplaceable opportunities for our already integrated city in Washington, DC. While we accept our neighbors of other races, we reject this project and any of its kind that displaces residents making 20 to 25% of the AMI and acting as if 60% of the AMI is adequate for current residents in the city of DC. In other words, Mid City's project is an act of ethnic cleansing of the city of Washington, DC; it is a part of the housing holocaust because it targets low income, long term residents of African American descent with no regard. This is not hyperbole, it is fact; I hear the anguish on a weekly basis. Will you hear those cries? Jeremiah 29:7 says, "Seek the peace of the city, and pray for it; for in its peace, you will find your peace." We seek the peace of Washington, DC and its residents; and we pray for it. We seek affordable housing for all races in Washington DC, especially those of African American residents; and we pray for it. We seek for the Zoning Commission to reject this project; and we pray for it. The rejection of this project will give us shalom, a communal peace, that not only our White, Asian, Jewish, and Indian neighbors can come and live in Washington, DC, but also low-income African Americans and houses of faith can remain as well.

Peace and Grace,

Pastor Juliano A. Andujo

Rev. Juliano A. Andujo, Senior Pastor

Rev. Kevin Agee – Presiding Elder, Washington/Virginia District

Rt. Rev. James B. Walker, Presiding Prelate – Seventh Episcopal District

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ZONING COMMISSION

District of Columbia

CASE NO.19-16

EXHIBIT NO.74