

Kathryn Guccione Talking Points
September 25, 2006

CASE NO. 06-12

EXHIBIT NO. 85

- Good evening members of the community, university and esteemed members of commission. My name is Kathryn Guccione and I am a proud alumnus of the George Washington University, a member of the FRIENDS community organization, and a commuter to/from the Foggy Bottom area as an employee of a company located in the Watergate Building.
- I am here tonight to express my interest in, and excitement over, the University's campus plan—from the perspective of a former student as well as a commuter in the area.
- I graduated from GW with a BA in 2005 and an MA in 2006 and during my time was quite active within University activities, as the Director of Programming for the Residence Hall Association for two years, and as a Director of Special Projects for the Student Association when it was led by Kris Hart in 2003-2004. In both of these capacities I was able to interact with university administrators and members of the community.
- In my junior year, I joined the neighborhood FRIENDS organization and was active in planning the first annual block party, as well as attending monthly meetings. My time with the FRIENDS organization has taught me the value of the perspectives held by our community members and the necessity of compromise for the benefit of the Foggy Bottom neighborhood and the university.
- The plan set forth by the university, embodying the "Grow Up, Not Out" approach offers the best of all possible options for the community and university, without sacrificing the most important needs for both parties.
- When I graduated from GW, the university promised me a firm commitment to maintain the prestige and excellence of the institution which granted me two degrees, so as a former student, it is with pride that I watch the university continue to grow as a leading academic institution attracting only the most qualified faculty and students.
- As a commuter to the neighborhood each day and as a member of FRIENDS, it is with excitement that I watch the commitment to enhance the neighborhood as a vibrant retail center which pledges to embrace and preserve its historic roots.
- The campus plan under review tonight and at subsequent hearings this month, demonstrates a enormous effort on behalf of the university to consider the preferences of community members while ensuring the flexibility for growth that will ensure the university's position as a world-class academic institution.

- By developing plans to limit student traffic through residential areas and maintain as well as improve green space around campus such as Kogan Plaza and the University Yard, GW has heeded the community's need to retain an attractive campus environment and aesthetic.
- Similarly, by designing a retail corridor throughout I Street, the University is able to augment economic development throughout Foggy Bottom and offer the community additional amenities that are currently not available at the University center.
- Since 2001, when I first became a student at GW, student housing was a major concern for students, parents, administrators and the community. With the proposed campus plan, however, GW will be able to accommodate all of its housing needs without the purchase of additional off-campus housing facilities.
- The University will also be able to transition the use of current off-campus housing to other uses. This commitment from the University will ease concerns voiced from community members, and encourage more students to remain on campus with the increased availability and assurance of university provided housing.
- As I mentioned previously, the 20 year campus plan laid forth by the University encompasses a compromise to ensure that the university remains a world-class institution recruiting only the best faculty and students; and that Foggy Bottom continues to be a vibrant and historic neighborhood that offers its community a place to live, work, shop and enjoy the outdoors.
- With this plan, the university will benefit by being able to make the improvements necessary to remain top-notch; the community will benefit with the commitment to build up and not out, and condense student traffic; and the city benefits with the addition of new retail options and the preservation of historic landmarks. The 20 year Campus plan is a compilation of numerous hours of discussion with community members, university trustees, administrators and city representatives. It offers Foggy Bottom a commitment of vitality and prestige well into the 21st century.
- I urge the Commission to approve the George Washington University Campus plans and continue to allow both Foggy Bottom and GW to prosper and grow together.
- Thank you to the Commission for allowing me to speak with you tonight; I look forward to your important decisions for the future of Foggy Bottom and The George Washington University.