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October 8, 2006

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Ms. Carol Mitten. Chair
D. C. Zoning Commission
441 Fourth Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Cases 06-11 and 06-12

Madam Chair:

Since the hearing September 28 I have been bothered by your statements which I heard then and have since been reported in the press. "What's happening in this case is the community folks expect that it's almost understood ... [that] student behavior is a problem, noise is a problem. But you're not proving it."

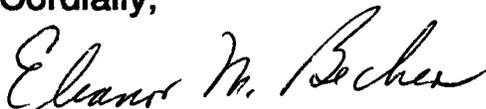
I continue to wonder how we can prove it; obviously the word of resident after resident is not to be believed. It's more than a little difficult to collect campus police reports when UPD does not respond and citizens have no faith that anything would be done or even recorded if they did.

We have heard often that students returning from Georgetown disturb our sleep on the way back to their dorms, even in the presence of UPD officers. And if the MPD is called, they often don't respond or they arrive too late. Just how do we document that?

The enclosed article from the GW Hatchet caught my eye. The figures are frightening and disturbing. But of course you probably would say that the violations don't prove that student behavior and noise are a problem.

Let's face it; they are problems in every college community. Unfortunately, you don't seem to want to believe in reality. It is an uphill battle, so very discouraging to us as citizens.

Cordially,



Eleanor M. Becker

cc: "Alcohol citations up, sanctions down," The GW Hatchet, 10/5/06
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-11
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
EXHIBIT NO. 225
EXHIBIT NO.225

Alcohol citations up, sanctions down

by Brandon Butler
Senior News Editor

The number of students cited for alcohol-related violations has nearly doubled this September compared to last year, while the number of Student Judicial Services sanctions for alcohol has decreased from 93 to 13, according to University Police Department and SJS statistics.

Twenty-four students were written up for alcohol-related violations last September while 45 students were written up by the University Police Department in this year's first month of school, University Police Chief Delores Stafford said.

The number of alcohol hospitalizations also increased this year with 47 students being sent to the hospital this September compared to 32 last September.

Woolfson said many students are receiving warning letters this year and the new medical amnesty program in place may explain why more students

were hospitalized and cited, and fewer received SJS violations.

"Not everyone who gets documented on a police report gets charged with a violation," Woolfson said. "And many students are receiving medical amnesty this year."

Last year, the University changed its medical amnesty policy to allow students with no University judicial record to be exempt from SJS sanctions for a first-time offense.

Woolfson said the University is reviewing the statistics to identify more trends.

"(The trends) are something that

SJS looks at, but we are just now looking at the trends for the first month of school," she said.

"We don't want to make assumptions too quickly about causes, but we are constantly evaluating what is in the best interest of the students," she said.

QUICKTAKES: ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS

Students written up by UPD for alcohol violations

September 2006: 45

September 2005: 24

Students sanctioned by SJS for alcohol violations:

September 2006: 13

September 2005: 93

Students Hospitalized because of alcohol

September 2006: 47

September 2005: 32

Source: University Police Department and Student Judicial Services

See **ALCOHOL** p. 10

from p. 1

An overhaul of the Community Living and Learning Center this year changed the role of student staffers so that Community Facilitators no longer have the authority to issue written violations to residents. This year, House Proctors, Mentors and Scholars live in residence halls, but do not issue alcohol violations to students.

Director of Residential Life and Education James Kohl said the University coordinated UPD coverage of residence halls prior to the school year starting and said the plan "is a good one and works."

Kohl said it is too early to tell if the restructuring of the student staff roles caused the change in alcohol violations.

"Supervision in the houses is greater than it ever has been in the past. For example, there are two (Community Directors) in the houses in Thurston, and house staff can be more connected to the pulse of the houses because students are being more open and honest in their interactions with house staff," Kohl wrote in an e-mail.

He added that the new structure allows for closer relationships between GW Housing Programs staffers, so they can better guide students on appropriate behavior.

According to the Residential Community Conduct Guidelines and Administrative policies for the 2006 and 2007 academic year, the minimum sanctions for first-time alcohol offenders is a \$50 fine and required participation in an alcohol education program. Second-time offenders are

given a \$100 fine and required assessment by a certified service at the students expense, and third time offenders must have a conference with the Dean of Students or a designee to determine if they will remain at the University.

UPD Chief Delores Stafford said she is also unsure why there is a change in the number of alcohol violations this year.

"We are not certain why the number of liquor law violations has increased this year, as our general enforcement procedures have remained the same," she wrote in an e-mail.

"This year we are in some halls more and other halls less and that would have an effect on the numbers," she said. "But that is speculation about one possible reason why." ■

-Kaitlyn Jahrling contributed to this report.

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The GW Hatchet

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