

Good evening, council members! My name is Jennifer Solpietro, and I am on the Board of Directors for the Howard Progressive Project. I am here tonight to urge the County Council to approve Council Resolutions 183 and 184, stipulating a payment in lieu of taxes for the Waverly Winds redevelopment project.

Columbia has long set the example for demonstrating the central role housing plays in socioeconomically integrated communities. Jim and Patty Rouse founded the Enterprise Foundation in 1982 with a mission to ensure affordable homes for all. Today, the Rouse legacy lives on through the Enterprise Community Partners nonprofit, who owns several affordable housing communities in Columbia, including Waverly Winds. These properties are over 50 years old and in dire need of redevelopment, and it is imperative that each property continue to provide affordable units as it does today.

The need for affordable housing is greater than ever. The residents of Waverly Winds deserve not just affordable homes, but homes that are affordable, safe, energy-efficient, and accessible. A PILOT is a vital factor for securing the financing that is crucial, but often elusive, for affordable housing developments.

Soon, the residents of another Enterprise affordable housing community, Roslyn Rise, will be returning to their community to occupy newly renovated homes - thanks to the PILOT you approved that enabled the project to move forward. Howard Progressive Project asks that you also approve the PILOT for Waverly Winds and make housing that is both affordable AND modern a reality for its residents.

Thank you.