

Carol Mitten, Chairperson
DC Zoning Commission
441 4th Street NW, Suite 200 South
Washington DC 20001

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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

Re: GW Campus Plan Cases #06-11, #06-12 and #06-19

2006 SEP 27 PM 1:45

CASE NO.

06-11

EXHIBIT NO.

162

Dear Chair Mitten:

I sincerely regret not being able to personally testify on behalf of GW because of my residence in California, but I hope this letter of support will encourage you to approve GW's proposed Campus Plan. As the former President of the GW Student Association, I feel I have a unique perspective and insight to share with you in hopes of gaining your approval.

As you may already know, GW's influence and presence on the welfare of the District of Columbia is enormous. There is a concentrated and rigorous effort by the GW community to truly make DC a better place to live and work. I have friends and faculty that have taken part in countless community service and service learning experiences. Programs GW students lead and participate in include DC Reads, The Neighbors Project, and Americorps. All of these programs annually benefit thousands of DC residents – in particular, the city's youth. The GW law clinic is a free legal help center open to any DC resident in need of legal assistance. The annual Foggy Bottom Clean Up day, Thanksgiving Dinner and St. Mary's Senior Ball are events GW students purposely orchestrate to build meaningful relationships with the older residents of our neighborhood. These programs are only the tip of the iceberg of the numerous programs GW students organize and work to make DC a better place to live, learn, work, and grow for its residents.

GW's presence and contributions extend beyond DC's boundaries and reach around the world. I take great pride when I read in the newspaper that members of the GW community are Governors, heads of state, ground breaking archaeologists, CEO's of global companies, founders of social and non-profit organizations, Nobel Laureates, doctors, lawyers and police officers – all active citizens of the world...all working to further the lives of others. GW alums are involved and engaged in all areas and aspects of our world and are constantly seeking to make it a better place for our children. I am truly convinced their experiences at GW allowed them to discover their ability to be engaged and actively contribute to this world.

Finally, I support GW's campus plan and mission because I have experienced the power of it first hand. While at school, I spent four of the best years of my life in a dynamic city with members of an engaged community. The fusion of these two synergies allowed me to grow into a mature citizen poised to contribute to the world. I discovered very early GW and DC go hand in hand. Students and residents of the city benefit greatly if this partnership is fully realized.

As SA President, I began Campaign GW initially as an effort to gather student, faculty and community involvement in and support for the Foggy Bottom Campus Plan. It has evolved into a highlight reel of GW's influence on the hundreds of thousands that it has uniquely and beneficially shaped. Our mission is to include not only students and faculty, but the residents of DC, the nation and beyond in GW's intellectual and social progression over the next 20 years.

In conclusion I urge you to give full 100% confidence in GW's "Foggy Bottom Campus Plan: 2006-2025" not just for me, but literally for the hundreds and thousands of lives GW has positively changed since its inception in the District over 180 years ago. Your vote of approval not only gives the resources GW needs to become a stronger world class institution of higher learning right here in the district but also bolster the mechanisms for social change. Thank you for your time and consideration and I wish you the best of luck in your decision.

Best Regards,

Audai Shakour, B.A International Affairs 2006, Student Association President 2005-'06

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