



CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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September 8, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Mitten:

The DC Chamber of Commerce proudly submits this letter of support for George Washington University's Campus Plan on its Foggy Bottom Campus in 2006.

The GWU has engaged the local and city-wide community on its new 20-Year Campus Plan Development Project during a two year process including well over 500 people attending seven formal, open public planning meetings and fifteen private community planning meetings. At these planning sessions significant changes to the plan have been recommended by the community and adopted by GW. The planning meetings prominently displayed community concerns and the District's needs as important as the university's vision for a 20-Year plan.

The plan's theme - *Build Up, Not Out* - will incorporate smart growth concepts to include a modest increase in density on the campus footprint so as to not develop in the residential community. The plan will designate a historic district on the campus and guarantee that at least 70% of its students will live on campus with all freshmen and sophomores living on campus.

The plan brings properties off the city's tax rolls back on to the tax rolls as well as increases retail and private housing stocks for the city. The city benefits by increased taxes paid to the city, the community benefits by more students living on campus as well as more retail in the neighborhood and the university benefits by having more academic space available on campus. The business community benefits by having more retail and business opportunities concentrated in a smart growth area in Foggy Bottom.

The university and the community together has done an excellent job in this planning process. The Chamber is pleased to support this smart growth planning and economic development in our city.

Sincerely,

Barbara B. Lang
President & CEO

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-12
EXHIBIT NO. 44
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