

Good evening, my name is Christine Caggiano. I graduated from GW in May 2006 and chose to make my home in the Foggy Bottom historic district as a young professional. While a student, I undertook an independent study in urban development focused on this very plan. I examined the goals and effectiveness of the community-based planning process. At the end of this process, it was abundantly clear that this plan is a win-win situation for the University, the neighborhood, and the District of Columbia. Members of the ANC, the Foggy Bottom community, and the Office of Planning have publicly extolled the virtues of this plan, as evidenced in the Foggy Bottom Current articles I have attached to my testimony, and that I hope you all will take the time to read. This plan addresses the University's need to grow and expand its academic facilities and its housing needs while not further encroaching on the historic neighborhood; residents like Jim Morris, an ANC commissioner, are quoted as saying that "on balance, this university plan is advantageous to the neighborhood overall." The idea of growing up, not out, represents a willingness on GW's part to be a more mature member of the fabric of DC by concentrating student facilities in a core area. Additionally, this plan incorporates the ideals of smart urban growth, transit-oriented development, and environmentally friendly design. Furthermore, this plan represents a concerted effort on the part of the university to open a dialogue; in the second article, Travis Parker, a development review specialist for the Office of Planning, explains the road to these meetings, and concluded that "the result appears to meet the needs of all sides." GW understands it cannot erase the mistakes of the past, and can only work together with the neighborhood and with the city towards a better future for Foggy Bottom on the whole. This plan is by no means perfect for any single stakeholder; rather, it is a solid compromise never before seen in GW's community relations. It effectively addresses issues in the community as identified by the neighbors themselves. Again, in the words of Mr. Parker, this is a "plan that will make the university an increasingly positive part of the Foggy Bottom/West End Community." Thank you for your time and attention, and have a good night.



ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-12

EXHIBIT NO. 111

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.06-12
EXHIBIT NO.111

...the current
at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, the Washington National Opera presented a preview of its upcoming performances of Bartók's psychodrama "Duke Bluebeard's Castle" and Puccini's comic satire "Gianni Schicchi."

One of the condo projects the commission addressed is in an alley between Church and Q streets, and it will require closure of part of the alley at some point this fall. The commission will review a revised construction-management plan before tending its final support.

The construction plan for the second project, at 1446-1454 Church St., will come before the neighbor-

...projected to half of the 200-1000 pipe, saying it needed to be lined.

To do this work, the company said it needs a public-space permit to close down the alley and dig up the pipe in 20-foot sections.

Monarch went before the Logan commission's Community Development Committee earlier this summer and promised to provide alternative parking spaces
 See **Traffic**/Page 34

Police add cameras on R St., other sites

IAN THOMAS
 Staff Writer

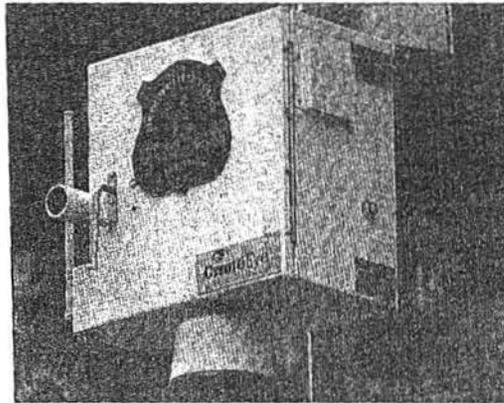
The Metropolitan Police Department this month added 12 new neighborhood surveillance cameras in the city, including seven in Northwest, bringing the total number of electronic eyewitnesses to 25.

The cameras in Northwest include five in the 3rd and 4th police districts.

In the 3rd District, cameras were installed in the 1400 block of R Street, near Johnson Avenue; in the 3300 block of Georgia Avenue, near Morton Street; and in the block of 18th Street, near Belmont Street.

In the 4th District, cameras now watch the 400 block of Anedy Street, near 5th Street; and the 3700 block of Georgia Avenue, at the Petworth Metro Station.

Police commanders said they expect the cameras to



Bill Petros/The Current

There are now 25 surveillance cameras in the city.

deter crime and help catch criminals. The cameras will be watched "passively," meaning no one will watch a live feed, though the police department hopes to set up a network that would allow officers to patch into the

See **Cameras**/Page 14

Hearings start tomorrow on GWU building plans

Development: Proposals split campus and environs

By JULIE WESTFALL
 Current Staff Writer

Tomorrow evening, the fight that has been openly fermenting in Foggy Bottom for almost two years will officially break out in front of the District's Zoning Commission.

A series of public hearings will ultimately decide whether the city will accept George Washington University's plans to add millions of square feet to its campus or bow to

community groups who distrust the university's intentions and see its development as an intrusion.

Similarly, people on and around the campus tend to fall into one of two camps on the university's expansion.

The school's elected student association president, senior Lamar Thorpe, said he believes most students support the university's proposed sweeping 20-year plan to build up its campus.

