

October 26, 2006

Carol Mitten, Chairman
Zoning Commission
441 4th Street NW, Suite 200 South
Washington DC 20001

Re: GWU/School Without Walls Case # 06-17

Dear Ms. Mitten and Members of the DC Zoning Commission:

I write this letter in strong support of the School Without Walls (SWW) and George Washington University partnership. As both a former student of SWW and the George Washington University, and a DC resident for 12 years, I can speak to this issue from all perspectives.

School Without Walls is an exceptional high school. Throughout three years there I was able to receive an exceptional academic background which prepared me for college and beyond. The small class setting and its centric location in Washington D.C. gave me an experience that not everyone who passes through DCPS can be proud of.

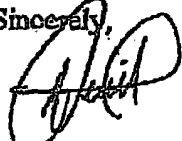
However, the educational mission and excellent resources of the school was hampered by poor facilities. There were times students had to stay in class through leaking roofs, worries of asbestos, and the ever-present hassle of having to spend 30 minutes walking to the YMCA due to the lack of a gym. This partnership brings badly needed funds to the school that will be used to repair and expand the educational environment. In a time where the DCPS system is undergoing a major face lift, this partnership will allow a premium school to rise, propelling DC above its current standing in national public education surveys.

On the other hand, as a former GW student, I can attest to the need for more on-campus housing. In a nice confluence of interests, the Foggy Bottom community has also been asking GW to house more students on-campus. By constructing a large residence hall on-campus, GW will be meeting the needs of its students and catering to the wishes of the larger community.

I'm sure exciting development projects come before this Commission every day. However, I doubt that many projects can offer the significant benefits attached to the School Without Walls/George Washington University partnership. In all interest we must admit that the public education system needs private funding, and in this case that request is being generously answered.

By approving this project, you will be giving the city more than buildings. You will be allowing the educational mission of two important institutions to flourish, as well as providing more work opportunities that arise with continuing construction and maintenance. I strongly encourage you to support the project.

Sincerely,



Anaid Gonzalez
School Without Walls
2002 Graduate-Valedictorian
The George Washington University
2006 Graduate - Summa Cum Laude & SBPM Distinguished Scholar

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-17
EXHIBIT NO. 36