

9/24/06

## **Campaign GW Testimony: Zoning Board Commission Meeting**

**September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Brandon P. Mansur. I am a freshman at The George Washington University, majoring in International Affairs. But, more importantly, I am a student at one of the finest post-secondary institutions in this nation. And, the more I think about that, the issue of improving the quality and layout of this institution seems to matter even more to me. Let me start by telling you that when I first applied to The George Washington University, I really didn't think I would be accepted to this school. (Story about my application process)

The reason I told you this quick little story is because I feel a moral obligation help out this school. They have given me a chance to better myself in this world, and prepare me for what lies ahead in the next chapters of my book of life. The least I could do is advocate on behalf of my beloved school. And, I must tell you, my story is not unique; it is shared by many.

So, that's what brings me here before you tonight. I am not speaking to you as an expert on city planning. I am speaking to you as someone who is trying to articulate the hopes and dreams of my fellow students and faculty members at the George Washington University.

This plan, as my colleagues can attest to, will certainly put The George Washington University on a path to success over the long-term future. While The George Washington University is a great school already, it is apparent that more can be done to improve the university. Thus, the course of strategic planning has been formulated, and the foundation for making this school on par with schools such as Harvard, Yale, Georgetown, or Stanford, has been laid.

Please do not extinguish the dreams of many, including my own, just because of some adjunct fear of the unknown. If you haven't already, I encourage all of you to take a short walk around the GW campus, and envision the changes outlined in the strategic plan (Case #). It may help to visualize the changes. And, if you would like someone to accompany you on your VIP tour of GW, I would like to offer my services to you. I know how important it is to walk around on the GW campus for the first time. It changed my life.

Taking a chance and ensuring the progress of The George Washington University will not only benefit the students and faculty who attend there now, but later generations of students and faculty as well. And, it is hard to imagine that the impact would be nothing short of beneficial to the surrounding Foggy Bottom neighborhood. And, I would be remiss if I didn't point out that in the long run, this will eventually end up helping out the entire Capitol District. So, when understanding all of these factors, and looking at the potential projects outlined in the Strategic

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CASE No. 06-12

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Plan, it would be wonderful if the entire Zoning Board approved this plan. Take care for now, and I trust that you will make the most informed and astute decision possible.

Thank you very much for your time and patience.