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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

Carol J. Mitten
Chair, DC Zoning Commission
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street NW, Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

CASE NO. 06-11
EXHIBIT NO. 160

September 5, 2006

Dear Chair Mitten:

My name is Meredith Wolff and I am an alumnus of The George Washington University. I spent the past four years as a student on the GW campus, as a resident in Foggy Bottom, and as a proud inhabitant of the District of Columbia. I am writing you this letter to show my *strong* support for GW's Campus Plan. If it were it not for my relocating to a new city upon graduation, I would be advocating for this plan in person at your hearings. Through extensive work with students, administrators, and community members, I believe that this plan serves the best interests of all those impacted by the presence of my alma mater.

As a student at The George Washington University I became an active member of campus and city life, participating in student organizations and community events. In particular, I was selected as the GW Student Association's (SA) Vice President for Community Affairs in the spring of 2005. Serving until my graduation in May 2006, I represented the student body at meetings of neighboring community organizations and to the University Administration. The timing of my service, unbeknownst to me when I accepted the position, was a unique opportunity to help shape the future of an entire University community. I quickly learned that the University was developing a long-term plan for the development of GW and was engaging in talks with the Office of Planning, and Foggy Bottom community to make sure their ideas and concerns were heard. I saw my job to be representing the students in this planning process.

Working together with the 2005-2006 SA President Audai Shakour, I developed an initiative which we called "Campaign GW." The goal of our campaign was to inform students about the developing Campus Plan and to include their opinions in the final draft, the proposal which you now have before you.

"Campaign GW" embarked on an ambitious platform and successfully established a strong support network within the University administration, as well as creating and administering a comprehensive survey of the student body's opinion of the current GW and its ideas for the future. Many of the discoveries made through this survey were acknowledged by administrators and aspects of the campus plan reflect these student desires. "Campaign GW" then launched a "dorm storm" informational session series,

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where administrators went into the dormitories to present the Campus Plan to students and to answer any questions that the plan might raise. Again the future of the University was reconsidered to include the concerns of its current student body. Students were also recruited to join "Campaign GW" as a permanent network of students and administrators working to shape and apply the new Campus Plan. The current Campus Plan is not just the craftsmanship of administrators or community members, but GW students as well. "Campaign GW" is the beginning of a relationship between all of the university's constituencies that will see the execution of the new Campus Plan to the best interests of all those involved.

Most importantly, students have been educated about the future of their university, and they understand why the existing plan will best serve student needs in the long term. While all change will meet resistance, and this plan is no exception, as a former designated "voice of the students," I can confidently say that this plan is understood by an unprecedented number of my peers, and many find the prospects both exciting and beneficial. The new Campus Plan has the potential to be the catalyst that will launch The George Washington University into the tier of undergraduate institutions which both the administrators and students think it deserves. The new plan will relieve certain tensions that currently exist, such as the school's tuition driven nature, and need for more advanced classrooms in the sciences. This plan will also ease tensions between the University, its students, and its neighbors, making the campus a smaller, tighter knit community, to everyone's benefit.

For all of these reasons, and many more, I fully support The George Washington University's new Campus Plan. My only regret is that I will not be a college student in twenty years from now to experience all of the added unique and world-class opportunities that my alma mater is going to provide. I ask you to please vote yes on the proposed Campus Plan.

Thank You,

Meredith Wolff
GW University, Class of '06
Campaign GW Founding Member