

Carol Mitten, Chairperson
Zoning Commission
441 4th Street NW, Suite 200 South
Washington DC 20001

Re: GW Campus Plan Cases #06-11, #06-12 and #06-19

Dear Chairperson Mitten:

Good evening Chairperson Mitten, the DC Zoning Commission, and fellow citizens. I stand before you to speak on behalf of my school, the George Washington University. My name is Gina Fernandes, a junior in the Elliot School of International Affairs from Seattle, Washington.

From the first moment I stepped onto GW's campus, I fell in love and knew I would not be happy at any other school. I was so sure about GW that I applied early decision and did not send out my other applications until I got my acceptance letter. I will forever treasure the experiences I gained over my last two years at GW. My most important experiences come from the communities, families, and groups to which I belong. Between my Women's Leadership girls, the Student Association and my teammates on the Women's Crew Team, I have created a network of people I can count on. Most recently, I have used these contacts with my work in Campaign GW, which is a Student Association initiative to get students more involved in the Campus Plan planning process.

Unfortunately, the current campus layout does not adequately accommodate the groups to which I belong. With classrooms spanning between 2020 K Street and 1957 G Street and dorms between City Hall and the Aston, GW's campus doesn't always feel like a campus. Students do congregate on Kogan Plaza or in the Marvin Center's J-Street dining area, but it doesn't fulfill my need for a "heart of campus."

I believe in the Foggy Bottom Campus Plan: 2006 – 2025 and Campaign GW because they provide the campus center I so desire. By focusing campus development along 22nd Street and H Street, GW will gain the center it needs. Also, the streetscape planning component of the Campus Plan will give better structure and definition to our campus, so our campus can be part of the neighborhood, yet have a special GW feel at the heart of the campus. Furthermore, by bringing dorms, students, and classrooms back onto campus, GW's community – the family that every GW student wants – will develop. The campus in 2025 will reflect the community we build during our time at GW.

Through my work with Campaign GW, I have spoken with a few hundred students on campus about the Campus Plan and the future of GW. Each and every one of them agrees with the need for a stronger GW community and campus that represents their time at the University. I, along with my fellow students, look forward to seeing a concrete "heart of campus" that represents the heart of the student body here.

Gina Fernandes, Class of 2008 and Student Association Director of Campaign GW

ZONING COMMISSION

CASE No. 06-12

EXHIBIT No. 153

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.06-12
EXHIBIT NO.153