

Carol Mitten
Chair, DC Zoning Commission
441 Fourth Street, NW, Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

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

Dear Chair Mitten,

Good Evening Members of the Zoning Commission, George Washington University, and fellow neighbors of Foggy Bottom. Coming all the way across the country to attend GW, I did not quite know what to expect living in the nation's capital. Luckily, two months before I began my studies at The George Washington University, my Presbyterian Youth Group from Portland, Oregon planned a mission trip to the Washington DC, and Foggy Bottom area. I was ecstatic to be able to visit my new home before coming to begin school. What I found was a very vibrant community atmosphere, working in many different locations, from the neighborhood soup kitchens to the DC Food Bank, I fell in love with the city of Washington, DC, and a few months later, with this amazing University. This love has urged me to continue service in the area, and I have realized that this community benefits greatly from the philanthropic events organized from many student organizations. From the Turkey Dinner I cooked with the Student Association, to the Foggy Bottom Cleanup and Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, students continue to benefit this community immensely. This is why I support this plan not only as a student who desires to see his University enhance its research capabilities and international reputation, but as a citizen of Foggy Bottom who plans to live in the community for long after he graduates from this amazing institution.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Executive Vice President and Treasurer Lou Katz, Sherry Rutherford, Alicia O'Neal and many others over the last eight months leading up to these hearings. From attending community meetings to information sessions for students, I have discovered that this plan gives the University a unique vision for the future, a vision which embraces community concerns rather than fights them. As I walk down G Street 20 years from now, I want to see the Foggy Bottom that I see today; however, the front door to Foggy Bottom that Square 54 will create will allow me to enjoy vibrant community life just blocks from the largest historic district in Foggy Bottom. With the 1000 beds the School without Walls project will provide along with other projects that will centralize campus life, I will be able to enjoy the benefits of student life in my city without having to enjoy their nighttime activities. This plan is not only a sustainable future for GW, but it is a plan to better the community which I hope to someday raise a family.

Casey Pond, Senior 2007
Student Association, Chair, Dining Services Committee

ZONING COMMISSION
CASE No. 06-12
EXHIBIT No. 162

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District of Columbia
CASE NO.06-12
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