



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

Re: Square 54 (Case # 06-27)

Dear Chairwoman and members of the Zoning Commission,

My name is Lamar A. Thorpe, Student Association President at The George Washington University, which represents all students. The last time I was here, I testified about student involvement in developing and assembling the over-whelming support for the 20-year campus plan.

Today, I am here supporting the Square 54 proposal. You know, I can not help but tell you that with 5-years of active duty service, I thought being Student Body President would be a walk in the park—surprise to me—not at the most politically active University in the world.

If there are two important lessons that I have learned they are one, that ideas can not and should not be implemented without giving everyone involved a place at the bargaining table—in other words being thoughtful and two, one simply can not please everyone.

Today, the Square 54 proposal is an example of thoughtfulness. I recall attending many community meetings where GW students expressed their concerns about student housing, lack of parking, the lack of grocery stores options, and more academic space. The proposal before you includes those ideas expressed by students—a grocery store, additional housing, and much needed parking.

As a student-leader I am just delighted to have the opportunity to really be an advocate for students and say that the Square 54 proposal is an investment in GW's academic mission as a key source for non tuition revenue, which helps minimize tuition increases and creates a revenue source for our Science Center. In addition the proposal creates a vibrant town center that will enhance the urban campus experience, which benefits those who work, live and study at GW.

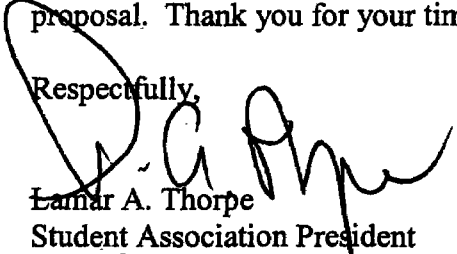
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All those who are affected by the direction GW moves in have been engaged in a community based planning process, community meetings and information sessions, all these included comments, suggestions and feedback. The product of that type of thoughtfulness and collaboration has been the Square 54 proposal.

Once again, I am proud to say that the student body stands behind the Square 54 proposal. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,



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