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September 10, 2006

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

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

Dear Ms. Mitten:

This letter is in support of the George Washington University (GWU) Campus Plan as referenced above. As a permanent resident of Foggy Bottom, who owns property in Potomac Plaza, I would like to see the neighborhood develop as a more inclusive community with additional retail services.

As I understand the purpose of the Campus Plan, Square 54 will allow for a mixed-use commercial redevelopment. This mixed use will bring us together as neighbors when using these services provided in the proposed building. Just as the newly opened Trader Joe's, in the former Columbia Woman's Hospital, has enlivened and enriched the neighborhood the proposed services for Square 54 will add to that mix of amenities.

The proposed Campus Plan also promises to increase the number of students housed on campus, improve landscaping and surrounding streetscape and generally enhance the campus environment. I believe all of these add to the quality of life in Foggy Bottom. As the reality unfolds, the neighbors deserve to be updated and to be involved in changes as they have in the past.

During my career, I lived on six different campuses as part of the academic community. It was never obvious to me that the campus was a detriment to the community but indeed enriched everyone. Now I am not an academic but a property owner on a block next to a dormitory. In fact, I lived here several months before realizing that this building was a dormitory. Because the campus brings activity to the Foggy Bottom Metro block, I am never afraid to walk home late in the evening. While students have been guilty of noise levels and other infringements, GWU has made every effort in these past few years to create ways to address these disturbances.

It disturbs me that The Foggy Bottom Association and the ANC seem to be negative toward almost any change in our neighborhood. My wonderment is if we did not have the advantage of a large University – what and who would be developing the neighborhood? Former controversy has made GWU accountable for planning and I believe it is now time to truly work together to bring additional benefits to the neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Vivien E. Kilner



ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-12

EXHIBIT NO. 48