



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Housing

Tania Menesse, President and Chief Executive Officer
Cleveland Neighborhood Progress

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Timken, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present today on Middle Neighborhoods. Two years ago, our company Cleveland Neighborhood Progress launched the nation's largest investment strategy in so-called "middle neighborhoods," with the goal of stabilizing these communities and helping them return to healthy market conditions. We operate this program with two teams: one focused on main street economic development, and one focused on the side streets, where housing and homeownership opportunities are located.

With me today are two team members. KC Petraitis is our Vice President of Real Estate. Before joining Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, he worked at University Circle Inc. and the Cuyahoga County Land Bank. Also joining me is Kim Heard, the Director of our Middle Neighborhoods Initiative. Kim previously worked for a local, nonprofit affordable housing developer, and she led the development of hundreds of units affordable housing using federal and state Low-Income Housing Tax Credits. Both bring their experiences in housing development and an appetite for market-based solutions to Cleveland and Ohio's housing challenges.

With that, I'd like to begin our presentation. We will move quickly through these slides and would be happy to answer questions at the end.