



Odette Ramos

Baltimore City Councilwoman

District 14

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100 N. Holliday Street, Room 553

Baltimore MD 21202

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Testimony

**25-0017 Rezoning 3439-3549 Keswick Road Odd Side
SUPPORT**

Chair Dorsey and Members of the Land Use and Transportation Committee:

I am writing to ask your support for 25-0017 - Rezoning 3439-3549 Odd Side of Keswick Road from C-1 to R-7.

The 3400 and 3500 blocks of Keswick Road were the site of the tragic fire that took place on October 15 and another on December 5th. Both fires damaged over 13 homes on the east side of the block. Two lives were lost during the October 15th fire, and all told six homes were demolished.

In the process of assisting our affected residents, we discovered that only this east side of the block were zoned C-1. In looking at the zoning maps, the area across the street with the same type of home are R-7, and the blocks above, below, and behind at block are also R-7. Looking historically, the designation never changed. The homes also have not changed. All of these homes were built over 100 years ago.

So, I introduced this legislation to allow for the east side of the block to be consistent with the rest of the neighborhood. This change is consistent with the land use plan that was passed last year, and consistent with the community's goals. Moreover, it provides guidance to the residents who want to rebuild their homes.

I believe it was a mistake not to have these home and neighbors' homes zoned residential when the City Council took on comprehensive rezoning prior to my becoming your Councilwoman. However, on advice from the Law Department, this initiative meets the standards for comprehensive rezoning, and does not need to meet the threshold of mistake or change in the neighborhood as spot rezoning would.

Thank you for your support.

Please contact me on 410-396-4814 or odette.ramos@baltimorecity.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

In Service,

Odette Ramos
Baltimore City Councilwoman, District 14