

STATEMENT OF ED MULRENIN
before the D.C. Zoning Commission
September 28, 2006

CASE NO. 06-12
EXHIBIT NO. 181

GWU Campus Plan/PUD case (Nos. 06-11 & 06-12)

My name is Ed Mulrenin. I live in a condominium in Foggy Bottom, where I have lived for more than 28 years. I am now president of the condominium, which I have been off and on for the years I have lived there. Although there are several issues I would have for the city government's planning, the one I am here to speak to tonight is the issue of the expansion of GW University and the increasing presence of its students in the Foggy Bottom area. By the way, I am a graduate of GW law school so I speak as someone who has some allegiance to the university, and I also spent several years myself as a student living in off-campus settings in New York, where I can proudly say I was a responsible neighbor and citizen.

I have seen numerous changes to the Foggy Bottom neighborhood over the years I have been here. After the physical changes, the increasing presence of GW students is clearly next. Unfortunately, I have not seen one iota of evidence that the university or its students living amongst us have added value to the area. That's irresponsible, if not worse. Indeed, they have actually decreased the quality of life here for the rest of us, on the streets and in our homes. I can offer numerous anecdotes that are beyond speculation, but one recent one says it all, and tells us what we are in for unless we do something to control it.

Over the 28 years I have been in my condo, perhaps because we had few students living there, we not once levied a fine against a resident. Recently, that changed. This year, a GW student living in our building threw a lighted cigarette butt at our condominium's custodian for no reason. When the custodian looked at him in surprise, the student spit at her. The owner of the condominium --- who does not live there himself but whose son does --- declined to offer an apology to the custodian. He was fined \$400.00.

I could talk about the furniture thrown on the street by graduating students, the pets I have heard about abandoned by the students on the street in May, the loud noises on the street way past the time when even the responsible students have retired, the student-like debris and signs of vandalism in our condominium, but I wont. You get the picture.

The neighborhood is indeed changing. But for the worse, thanks to GW's methods of bringing about change.

If you do not understand the importance of this single anecdote to the quality of life of those of who make Foggy Bottom their home, citizens of the District of Columbia, I suggest you localize it to your own domestic situation and think about it again. Is this what they teaching the students at GW today how to act?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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