

Good evening. Chairman Mitten and Commissioners, my name is Gary Joynes and I reside at the Statesman Apartments in Foggy Bottom. While I understand this hearing is to consider The George Washington University's proposed 20-year Campus Plan, my remarks will be limited to my support for the greater level of responsiveness displayed by the university over the past several years.

Specifically, the university's offices of government relations and D.C. and Foggy Bottom/West End Affairs have been available to residents like me who have concerns or want more information about different activities we can take advantage of at the university.

Through the FRIENDS group, the University participates in open meetings once a month where we discuss matters of interest to the community and share information. These meetings draw as many as 60-70 community members and have grown into the venue where everyone comes together to get things done. It's amazing how much can get done when people get together to talk – and listen.

One example of the universities responsiveness is their 24-hour Community Concern Hotline. The Hotline handles calls from the community when student behavior is causing concern.

The Hotline is open 24 hours a day and has given the community a comfort level that our concerns are heard and acted upon. If the university's police don't handle the issue they contact MPD. Either way, the university's

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community relations staff follow up to make sure all concerns are handled with the highest possible level of satisfaction.

Another example of the university's responsiveness is their new website. The website has all the information a resident would want to know about the university and answers a lot of questions too. I've learned about many university activities available to me just by visiting the site.

Issues will continue to arise between the community and the university, but with some of the positive actions taken by the university and ongoing open communication they can be resolved so everyone is satisfied. The fact that I am here - along with nearly 50 of my fellow Foggy Bottom neighbors - speaks to how the relationship between the larger community and the university is changing for the better.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this evening. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.