

**To the Zoning Commission, The George Washington University, Foggy Bottom community members, or to Whom It May Concern:**

When I first stepped on to GW's campus in 2004, it was obvious that I was not just stepping onto my University campus, but that I was stepping into the District of Columbia. When I went to get my groceries, I passed by the Foggy Bottom Historic District. When I walked to class, I walked past the World Bank. When I grabbed a bite from J Street in our Marvin Center, I watched students from the School Without Walls flood in for their lunch break. GW opened its arms to me, but it didn't confine me. Instead, I was encouraged to branch out and explore GW's extended community.

I became very involved in one of GW's chartered student organizations, the Residence Hall Association. I served on its Executive Board as Community Service Coordinator. It was with this position that I began volunteering at St. Mary's Court every Sunday running errands for residents to and from St. Mary's Court and the Watergate. I was also introduced to the FRIENDS community group. FRIENDS and the Residence Hall Association collaborated on a holiday toiletry drive last November and December. It is these kinds of activities that allowed me to get involved not only on campus, but within the Foggy Bottom community as well. I can definitely say I don't just look at this plan for GW's benefit, but also for the benefit of my newfound neighbors and friends.

Why do I see it as a good plan? Aside from the most immediate benefits of almost guaranteeing housing to future GW students, the mixed-use commercial redevelopment of Square 54 provides a universal benefit. Hungry students won't just benefit from the grocery store, but so will DC. I don't need to say that there are some places in DC where grocery stores can't be found. I think GW sets an admirable example when it steps up and provides a better option for satisfying some part of DC residents' nutritional needs.

GW has acted responsibly in every step of their planning. All plans have been made accessible to the wider GW and Foggy Bottom communities. I know that I felt that I played an active role in understanding the need of GW, and at the same time, the need of Foggy Bottom residents. It is clear that GW views this as a two way street and is not done listening to residents' concerns. I'm excited to see the progression of this project and the great benefits it will bring my community.

Sincerely,



Kara Williams

Class of 2008  
The George Washington University

**ZONING COMMISSION**  
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-11

EXHIBIT NO. 134

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