

Dear Madam Chair:

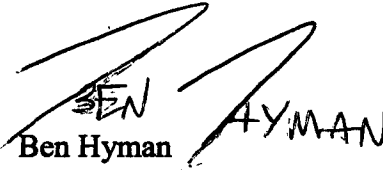
Thank you very much for allowing me to testify in support of the Foggy Bottom Master Plan. My name is Ben Hyman, and I'm a freshman at GW. Although I haven't been at GW for very long, given my background I am uniquely qualified to comment on this plan. In 2001, then Governor of Maryland Parris Glendening and I started a scholarship fund in my name at the National Smart Growth Center at the University of Maryland for local planners with money from me and the state of Maryland. Since then, I've spent summer internships studying land-use planning at the Baltimore City Department of Planning and transportation planning at Parsons Brinkerhoff, a national consulting firm.

Here's why I support the plan. When I worked at the Baltimore City Department of Planning, we reviewed many PUDs, including some from universities. Universities, by nature, are mixed-use. They are schools, offices, residences and retail establishments. Therefore, we at Planning encouraged diverse uses in those PUDs. This plan encourages many uses, including allowing for the mixed-use redevelopment of the Square 54. The many uses proposed for the site are amplified by it being a Transit Oriented Development, which makes it a magnet not just for the GW community but for the city-at-large.

The other criterion we took very seriously when reviewing proposed zoning changes at Planning was whether the proposed changes complemented the character of the surrounding area. This plan does very well in that regard. Developments proposed around the 22nd corridor are of a greater scale than the developments proposed on F and G Street, consistent with existing development patterns and uses. This plan, while giving GW the ability it needs to make it a more dynamic school, also fits well within the Foggy Bottom neighborhood.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in support of the Foggy Bottom Master Plan and I'd be happy to take any questions.

Regards,


Ben Hyman
George Washington U. '10

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