

August 15, 2006

Carol Mitten, Chairman
Zoning Commission
441 4th Street NW, Suite 200 South
Washington DC 20001

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Re: George Washington University Campus Plan (cases #06-11, #06-12 and #06-19)

Dear Chairman Mitten and Members of the Commission:

I strongly support the 20-year Campus Plan proposed by George Washington University and the DC Office of Planning. I attended GW as an undergraduate several years ago. After obtaining my degree and enrolling in medical school, I decided to make Foggy Bottom my home. I write as both a GW alum and a Foggy Bottom resident.

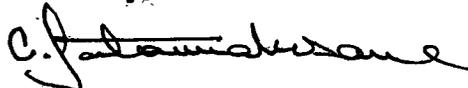
It is no secret that town/gown tensions have existed in the past. However, GW has made great strides in establishing trust and mending its relationship with the community. In addition to forming a dedicated Office of DC and Foggy Bottom/West End Affairs, GW has engaged in a nearly two year dialogue with its neighbors over this Campus Plan. While it is impossible to make everyone happy, this Plan represents a significant step forward for both GW and the community. I strongly encourage you to support this plan.

This plan allows GW to build out the academic and student housing space required to accommodate its existing student body. What makes this plan ingenious is the "grow up, not out" philosophy that will enable such growth to take place within the campus core and away from residential Foggy Bottom. Though win-win is an overused phrase, this plan really does allow everyone to come out ahead.

As medical student, I can attest to the need to upgrade GW's science and research infrastructure. As a resident, I can speak to the importance of GW living within its current campus boundaries and not expanding into the residential neighborhood. By allowing extra density on the core of campus, and including firm commitments from GW regarding future growth, the Campus Plan succeeds on both counts.

Again, I encourage you to support this comprehensive Campus Plan. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh-in.

Sincerely,



Cathy Southammakosane

2140 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-11

EXHIBIT NO. 55

ZONING COMMISSION
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CASE NO. 06-11
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