2400 Virginia Avenue, N.W., C-311
Washington, DC 20037
January 7, 2005

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Mr. Jeffrey Griffis,
Chair, D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, NW
Suite 225 South
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Board of Zoning Adjustment Appeal No. 17249

Dear Mr. Griffis:

As a resident of the Foggy Bottom community for over 14 years I am writing to express my support for the decision of the Zoning Administrator of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to issue a certificate of occupancy for the food service venues located within the GWU Ivory Tower residence. Although I reside within the ANC 2A district the appeal filed by ANC 2A does not reflect my views nor, does it reflect the views of many of my neighbors.

I think that the proposal that neighborhood businesses be closed to non-students is a terrible idea. I can respect the viewpoint that GW should not take over the whole FB neighborhood. But it does not benefit the non-student residents to bar them from neighborhood establishments. I have waited years for a Starbucks to come to my neighborhood and now someone wants to tell me I can't go to it. These places won't go away if residents can't patronize them. Residents will just be inconvenienced. How counter-productive! Retail establishments provide a useful service to the community and they should be encouraged to market themselves to the FB community at large not just students. Moreover, I think that banning non-students from these establishments will be unworkable given the heavy amount of tourist foot traffic on 23rd street. Are the retailers going to have to tell a family they can't buy food because they are not enrolled in the university?

I therefore urge you to deny the appeal.

Sincerely,

Eileen M. Hennessey

BZA
Case No. 17249
Exhibit No. 21

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17249
EXHIBIT NO. 21