

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Executive Office of the Mayor
Office of Community Affairs



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2006 SEP 28 AM 8:41

September 25, 2006

District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Zoning Commissioners,

I am writing to commend the George Washington University and the FRIENDS Group on continuing to reach out to the residents of the Foggy Bottom and to include them as GWU goes about updating it's campus plan.

Many residents in the Foggy Bottom community are supportive of the GWU's Campus Plan and have testified before your commission in favor of the plan because the University has been doing a great job over the past three years in reaching out to the residents of Foggy Bottom, not only informing them of the process, but making a tremendous effort to include residents in the updating of the Campus Plan. *The plan calls for building up not out into the community.* This is what most neighbors want.

As the Community Affairs Coordinator for Ward Two in the Executive Office of the Mayor for the past three and a half years I have had the pleasure of attending monthly meetings of the FRIENDS organization, founded by he university with the help of Foggy Bottom residents, whose purpose is to foster better communication and cooperation between the University and it's neighbors. It has successfully done just that. There are usually over 50 to 60 residents (and often times more) who attend the monthly FRIENDS meetings, often more than any other community based organization in the neighborhood. FRIENDS has successfully established a positive dialogue and brought together GWU's administration, faculty, students and residents who now collaborate on solving neighborhood issues. In fact this Sunday FRIENDS will be having their 4th Annual Block Party where well over a 2,000 will be in attendance. This block party is the largest community gathering of the year in the neighborhood and has become one of the largest community gatherings in Ward Two.

GWU has done an excellent job in reaching out to and working with the community as they go about the process of updating their Campus Plan.

Sincerely,

Desi Deschaine
Community Affairs Coordinator
Executive Office of the Mayor

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-11 (FAX)
EXHIBIT NO. 164



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