

Mr. Morrison, Members of the Planning Commission:

My name is Gladys Crumpler. I am a member of the Eastside Community Organization, an affiliate of ACORN. ACORN is here tonight to once again oppose the change in zoning from residential to commercial of the land on Bridge between Hope and Washington.

This is the same property which Jerry Bookout brought up for rezoning in October. We urge the Planning Commission tonight to keep the property residential.

There used to be a row of homes on this land. But the area was declared a site for a Neighborhood Development Plan. Urban Renewal money was used to relocate the people, to buy and destroy their homes. At that time the people of the Eastside were promised that the land would be used for low-rent housing. Every person in this room knows how critical the need for housing is in Jonesboro, especially for low-to-moderate income families.

The rezoning of this land would constitute a broken promise to the residents of the Eastside. Public money has been used to destroy housing. Now private owners want to reap a profit. This is not Urban Renewal. It is the destruction of a community.

I want to make four additional points:

1) Mr. Bookout has said that there is no room on the land to build housing. We know that there is room to build homes on the property because our friends used to live in homes on the property.

2) Low-to-moderate income families could not buy the property when Urban Renewal put it up for sale because it was only available on 99 year leases. *Lease to 1999*

3) The people who live on the Eastside do not want the land rezoned. And it is their voice that should be most important. Jonesboro has enough business areas, but the Eastside needs more houses built.

Finally, we once again remind you that to rezone this land to commercial would be a broken promise to Eastside residents. It is very dangerous when the government cannot be trusted by its citizens. We urge you to keep the promise of housing and reject the application for rezoning.

Thank you.