

The Developer Versus Charlie Robinson Story

MR: And my favorite story about this development pressure we had. My husband had a wonderful sense of humor. We're still living in this tiny white cottage. A high-powered attorney, I believe who was from Arlington, was before Council. I think this was his third visit to Council, trying to persuade them to rezone for parks or something where the present post office is. There was a lovely, old, white house there that did get taken down eventually. Finally, he got desperate enough to do an aerial overview of Vienna. Many of us are sitting in the audience—we're opposed, but we're sitting there and we're listening. He said, 'And if I get permission to do my project, then get rid of all those little, white houses around.' And my husband said, 'Why, Mr. Black, you have just described the house I live in.' The room got—it was the first time I ever felt sorry for a zoning attorney. He got beet-red, you know, he'd really, really, really done it. He didn't get his rezoning. But there were things like that that would brighten your evening. I thought I would never feel sorry for anyone who was arguing for a development like that.