

Project Narrative – anc1D 2008 Small Grants **anc1D** mount pleasant, dc

Title: In 15 words or less, give a title that describes the project's main beneficial result.

Form an Incorporated Oaklawn Terrace Building Association

Narrative: 500 words or less, all on this page. Label paragraphs - A: Group. B: Project. C: Benefits. D: Leverage.

A: Group: Unincorporated Oaklawn Terrace Building Association

The Residents of the Oaklawn Terrace, at 3620 16th Street, are a group of several hundred people residing in Mount Pleasant (ANC 1D-02) in a building of 71 units. We are diverse in terms of ethnicity, age, occupation, and interests. Many of the residents have lived here for a decade or more. Many Latino and African American families have teenagers or grown children who grew up here. There is great transience in the building in several units, with those residents staying a few months. Many of us know each other and are now ready to begin to hold meetings and form an incorporated building association. Some of the more long-term residents recall a time when there were more social functions in the building and wish to create a sense of community, not just for ourselves, but as a way to reach out, participate and contribute to the neighborhood and city. New residents voice this wish too.

B: Project.

We wish to take organizational and legal steps to become an incorporated Building Association, including paying for district filing fees and notary charges. An ANC Small grants could help us a great deal to become legally incorporated and cover starting costs. Then in the next 2 months, we will have printing and publicity costs as we start to hold meetings. We expect to compose our own communications to distribute to residents on how to best work together. In order to hold meetings of the Building Association, there will be printing, publicity, and postage expenses. We may need to find a low-cost translator for our written materials and during meetings, although many of our residents are bilingual. We will also create a roster of our residents that we might use for purposes of safety and security. Many residents are concerned about accounting for one another in cases of fire, emergency, and other events, such as crime or utility outages.

C: Benefits.

We have 250 or more residents, many with extended generational families who spend time here. Many of our residents are Latino and unacquainted with some of the city Services and their rights as residents. Some of our residents are disabled or elderly would benefit from meetings held at home where they could interact with representatives from city programs. We are interested in improving programs such as visiting health services.

We have seen terrible consequences to many families in the Park Monroe (formerly the Gregory) at 3300 16th Street, where intimidation and fear tactics were used to empty the building. By organizing, we hope to avoid this massive and destructive displacement.

D: Leverage.

We will form committees to support projects such as child-care, elder care, and deal with life-sustaining issues such as pests, security, and emergencies. We wish to reach out and combine efforts with other Building Associations in our area as there are many similar problems and challenges living in the NorthEastern corner of Mount Pleasant, with similar patterns of crime, traffic, pedestrian safety, transportation, proximity to Rock Creek Park, and need for recreation.