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Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 220S
Washington, DC 20001

2006 SEP 26 AM 10: 04

Case no. 06-11

September 25, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of Foggy Bottom, I would like to draw your attention to a series of issues that are threatening this neighborhood's social fabric.

The increasing population of GW students in Foggy Bottom has compelled those of us who have to wake up very early every morning to sustain a living to spend several weeknights striving to have a police car come to this neighborhood to put an end to endless backyard parties. Please understand that I do not condemn student parties. I was myself a graduate student not too long ago. Yet can we still talk about such parties when almost one hundred people manage to occupy a two bedroom apartment and have to take their "party" outside? The police, themselves, do not seem to treat these gatherings as "parties," for they often prefer not to intervene given the scope of their crowd.

Furthermore, the students' behavior toward the rest of Foggy Bottom's population has transcended the bounds of decency. Many examples illustrate this manifest lack of respect, ranging from the handling of trash to their relationship with the elderly.

The expansion of GW in Foggy Bottom will destroy this neighborhood, which is part of this city's patrimony. But make no mistake: it is not one neighborhood that will disappear, but the rich and diverse culture of its residents that attracted these students and their parents in the first place.

Christophe Larouer

2431 I Street NW
Washington DC 20037

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-11 (FAX)

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 06-11
EXHIBIT NO. 157
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Christophe and Elizabeth Larouer
2431 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

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Re: Case No. 06-11 / GWU -- Campus Plan & PUD

September 25, 2006

Dear Commissioners,

In regards to the above-cited case, I would like to represent the side of the Foggy Bottom residents who must tolerate the rude behavior, loud partying and general filth that the GW students display on a daily basis in our once quaint, beautiful and historic Foggy Bottom neighborhood.

When my husband and I arrived in Washington, DC as newlyweds in mid-January 2002, we initially resided in the Colonial Arms building located on 26th Street between I and K Street. On the day that we unloaded our furniture from the U-Haul truck we had rented, we were approached by an older woman, who happened to live along the same street in a much nicer residence next door, who shouted a few unkind remarks our way in a very disgusted manner mentioning something about "'You people' invading the neighborhood." She obviously believed we were students arriving into the area for the start of the Spring semester, and not the newlywed young professionals we actually were! Back then I couldn't easily comprehend her harsh reaction to our arrival, but now, after having lived in Foggy Bottom for nearly five years, I can totally understand!

As it turns out, my husband and I did not make it to the end of our one-year lease at the apartment we first moved into at Colonial Arms due to the increasing partying, noise level, lack of respect, and total disregard for human decency that our neighbors displayed. We were elated to finally escape the run-down, Fitzgerald-owned and operated, "Colonial Arms Dormitory" in the fall of 2002 when we found an affordable one-bedroom apartment just up the road on I Street. We thought we had prevailed in finding a bit of peace and tranquility at our new cozy digs, however with a bedroom located in the back of our apartment facing the shared parking lot area between 24th and 25th Streets, we were soon proven wrong. The raucous partying continued—this time outside in the back lot—come rain, snow, or hail! Many nights we were forced to "set up camp" in our front room in sleeping bags just to be able to catch a few hours of sleep before beginning our busy days at work, at the Department

of State and the IMF, and at school where my husband completed his LLM at Georgetown University part-time. On several occasions I have had to call DC's non-emergency line (311) to report noise disruptions in the neighborhood, only to find a short-lived bit of solace after the police arrive (when/if they arrived...), followed by an even rowdier, more rambunctious party. This is a typical evening routine for us, Monday through Sunday. It doesn't help that I often find myself picking up after these students the following morning as I walk to work (beer cans and bottles, plastic cups, etc.) in the sidewalks of Foggy Bottom.

It was not all that long ago that I, myself, was a student at the University of Richmond in Virginia—a mere 8 years ago to be exact. So, I am very familiar with today's student life, from how stressful class work can be and how crazy parties can become. And I believe that students have a right to enjoy good times together at whatever noise level they choose on a regular basis on the university's campus in a closed-off and insulated dormitory setting. However, what I do not approve of is holding these parties all week and weekend in a setting that is shared with people who are not university students, who cannot maintain "student hours" and are forced to share the same living space with those who think 3:00 am is a good time to head home for bed! Honestly, life for "normal" 9-to-5 professionals in this area of DC has become not only unbearable, but extremely exhausting!

Over the past five years, my husband, Christophe, and I have witnessed the unfortunate deterioration of our lovely Foggy Bottom community and are very saddened by the changes we have seen. These past two years have been the most difficult to observe as more and more Foggy Bottom homes are taken over by groups of students with landlords who just don't care that their tenants are destroying their properties, as well as the lives of their Foggy Bottom neighbors. They exhibit such a complete disregard for the community's well-being, uniqueness and survival.

I hope that my voice can be heard in some way through this letter as you decide on the rezoning of the expanding GW campus (not to mention enrollment and budget!). Please take into serious consideration the loss of one of DC's precious jewels; the quaint Foggy Bottom neighborhood which is slowly losing its sparkle with each passing day.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Larouer


INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20431

MESSAGE CENTER

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PAGE 1 OF 4

TO Office of Zoning
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 Washington, DC 20001

 202 727-6072

INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

CASE NO. 06-11

Please find attached two letters from my husband, Christophe, and myself to be included in this evening's Special Public Meeting at 6:30 pm for Case No. 06-11 / GWU - Campus Plan & PUD.

Thank you.

FROM Elizabeth Larouer
 AFR/AI

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