

Statement before the Washington D.C. Zoning Commission Hearing
(September 25, 2006)

My name is Abraham Avidor. I am a retired federal employee (International Economist, Foreign Agricultural Service/USDA) and for the last 29 years have lived at the same Foggy Bottom address: 1101 NH Avenue, N.W., Apt. 415, Washington, D.C. 20037-1509. As a long-standing Foggy Bottom resident, I appreciate the contributions the George Washington University makes to the Community. Regularly, I attend classes as well as academic and cultural events held at the University.

My support for the Foggy Bottom Campus Plan: 2006-2025 reflects potential benefits to the Community, the District, and the University. Specifically, implementation of the proposed Campus Plan would:

- 1. Redevelop Square 54, creating a dynamic “town center” with offices, residential units, and retail stores, including a much needed large scale food store (see attachment);**
- 2. Provide additional retail services along the proposed I Street Retail Corridor;**
- 3. Concentrate new University development in targeted campus locations, away from surrounding residential neighborhoods;**
- 4. Gradually transfer the University’s off-campus properties to uses other than student housing;**
- 5. Enhance the environment and pedestrian walking experiences through innovative improvements;**
- 6. Provide opportunities for new business development, enhancing the District’s tax base;**
- 7. Preserve architectural resources through an historic district and landmark designation for additional campus buildings; and**
- 8. Sustain and promote a world-class university in the District of Columbia.**

This concludes my statement. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Commission

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-11

EXHIBIT NO. 150

Signed: Abraham Avidor

Date: 9/22/06

Attachment

Trader Joe's

Although the recent opening of specialty food store Trader Joe's is a favorable development, it is not the solution to Foggy Bottom's overall retail food needs for the following reasons:

- 1. The store is small and crowded;**
- 2. The store is located in West End, away from the center of Foggy Bottom; and**
- 3. The store has no salad bar and a limited variety of fresh produce and processed foods.**

Conclusion: In addition to Trader Joe's, Foggy Bottom needs a centrally located, full service food store, such as the one proposed at Square 54.