

2400 Virginia Avenue, NW, C501
Washington, D.C. 20037
September 27, 2006

DC OFFICE OF ZONING

RECEIVED

2006 OCT 31 AM 9:43

Zoning Administrator
441 4th Street, NW
Room 211
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Sir/Ms:

I am Marija Hughes, residing at 2400 Virginia Avenue, NW, Apt. C501, Washington, D.C. 20037. I will testify against the GWU Campus Plan Docket 0-611 and 0-612 because buildings have been designed with no consideration to noise abatement in our area with buildings that are grown increasingly taller. I am GWU medical alumni, have written seven books, ~~4~~ at the Ross Hall, and while at US Dept. of Labor, OSHA, Occupational medicine published work on noise in construction.

The noise from these buildings have an adverse impact on Foggy Bottom area and is in conflict with the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, title 20, section 2701.1 entitled Noise Control "every person is entitled to ambient noise levels that are not detrimental to life, health and enjoyment of his or her property." It also states "noise resulting from the use or operation of any air-conditioning, heat pump, fan, or other mechanical equipment, regardless of location, shall be prohibited in excess of sixty (60) dB(A) during the day and 55 (55) dB (A) at nighttime. Peter Comey, the Executive Director, Facilities has documented the noise to be above the legally permissible levels at 62 dB(A)-72 dB(A). (Attachment 2)

Columbia Plaza residents have asked on September 23, 2005, October 5, 2005, November 5, 2005 and April 24, 2006 that the severe noise be eliminated from:

Ivy Tower, 616 23rd Street, NW
Townhouse Row, 60, 23rd Street, NW
Smith's Center, 200 22nd Street (Attachment 1)

Also the following organizations have asked that the severe noise be eliminated.

Federation of Citizens Associations of the District of Columbia 6/23/06
Foggy Bottom Association 6/22/06
Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC-2A) 6/22/06
(Attachment 2, 3, and 4)

To date the severe noise has not been eliminated.

Other buildings which have severe noise are:

The GWU Hospital 900 23rd Street, NW
The GWU Ambulatory Care Center 22nd and Eye Street, NW
Radiation Oncology Center (Warwick Building) 2300 K Street, NW
GWU School of Medicine and Health Sciences 23rd and Eye Street, NW

Sincerely,



Marija Hughes

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO.

06-12

EXHIBIT NO.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 06-12
EXHIBIT NO. 205

2400 Virginia Avenue, NW, C501
Washington, D.C. 20037
April 24, 2006

Mr. Dennis H. Blumer
General Counsel
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20052

Dear Mr, Blumer:

We the residents of Columbia Plaza East Wing are writing to complain about the excessive noise generated by the colling towers. They are located at:

Ivy Tower, 616 23rd Street, NW
Townhouse Row, 607 23rd Street, NW
Smith's Center, 200 22nd Street, NW

On Saturday, April 8, 2006 at 6:30 am the severe noise started.

We asked you to eliminate the severe noise we suffer from on September 23, 2005, October 6, 2005 and November 5, 2005.

We asked for an outside expert who would examine:

- a) belts
- b) vibration
- c) bearing
- d) noise

We are asking for a written report indicating problem areas and possible solutions.

The noise has been particularly severe this weekend.

Please take our noise complaints seriously and see that something is done to solve the problem. The severe noise is causing serious health problems. Please see that the severe noise problem is eliminated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marija Hughes
member Columbia Plaza Tenants Association and
Foggy Bottom Association

cc: Jim Graham, Councilmember

Attachment 1

OFFICERS

President
George R. Clark
4525 28th St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

First Vice President
Anne Renshaw

Second Vice President
James J. Jones

Secretary
Sally MacDonald

Treasurer
Allen E. Beach

**Federation of Citizens Associations
of the District of Columbia**

ORGANIZED MARCH 5, 1910 • INCORPORATED JUNE 3, 1940

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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June 23, 2006

Rent Administrator
Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
941 North Capitol St., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

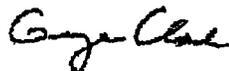
RE: Noise at Columbia Plaza; Complaint of Marija Hughes

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the Federation of Citizens Associations of the District of Columbia, we urge you to require the George Washington University to observe the noise level limitations in DCMR §20-2701.1 of 60db during the daytime and 55 db at night. At its Executive Board meeting on June 15, 2006, the Executive Board voted unanimously to send this letter.

