

June 3, 2024

Catholic University West Campus Solar Array Dedication Ceremony

Remarks by Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association President Steve Farole

Thank you, Jack, and thanks to Dr. Kilpatrick and Catholic University for inviting me as a representative of the local community.

The local perspective is essential when we think about clean energy and our environmental future. Environmental impacts are felt at the local level. Behind the statistics about rising average temperatures or deteriorating air quality are seniors struggling to stay cool through longer and hotter summers and the families whose children can't go out to play on yet another code red air quality day. Our solutions must also be local. While the federal government has an important role to play, building a sustainable, clean energy society requires a shared commitment from the city, our businesses, citizens, and institutions like Catholic University to invest in the future we seek for our community.

Brookland's residents have a long history of working towards a healthy, safer, and more sustainable neighborhood and city, from organizing in the 1960s to defeat plans for a highway through the heart of our neighborhood to more recent efforts to protect green space and invest in rooftop solar for homes and businesses. Catholic University's West Solar Array continues the community's proud tradition of environmental stewardship. On behalf of the Brookland civic association and our community, I'd like to express my gratitude to Catholic University for its commitment to renewable energy, leadership in providing a model of sustainable living in our city, and for sharing the benefits of this project with city residents.