

Chairman Carol J. Mitten
District of Columbia Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, N.W. Ste. 210-S,
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Chairman Mitten & Members of the Zoning Commission,

I am writing you and the commission today to express my full support for the George Washington University's Twenty Year Plan 2006-2025. This year I have the honor of serving a second term in the George Washington University Student Association Senate and Chairman of the Senate's Student Life Committee. Since the campus plan and student life are so closely linked, I have taken the time over the last few months to thoroughly research the merits of the Campus Plan, and have come to the conclusion that the University's plan is a great step forward not only for students but for the entire Foggy Bottom Community as well.

How exactly does this campus plan impact student life on campus? The answer to that question lies in each student's relationship with members of the Foggy Bottom community. Whether it is the student who helps an elderly resident bring her groceries to her home or who purchases goods or services at one of Foggy Bottom's great small businesses, or the resident who attends a performance in the Lisner Auditorium, the lives of students and residents of the Foggy Bottom community are intertwined on a daily basis. As such, it is important that the University and the Community first and foremost work together to help strengthen this already tight bond.

GW's Campus Plan does exactly that by taking into consideration the views and concerns of members of the Community through its "Grow Up, Not Out" strategy. The University's decision to move a large portion of its parking below ground, and the decision to move all undergraduate students to "on-campus" dormitories are just two examples of that commitment to working with the community. This plan ensures that the beautiful community we live in remains beautiful while the George Washington continues its march towards becoming one of the premier educational institutions in the world.

If residents of Foggy Bottom, the District of Columbia at large, or even members of this commission are quick to disregard the opinions of students on this matter I urge you to take this into consideration. I have been a student at the George Washington University for over two years. I have spent a total of three months of the last two years at my legal residence in Connecticut. There can be no doubt that GW students are a part of the community in every way and I want the caliber of the students who the residents of Foggy Bottom interact with to continue to rise. I want all those who walk the streets of the George Washington University to marvel at its beauty and a community that is proud to have The George Washington University call it home. The University is willing to take unprecedented steps to bring out community together and I ask that the Zoning

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Commission recognize that fact and give us a fair chance to show out commitment to Foggy Bottom. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Abanto', written in a cursive style.

Marc Abanto