

ST. PAUL'S PARISH
THE REVEREND ANDREW L. SLOANE RECTOR

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September 18, 2006

Carol Mitten, Chairman
Zoning Commission
441 Fourth St., N.W., Suite 200 South
Washington, D.C. 20001

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 06-12
EXHIBIT NO. 79

Re: GW Campus Plan Cases No. 06-11, 06-12, and 06-19

Dear Ms. Mitten,

I write to give my support to the above-referenced plan for George Washington University's campus.

First, I must lay some claim to Square 54. My own parish of St. Paul's was situated on a part of this parcel of land from its founding in 1867 until its compulsory purchase by the government in 1945 to build the former George Washington University Hospital. This case of eminent domain was vigorously fought by my predecessor, Father McCallum, and his parishioners, at that time. And as is always true in such cases, fair market compensation is never actually realized and it proved to be a very traumatic period in my parish's history. The parish chose to continue its mission and ministry in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood and now is located at 2430 K St. on the south side of K Street -- a far less satisfactory location than we originally had on 24th Street.

Having said that, I do write to commend the proposals before you. Not only am I the Rector of this parish, but the Rectory is at 957- 25th Street and so I reside in the historic Foggy Bottom neighborhood. As such, I am acutely aware of the difficulties that exist between residents such as myself and the University. Chief among these, and one that has been very much a part of my life in the past 9 years, is the unruly behavior of undergraduates who rent homes in this residential neighborhood with their supposition that we must simply adjust our living to that of a campus. This causes not only insufferable living conditions, especially late at night for the residents, but also further increases the tension between the University and the community. I believe that the University has responded well to our concerns and complaints and I especially

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commend Michael Aiken, Director of the Office of District of Columbia and Foggy Bottom/West End Affairs at GWU for his diligent work in this.

The plan seems to address the housing problems that exist and offers some solutions to that elsewhere on the campus away from the family residential historic district.

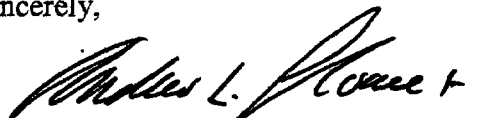
I especially would like to commend the mixed-use commercial redevelopment of Square 54. The shortage of neighborhood-serving retail opportunities has been a drawback in this part of Washington and the "town center" approach to the ground floor development of Square 54 is to be greeted, I think, with enthusiasm. The recent ecstatic reception of "Trader Joe's" on 25th Street between Pennsylvania and M Street is a case in point and another grocery store would be too good to be true!

I also believe that the University has tried consistently over the last two years to reach out to its neighbors in Foggy Bottom for our input regarding the future of Square 54 and the continued development of the University. Indeed, I have been a part of that process and again I commend Michael Aiken and his colleagues for their diligence and enthusiasm in this, and for incorporating our ideas and concerns into the plan.

I also note the fact that GWU, in coordination with the Office of Planning and Historic Preservation, has conducted an in-depth campus architectural and historic preservation study. I know that the University's original development plan was significantly modified to preserve important campus resources.

If I can be of further assistance in this, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me at the address below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew L. Sloane".

The Reverend Andrew L. Sloane, D.D.
Rector
St. Paul's Parish

cc: Mr. Michael Aiken, Director
Office of District of Columbia and Foggy Bottom/West End Affairs
1922 F Street, N.W., Suite 301
Washington, D.C. 20052