Noise limitations are very important in residential neighborhoods. Vigorous enforcement is necessary to protect our residents from sources that are in violation of the rules. The measurements taken here by GWU itself support a finding of a violation. We trust that appropriate measure will be taken.

Sincerely yours,



George R. Clark
President
Federation of Citizens Associations of DC
GRClark@GeorgeRClark.com
202-331-3200

Attachment 2



▶ Joy Howell, MBA, MPA
Managing Partner

Joy@cambridgestrategicpartners.org

June 22, 2006

Mr. Carl Carter, Esq.
1050 17th St. NW
10th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20036

RE: Columbia Tenants Association Noise Problem

Dear Mr. Carter:

I understand you are representing the Columbia Tenants Association on their problem with George Washington University's alleged noise violation.

On behalf of the Foggy Bottom Association, I'd like to express our support for this group. No one should have to live with noise at illegal decibel levels. This noise from the cooling towers at Ivy Tower, Townhouse Row and Smith's Center has been documented to be above the legally permissible levels. It is highly disruptive to the quality of life of these Foggy Bottom residents, and yet it continues unabated.

Time and again, George Washington University maintains that it would like to be a good neighbor to Foggy Bottom residents. This is a good opportunity for the University to demonstrate that, and for the city to enforce the law and bring the University into compliance.

Please call on me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,


Joy Howell
President
Foggy Bottom Association

Attachment 3



Foggy Bottom and West End
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC-2A)

c/o St. Mary's Court 725 24th Street, NW Washington, DC 20037 (202) 736-1775

June 22, 2006

Mr. Lou Katz
Executive Vice President
The George Washington University
c/o Sherry Rutherford

RE: Mechanical and Cooling Noise from Ivory Tower and Town House Row

Dear Mr. Katz:

At its regularly scheduled meeting on June 14, 2006, the Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2A) considered testimony from residents of the Columbia Plaza regarding mechanical and cooling noise from the Ivory Tower Residence Hall and Town House Row. With six of six commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly called public meeting, the following motion was unanimously approved:

ANC 2A requests that George Washington University officials investigate and rectify noise in excess of District regulations emanating from the mechanical and cooling systems of the Ivory Tower and Town House Row facilities.

Residents of the Columbia Plaza have reported that their measurement of noise emanating from the cooling systems at these facilities is in excess of District regulations and is impacting the peace, order, and quiet of the area and the full use and enjoyment of their residences. Please note that the neighbor's concerns are not student-related, but are facilities-related. Your assistance in rectifying this situation is appreciated.

Please feel free to contact me on (202) 607-8429 or by email at anc2a@earthlink.net for additional information or assistance. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