"I am in favor of what the university is trying to do ... that is, trying to develop for the purpose of

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NEWS

City breaks ground on project at Pallsades
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 Council ANC rejects for delay on plan
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EVENTS

National Gallery exhibit spotlights New York City. Page 41
 Ford's Theatre will open 'State of the Union.' Page 40.



PASSAGES

Nora Ephron opens celebration of Jewish cantor's return. Page 17
 In new dining section: Saint-Ex relishes local talent. Page 19.



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CAMPUS

From Page 1

enhancing our education," said Thorpe, who is considering continuing at the university for graduate school after he finishes his undergraduate sociology and women's studies degrees.

The citizens group the Foggy Bottom Association and the advisory neighborhood commission each hired the same lawyer, Con Hitchcock, to help them oppose the plan at the hearings. The citizens group recently filed a motion asking the Zoning Commission to dismiss the case and another asking it to postpone it, though a federal judge has rejected another request from the group for a dismissal.

There are no easy answers, neighborhood commission chair Vince Miocene said at last month's commission meeting. "It's simply that we at times disagree with development plans. It doesn't mean we don't like the university."

Don Lincoln, who moved into Watergate East seven years ago, is one of the Foggy Bottom residents who likes the university's plan and has testified on its behalf at many city hearings.

"I really think the plan is great," he said. "I think it's really great to have a world-class university as a neighbor."

But Lincoln doesn't believe he is necessarily in the majority. In his building, he estimates residents are

"pretty much divided."

Neighborhood commissioner Jim Morris, who said he is not running again this November for health reasons, cast the lone vote against a recent neighborhood commission resolution opposing the 20-year campus plan.

"There seems to be every indication in the past year that the university seems to have every willingness to talk. The unwillingness seems to be on the other side. I'm not even sure what the other side is, except to say, 'No' to everything," he said.

Divisions between the school and its neighbors run long and deep in Foggy Bottom. For more than a decade some neighbors have rallied against the university's expansion and criticized its tactics.

Neighbor Don Kreuzer steadfastly refused to sell his home to the university even as it built up a tall dorm named "Ivory Tower" around his home. He eventually lost a court case brought against the university and its equally revered and reviled president, Stephen Trachtenberg.

And the school lost a case of its own against the District after it litigated a requirement in its current campus plan — imposed by the city — to house 70 percent of its students on campus.

Morris said most of the people in his condominium building at 2475 Virginia Ave., which is also home to Mayor Anthony Williams, support the university's plan. Morris said the vehement opponents are merely the

loudest voices.

"I think on balance this university plan is advantageous to the neighborhood overall. There are any number of little or big things that you can pick or have questions about, but since the people who are trying to obstruct this plan seem to have nothing to propose in its place," he said.

Mayor Williams, for his part, has said that he thinks the neighborhood activists who oppose the university's plans have been "too hard" on the school.

The university's separate proposal to use its old hospital site, known as Square 54, for a nearly 900,000-square-foot market-rate residential, office and retail project has also generated controversy among neighbors who object to the design's height and bulk, and would prefer the huge block be used to house students or classrooms. But its sought-after location on Pennsylvania Avenue makes it an attractive investment for the university.

Thorpe, who has lived on campus all four years at the university, said explaining to students Square 54's usefulness as a revenue stream for the university was more difficult but most were swayed.

"They're like, well commercializing, how should that benefit us?" he said. "At the end of the day, it's creating revenue so we can build a math and science center. So they do see the end benefit."

The university will spend much of Thursday evening's hearing reiterating the plan it presented in numerous community meetings during the last year. It includes a request for 2 million additional feet of academic and student residential space — the core of the school's "Grow Up, Not Out" plan. The square footage would be locked into a unique, complex planned-unit development scheme in which the university would receive "first stage" approval for basic structures limited to a range of heights and densities in specific locations. It would later return for "second stage" approval of each of the 18 planned-unit developments it is proposing. Some buildings would be built from the ground up while others would be expansions of existing structures.

Though the university's development proposals have been split into several applications, the bulk of the proposal lies in the 20-year campus plan and planned-unit-development application. Opponents have argued that zoning law calls for all of the applications to be heard together since each might impact the other. The applications include proposals to create a historic district that would protect the campus' remaining historic buildings and a plan to rehabilitate the city's School Without Walls high school in exchange for a dormitory that would be built behind the historic school building.

See Campus/Page 31

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New campus plan offers win-win solution

VIEWPOINT

TRAVIS PARKER

The Zoning Commission will hold the first public hearing on Thursday for George Washington University's new campus plan. The Office of Planning has a strong record since 2000 of striving to protect the fragile neighborhoods around the university while still permitting the university to continue to improve its quality. We believe the new plan is a win-win for the neighborhood and the university.

