



Hello, my name is Anne DiGiulio, I am the Community Service Coordinator for the George Washington University Residence Hall Association and tonight I am testifying on behalf of the George Washington University Residence Hall Association.

As a student living on campus and a member of the Residence Hall Association, I see the need for additional undergraduate housing. The 20-year campus plan addresses this need among others.

The proposed renovation and connection of the Schenley, Crawford and West End is really exciting idea. This project will bring many students to the heart of campus. The site is surrounded by the Academic Center, Marvin Center and Kogan Plaza, it is also close to other main academic buildings and the Foggy Bottom Metro stop putting it the center of campus. This proposed residence hall brings students to the academic and social center of campus and embodies the “grow up and not out” philosophy.

Another important and exciting idea is the School Without walls project. The residence hall proposed for this site would be unique to GW. Housing approximately 474 students, this residence hall would consist of quads, giving each student a separate bedroom, with a shared living area and kitchen. The additional beds are much needed and this type of unique living situation would attract upperclassmen, which would otherwise live in off-campus, non- University housing apartments.

GW is no longer going to house undergraduate students in off campus facilities. This is an initiative called for by many community members, but it will benefit the students individually, the university and the student body as a whole. By closing HOVA, the Aston, and City Hall to Undergrads, the students that would be housed there are being brought back on to campus. This will encourage more interaction between students and thus a more unified student body.

By allowing the student body new housing style options, they will find a living situation that fit their needs on campus, rather than having to go off campus for housing. This diversity of housing allows students to have many options and experiences throughout their undergraduate careers. As freshman, students can experience traditional “dorm life”. However sophomores and upperclassmen would prefer more apartment-style living. Thus GW will better meet the needs of its students.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

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Washington DC is a great city and it is very accessible to us, as students, our campus has 2 metro stops and is walking distance to many popular attractions. But we are a unique school because even though we are in the center of a large city, GW still has a distinct campus. And it is good for the student population to be living on campus and taking advantage of what campus life has to offer. By housing undergraduates on campus we can interact more with students, and create a community and network with one another.

That being said, the University is not in a bubble. One of my favorite parts of my position on the Residence Hall Association is that I get to interact with and help community members. Every Sunday our organization goes grocery shopping for Senior Citizens. This gives us the opportunity to meet and interact with community members on a regular basis. We also co-sponsor Kidsfest, a student run event. We invite DC kids to our campus for a Saturday, where they play games, do arts and crafts, and go trick or treating in the residence halls, giving them a safe way to celebrate Halloween. It is really rewarding to be helping and giving back to the community.

Both the community and the university benefit from each other. And the campus planners were very thorough in asking various groups for their input about this plan. They took the time to talk with community members, students, and faculty and put all of these considerations into this campus plan, and if approved the plan will greatly benefit everyone involved. I also believe that this campus plan will fulfill the university's needs and build better relations with our neighbors. Thus the George Washington University Residence Hall Association supports the 20 year campus plan.