



# NEWMAN CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER

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*"God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another."  
~John Henry Cardinal Newman*

September 6, 2006

Carol Mitten, Chairman  
Zoning Commission  
441 4<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Suite 200 South  
Washington DC 2001

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Dear Ms. Mitten:

I am writing you today in support of George Washington University's Foggy Bottom Campus Plan 2006-2025 (Cases #06-11, #06-12 and #06-19.)

The Newman Center is the Catholic Campus Ministry here at GWU. Not long after coming to GWU, I met with Mr. Michael Akin. He was very informative and helped me understand the university's future strategy. He has made himself available if we have had any concerns. As a property owner so close to the university, it is important that the Newman Center has the flexibility to operate.

My underlying belief is that what is good for the university is good for the Catholic students here. For example, one of the things I hear the most from my students is the need for more student housing. The students here are very concerned that they have safe, affordable housing. This plan addresses this concern.

Another concern my students express is the desire to have a "campus feel" in the middle of an urban environment. This new plan seeks to protect and promote open spaces that will be attractive to students as well as neighbors. I have been impressed with the architectural beauty of the newer buildings here. It is apparent that a great deal of thought has gone into creating an attractive campus here in Foggy Bottom.

While not every neighbor has been pleased with the past decisions of the university, I have been impressed by the amount of preparation GW has done to implement this plan. They have held a number of open forums to address neighborhood concerns. It would be hard to say that they have not been listening to those whom this plan will affect.

For all these reasons and more, the Newman Center supports the Campus Plan. Thank you for considering our point of view.

Sincerely,

Rev. William Gurnee

ZONING COMMISSION  
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-11

EXHIBIT NO. 56

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