The process to create the 2006 campus plan began over a year and a half ago when the university indicated its desire to develop the former hospital site, Square 54, with non-university uses. The existing campus plan allows commercial development for the site. However, the Planning Office informed the university that neither we nor the community would support non-university uses on Square 54 without details on how future university needs would be accommodated elsewhere on the campus. We then suggested modifying or replacing the existing plan. It seemed pointless to wait for the existing plan's expansion to redo the plan when we knew, first, that the university needed to examine whether development could be accommodated on the remainder of the campus anyway; and second, that the city and community would never have stronger bargaining chips for university commitments than now when Square 54's future is in question.

In light of some community members' long-term distrust of the university, we felt it was important to attempt an open community process in drafting the plan. Unfortunately this very distrust scuttled an attempt at mediated sessions between the university, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A and Foggy Bottom Association. Unable to proceed under this format, we held public meetings throughout the summer enabling the Planning Office and university to gather input related to campus development and neighborhood impacts.

The university, at the city's suggestion, convened experts in campus development to analyze what would be appropriate development for the site, and engaged a nationally respected planning and design firm to study the campus in terms of its relationship to neighborhoods.

In negotiating with the university for the past year, the Office of Planning has related community concerns from the entire public process for this plan as well as concerns from past George Washington campus plans. The result appears to meet the needs of all sides.

The proposed plan will allow the university development potential on its campus to meet the needs of a modern educational institution, including a new science center better-designed dormitory space and larger classrooms. Development will be limited to specific sites, mainly in the center of campus, where it won't negatively impact neighboring property owners.

In return, the university is making multiple commitments. It won't pursue development on campus other than projects identified in the plan. It will maintain the existing cap on student enrollment at 20,000 and verify its enrollment each year for independent audit. It will remove all undergraduates from university-owned housing off-campus and agree not to request a change in the campus boundaries. It will support creating a historic district on campus to protect historic resources in perpetuity. It will complete a streetscape plan for the university to improve the streets and sidewalks. It will commit not to purchase off-campus residential properties in the Foggy Bottom/West End area for campus use. It will carry forward the previous plan's conditions, including the provision of a bed for each new undergraduate.

Throughout, the Planning Office has attempted to address neighborhood concerns. The undergraduates' removal from off-campus dorms will help ease student impacts on neighbors, while the continuing cap will keep any other existing impacts from worsening. The historic district and streetscape plan protect existing buildings and public-space beautification.

We have insisted the campus plan be implemented through the planned-unit development process so there would be full design review and complete condition review of each development project in addition to the compatibility test that comes with each application for further processing of the campus plan. The planned-unit development process offers the city and community the most control over university development, and the 20-year time frame assures the commitments will be in place for the long haul.

Our office urges anyone interested to become involved. Hearings will be held at the Zoning Commission, 441 4th St. NW Room 210, Sept. 14, 21, 25 and 28. Call 202-727-6311 to sign up or ask questions about the hearings, or e-mail travis.parker@dc.gov with questions about the plan. Help us make a plan that will make the university an increasingly positive part of the Foggy Bottom/West End community.

Travis Parker is a development review specialist at the D.C. Office of Planning.



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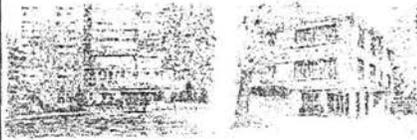
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wilson needs answer on graduation dispute

We write this public letter to Superintendent Clifford Jansy and Inspector General Charles

Willoughby as concerned members of the Wilson High School community. We are the Wilson Local School Restructuring Team chair, vice chair and secretary and Parent Teacher Student Association president, and we send this communication on behalf of these groups.

As you know, allegations by a Wilson teacher, Mr. Erich Martel relating to graduation eligibility have been pending for three months recently augmented by his charges of retaliation. We are troubled that the D.C. Public Schools has not resolved these charges in a timely manner and believe that the failure to do so impedes important

cooperative efforts between the administration and faculty, along with parents and guardians.

Moreover, the continuing adverse publicity can only complicate the task of the parents of eighth- and ninth-graders who must decide whether they wish to entrust their children to Wilson.

Wilson has much to be proud of in its students' achievements, including the impressive list of seniors' college acceptances. D.C. Public Schools must take prompt measures to ensure that the progress being made continues at Wilson.

We have read media reports of the inspector general's intentions. Notwithstanding, we respectfully request a reply describing the pending process for review and a firm date for a public report. The Wilson community deserves no less.

Charles Samuels
Chair, Wilson Local School Restructuring Team
Robert Zugby

Vice chair, Wilson Local School Restructuring Team

Mary Froning

Secretary, Wilson Local School Restructuring Team

Catherine Ribnick

President, Wilson Parent Teacher Student Association

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Current publishes letters representing all points of view. Letters should be signed and must include the writer's home and business telephone numbers, as well as home address. Submissions should be no more than 400 words and may be subject to editing. Letters intended for publication should be addressed to: Letters to the Editor, The Current, Post Office Box 40-040, Washington, D.C. 20016-0400. You may send e-mail to current@erols.com