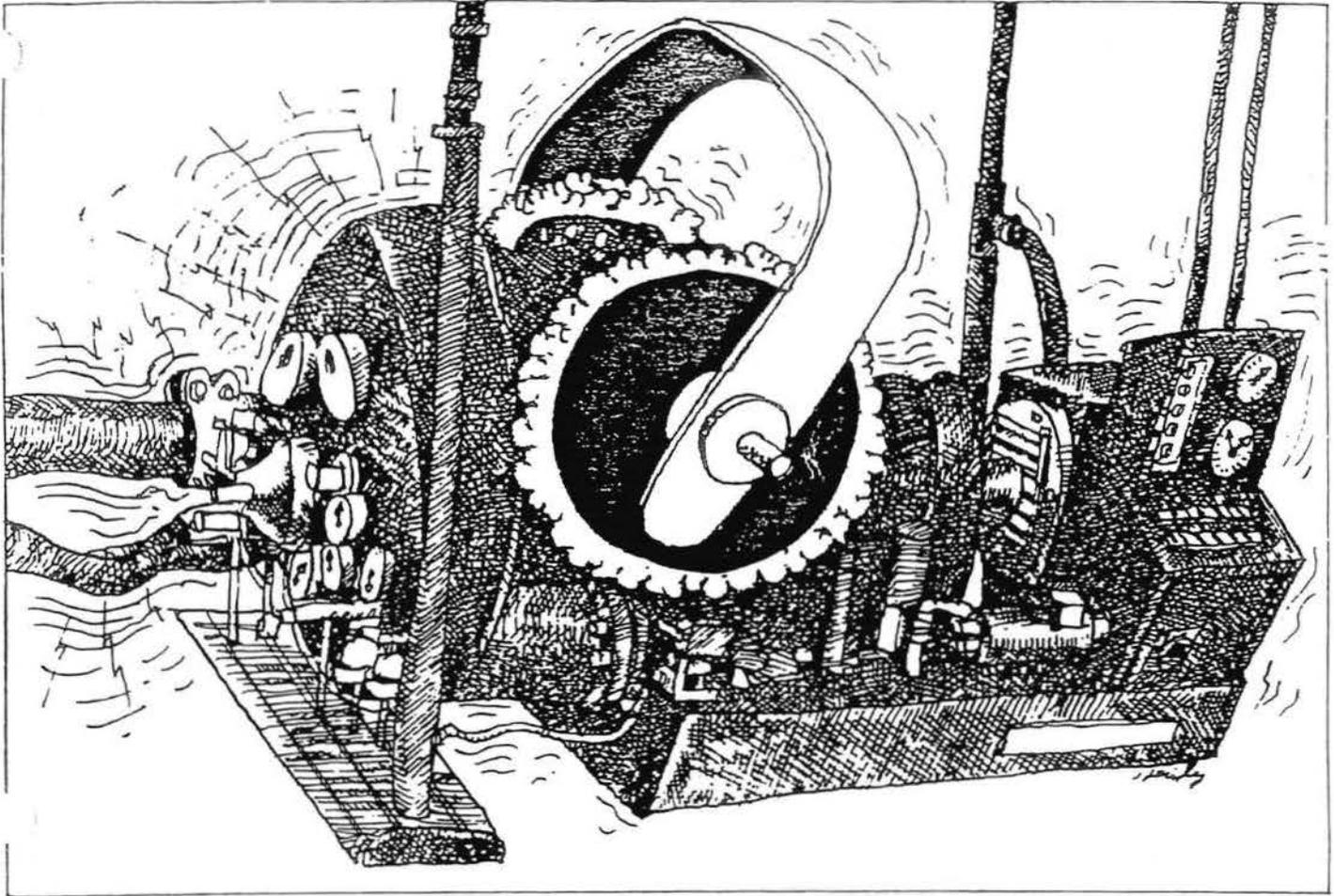
ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION:

Sincerely,

Vince Micone
Chairperson

Attachment 4

cc: Patrick Canavan, Director, DCRA

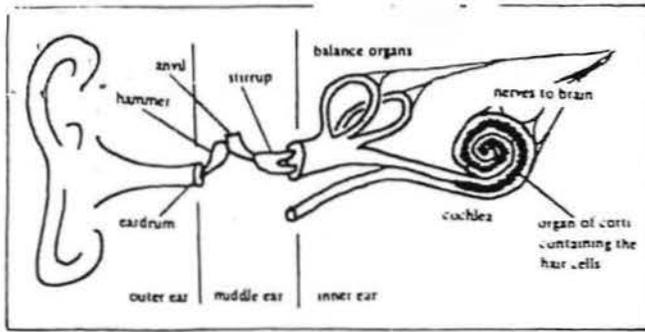


NOISE CONTROL



A Worker's Manual

Attachment 5



How the Ear Works:

When sound vibrations hit the outer ear, the eardrum itself begins to vibrate. Connected to the eardrum in the middle ear are a series of bones which transmit the vibrations to the inner ear. A special snail-shaped organ called the cochlea in the inner ear finally receives the vibrations. In the cochlea there are thousands of tiny hair cells. These hair cells are very important since they change the vibrations into nerve impulses (the "message" of the sound) which are sent to the brain and the rest of the body.

