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To Those Esteemed Members of the Zoning Commission:

I would like to express my utmost support for GW's 20 year Campus Plan. Working as one of the leaders on Campaign GW, has made me get a real sense for how the campus plan was created. Campaign GW is the student-initiative to educate the student body about what is going on in the University's plans for the future of our school. I really wanted to touch upon the creation of the plan and the collaborative effort that went into its product, being before the zoning commission today.

I have met with a number of members within the Office of Corporate and Governmental Affairs, many of whom I would consider personal friends and they have explained to me first hand the university's approach to developing the 20 year plan. It was clearly expressed that the goal during the 2 year developmental stage of the plan, GW wanted to get as much input from as many parties as possible in order to first, make sure all groups involved are happy with the finished product (i.e. students, administrators, community groups, and local government). And second, to alleviate some of the stresses that go into having a campus plan passed through the zoning commission. Local government and community groups were actively involved. It may have been that certain members of the ANC or certain members of the FBA may have a strong disliking to the university's ideas regardless of what we come up with, and I am under the impression that GW attempted to reach out to as many people in these groups as possible to hear their feedback. Members of our community like Michael Akin and Vice President Bernard Demczuk deserve a lot of credit for their attempt at involving certain community groups and external organizations to include their feedback to a 20 year plan, and in my opinion they have succeeded in doing so. This plan more so than in any other attempt to pass something like this through a zoning commission.

Again my opinions are clear: I support the GW 20 year Campus Plan. I see an enriching factor in every aspect of the plan that could only make the area of Foggy Bottom better while never hindering its history. After all, GW is a huge part of the history of Foggy Bottom and this campus plan, if passed, will enrich this part of Washington DC to a new level.

Thank you for your time in reading my testimony,

Derek A. Platt

ZONING COMMISSION  
CASE No. 06-12  
EXHIBIT No. 161

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