

To: Office of Zoning
From: Rebecca Mathis Somers
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20037

Re: Case 06-11

Date: 9/25/06

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-11

EXHIBIT NO. 153

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September 25, 2006

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Office of Zoning
444 4th Street, Suite 2205
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Case 06-11

Dear Commissioners:

As a resident of Foggy Bottom, I am pleading for help. The neighborhood is being over-run by students from George Washington University that are continuously disturbing the peace with loud raucous parties that go well into 4:00am. and beyond. After parties consist of student party-goers drunkenly walking the neighborhood, yelling & partying, screaming obscenities at one another either jokingly or in an argument - either way the result is a blatant disturbance of peace that no amount of police calls seem to abate. Public obscenities as well as indecent exposure is becoming more frequent. For example, male students have been caught urinating in public on the sidewalk, on hedges in the Free boxes & just laugh w/ their fellow students when confronted & ask to refrain from urinating in someone's front yard or tree

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The neighborhood, in general, is rapidly degenerating as absentee landlords rent to 1 or 2 students in apart. that then increase the students, when the landlord is gone, as is, after the rental lease is signed. Some houses are being used as "fraternal-like" bases where students visit the apartments all day on a rotating basis - they leave doors unlocked so student cars "come-in + hang-out" during the day. In the day + throughout the evening cars are double-parked along 24th + 25th Streets not allowing regular parkers access + exit to legal parking spaces. My back yard has seen numerous cars parked illegally to attend parties. Discarded computer, abandoned couches, + garbage attract rats + other rodents which are a very ^{real} health threat. Complaints have been registered w/ students + even the absentee landlords, but the problems are getting worse + worse.

A couple of weekends ago, the back
of my yard on 25th Street had to have

interviewed several times as the partygoers became obstinate & refused to shut down the party. Hundreds of students were at that party, it was held in a small rowhouse & was teeming w/ students who ^{many} were clearly intoxicated & aggressive. They complained when asked to either quiet down or close down the party by the police, that 'they had the right to party as long as they wanted to ~~to~~ ^{then} threatened to call their lawyers". The disrespect and entitlement from these party revelers all students from GW showed no bounds in their drunken protest w/ the police even when told by the police that numerous calls from neighbors had been made complaining of disturbance of the peace. The partygoers protested w/ "their right to party" regardless of the neighbor complaints. I if I hadn't seen myself, I would not have believed. The complete & utter disregard & respect for ones fellow neighbors & the

Day 4.

Neighbors in Foggy Bottom are fed-up w/ the wanton disregard for their neighborhood. George Washington University should take responsibility for the problems students enrolled in institution are causing. Degrading, devaluing, creating health & safety concerns w/ overcrowding + fire hazards (from this overcrowd + disregard w/ littering + illegal dumping) are all too common problems for this small, historic community to deal with.

The residents of Foggy Bottom are under-siege and ~~regret~~ ^{regret} are those ^{innocent} GW students who are ^{regretting} ^{for everyone, including the GW students} that are renting here are treating this ^{not at} neighborhood like their personal party ^{fault} house ~~part~~ w/ no respect or consideration for the neighborhood in general.

We are a small community, and ~~yet~~ we are asking for helping in bringing back some sanity & ~~community~~ ^{common-sense}. We are asking Washington, ~~and~~ ^{it} to be held responsible ^{to do it}.