
MESCO Inc.
FOGGY BOTTOM GROCERY

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

2140 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037
202/337-4652

CASE NO. 06-11
EXHIBIT NO. 124

Zoning Commission Hearing on GW's Campus Plan – 9.25.06

My name is Meseret Bekele. I am the owner of the Foggy Bottom Grocery at 2140 F Street, NW. As such, my livelihood depends on the continued prosperity of this community.

For over two years, leading up to the September 2006 Zoning Commission Hearing, GW has continued to engage in conversations with its neighbors about the future of the Foggy Bottom campus. As a community member and a small business owner, I have attended several of these sessions. Thus, I can personally say that I truly appreciate the sincere organization of this integrated development strategy. Not only does the Campus Plan concentrate new university development in targeted locations AWAY from the surrounding residential neighborhoods; but it also enhances our communal environment through landscaping and streetscape improvements. It is clear to me that this plan is beneficial to the community as a whole.

I completely understand any initial hesitation regarding increased development in the Foggy Bottom area. However, GW has always been extremely helpful and sensitive to my personal concerns, and the concerns of our residents. In fact, GW has even gone so far as to establish and maintain the Office of District of Columbia and Foggy Bottom/West End Affairs, and a neighborhood website, neighborhood.gwu.edu. The office, and its Director, Michael Akin, are available anytime I have questions or concern. The website provides thorough and detailed information on various University programs and campus development efforts. Also, the University maintains a 24 hour Community Concern Hotline open to all of us, here in the Foggy Bottom area.

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Bottom Community. Last, and certainly not least, GW has successfully coordinated a University Police Neighborhood Action Team to respond to community-related calls and reports.

Simply put, GW has made a concerted effort to being a better neighbor. The serious work that went into making sure this Campus Plan reflected community issues is to be commended. To help alleviate concerns and curtail some of the many issues that arise during the implementation of any new development plan, GW continuously seeks the input and advice of members of the Foggy Bottom area. Their representatives have always been courteous and genuine when addressing the community, and I wish them all the luck in their new and exciting Foggy Bottom Campus Plan.

I strongly encourage you to support the Campus Plan. Thank you.