Noise Damages the Tiny Hair Cells in the Inner Ear.

Too much noise will wear out the hair cells. Photographs taken through an electron microscope show the hair cells broken, bent out of shape, and completely missing as a result of noise.

The Upper Range of Hearing is Lost First, Interfering with Conversation.

The hair cells which are destroyed first are the ones which transmit high frequency sounds. A high frequency sound like the letter "S" will not be heard even though a low frequency sound like the letter "O" will be heard.

As you start to get deafened, at first you can't hear plurals, then, for example, you can't distinguish between fifteen and sixteen. Finally you can't understand what people are saying even though you can hear that they are talking.



Words may sound like grunts—"pass the sugar" may sound like "ar uh ugar." This is a gradual process, and not all people are affected equally. Perhaps it is too gradual for you to realize it's happening.

One day, someone says: "Didn't you hear what I said? I think you must be getting a little deaf. Your father was getting a bit deaf at your age. Perhaps it's in the family."

Perhaps the job is in the family too.

Mishearing, making embarrassing wrong replies to questions, combined with the mockery that many

deafened people . . . make . . . withdrawn, nervous to speak, isolated, miserable.

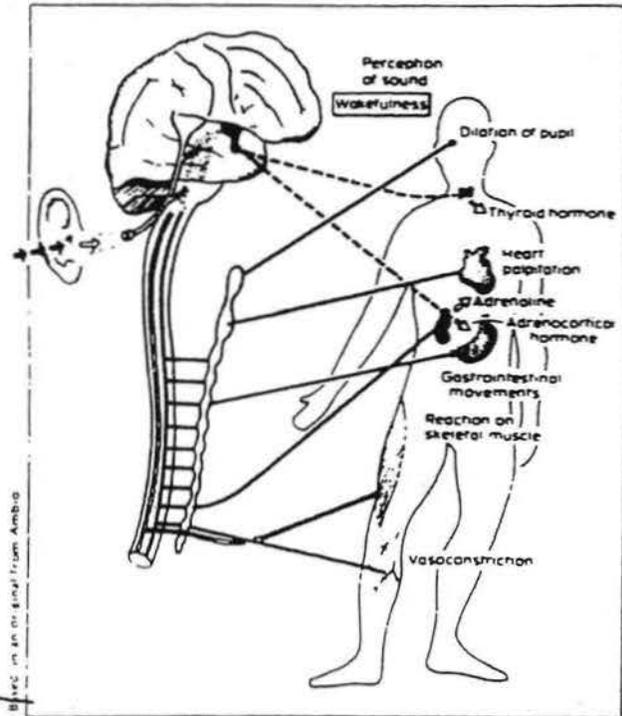
Noise Can Contribute to Nervousness, Anxiety, and Ulcers.

The nerve impulses sent to the brain are also sent to the rest of the body which stimulate various glands that produce hormones, like adrenalin.

Everyone knows a sharp noise in a quiet setting causes a person to startle. Constant levels of high noise causes a more or less similar body reaction: the body tenses and adrenalin flows.

Or to give a slightly different comparison, the sound of a grizzly bear growling behind you on a camping trip causes a certain stress reaction on the body. Constant exposure to loud noise can cause a similar reaction of stress.

In some cases this "alert" reaction is good since it helps a person avoid danger. But if the body is forced to remain tense and alert for long periods of time, it will begin to wear out and deteriorate.



As sound reaches the ear and is changed into nerve impulses sent to the brain, additional impulses are transmitted which reach the body's central nervous system and hormonal systems. The effects of noise on the entire body is thought to be caused in this manner.

Noise May Contribute to Heart Disease.

Exposure to loud noise can cause the blood vessels to constrict. Thus, the heart has to work harder to pump the same amount of blood around. Through the years this may contribute to heart disease.

One recent study has indicated that workers in high noise areas have more blood circulation problems and heart problems than workers in non-noisy areas. Although other factors may be involved, it seems clear that noise contributes to these medical problems.

Much more research is necessary on these and other "non-auditory" effects of noise, especially as they relate to long term health problems.