

Honorable Carol Mitten  
Chair, DC Zoning Commission  
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Suite 200 South  
Washington, DC 20001

Statement in front of the DC Zoning Commission on September 25, 2006

The aspect of the GW Campus Plan which I wish to focus on is the revitalization, enhancement, and creation of new pathways through the Foggy Bottom campus. Anyone who walks through certain parts of the West End and Foggy Bottom neighborhoods can attest to the seemingly impermeable impression residential and commercial development imposes upon us as we walk the streets of those neighborhoods. I believe one of the strengths of this plan is that while it will result in the development of new buildings within GW's campus boundaries, the school also intends on putting its attention on pathways around campus. Instead of walking more than a block out of your way simply to get to a building one street over, these pathways would allow for easy and quick access to any part of campus.

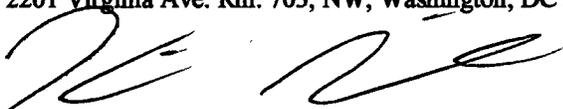
While no city planner, I also believe it would work to alleviate some of the pedestrian congestion on campus, especially during peak hours of the day between classes. Many of the pathways that the school intends on enhancing are simply paved over gaps between buildings or parts of unsightly open air parking space. These revitalized pathways would go a long way in adding to the distinctive landscape which GW intends to enhance and create on the campus if the plan is approved. Additionally, there are a number of driveways and parking lots between buildings that students use as makeshift pathways. This Campus Plan would not only beautify them but also increase safety, as certain pathways become more visible and more people are made aware of their existence.

But the benefits do not simply stop at the beautification of campus, alleviation of congestion, and increase in safety that these pathways would provide. Our Foggy Bottom and West End neighbors would also be able to benefit from these pathways. They can provide our neighbors with easier and quainter access when they walk to the Metro or the store. Quiet and well landscaped pathways after all would provide a much welcomed retreat from the noise and congestion.

I realize that the revitalization, enhancement, and creation of new pathways is not ample enough reason to approve a new Campus Plan. But it is aspects of the plan such as these pathways, new and improved landscaping in front of buildings, and the "I Street Corridor," coupled together with all the other parts of the Campus Plan, that make it so worthwhile. GW will be enhanced as one of the premiere research institutions of this country, imagine a world class institution right up there with the Ivy Leagues right in this District! Equally important, the community will be enhanced through the pathways and other aspects of the plan I have just mentioned.

This sort of opportunity to improve our city by leaps and bounds does not come around every day. Therefore, all things considered, I ask this Commission to realize all the benefits of this plan and approve it, not only for GW, not only for Foggy Bottom and the West End, but for the entire District of Columbia.

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ZONING COMMISSION  
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-11  
EXHIBIT NO. 142