

Statement of Thomas Lyons Carr III

The District of Columbia Zoning Commission public hearing on the George Washington University's (GWU) proposed Foggy Bottom Campus Plan 2006-2025 and Planned Unit Development, Case Numbers 06-11 & 06-12, September 25, 2006

MLC
~~Mr. Chairperson~~ and members of the Commission, thank you for holding this hearing and for providing me an opportunity to present testimony on GWU's proposed Foggy Bottom Campus Plan 2006-2025. My name is Thom Carr. I have been a resident of the District and Foggy Bottom since 1999, when, while in Federal Service, I transferred from Miami, Florida. I have since retired. I am also a GWU Alumni, having completed two advance degree programs there since transferring to the District.

The location of the Foggy Bottom neighborhood and GWU's unique campus in a major metropolitan area, their relationship to the Central Business District and Government institutions in the District of Columbia (DC), and mass transportation permitted me to accomplish that feat, while having full professional, personal, and academic life. A lot can be accomplished when most of your professional, personal, and academic needs are within a ten (10) city-block walk or just one or two Metro stops away.

To permit others the same flexibility, the residential character of the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhoods must be retained, reinforced and even expanded to remain vibrant. To retain the unique character of the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhoods, at the same time the George Washington University must remain the vibrant modern world-class institution that is in step with the nation and world.

For these reasons and many other reasons I do not have time to expound upon, I support the Commission approval of GW's The Foggy Bottom Campus Plan: 2006 -2025 with its "Grow Up, Not Out approach" and the proposal of a mixed-use "town center" for Square 54. The "Grow Up, Not Out approach" will prevent encroachment into the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhoods and the reduction of the tax base and the residential housing needed by workers of other surrounding institutions and at the same time provides the University with the space it needs to meet its institutional needs. The "town center" will provide the desperately needed amenities to support a vibrant residential lifestyle in the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhoods.

Besides being a benefit to the University and the local neighborhoods (community). The approval of these proposals would be a benefit to the District of Columbia (DC), for they will enhance a vibrant cluster (Foggy Bottom, West End, and GWU) that will stimulate and sustain growth in surrounding neighborhoods and communities; enhance and expand the District's tax base; and sustain and promote a world-class university in the District.

This concludes my testimony.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-12

EXHIBIT NO. 106

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