

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

Re: Case 07-12, The George Washington University Mount Vernon Campus - Pelham Replacement Project

I am pleased to be writing to discuss the Pelham Replacement Project and the possibilities it will present to the student body of The George Washington University.

I am currently working towards a M.A. in International Affairs at the Elliott School of International Affairs with a dual concentration in Conflict Resolution and the Middle East. I completed my B.A. in International Affairs in May, 2006 after transferring from Saint Louis University in Madrid, Spain before my junior year. While transferring from a university in Europe to GW was difficult, the opportunities that the Mount Vernon Campus offered me were instrumental in making my transition not only successful, but downright enjoyable.

As an undergraduate I played for GW's Men's Soccer Team, which boasts Mount Vernon campus as its practice facility and game field. In addition to the comforting atmosphere of the athletic facilities, the Mount Vernon Campus offers a unique area in which students can relax, grab a meal, read a book and study. Having grown up in Alaska, it was comforting to spend significant amounts of time in what is truly a beautiful setting.

In addition to my participation with GW Athletics, I am also Chair of the Graduate Student Forum, a leader of Athletes-In-Action Bible study, a member of GW's Academic Integrity Council, and Social Events Coordinator for the Conflict Resolution Forum. In all of the roles that I am engaged in on campus there is a deep need for community space that is conducive to growth and ambition. Student groups that do not have proper space in which to hold meetings are less likely to meet, which detracts from the diverse cultural and social networks that GW and Washington naturally develop. One of the most enjoyable aspects of GW for me is the sense of community that continually refreshes itself. But this refreshing of ties does not happen without the great efforts of those charged with developing space within which community can be built. Nowhere on GW's campus does this growth have greater potential than on Mount Vernon.

Due to Mount Vernon's unique attributes: open spaces; athletic facilities; green areas; the potential for the Pelham Replacement Project is tremendous and deserves greater attention to detail. I am excited about the planned Pelham Replacement Project. Not only will it increase the number of individuals who can contribute to a vibrant community, it will improve the dining and fitness possibilities while also creating additional opportunities in the arts and music. Perhaps most importantly though, is that the Pelham Replacement Project will create spaces in which student groups can meet in calm, comfortable environs that are conducive to the continued growth of themselves, their organizations and the broader community.

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As a student and student leader, I am very pleased to see how promising the Pelham Replacement Project appears. I am excited that myself and other students will be able to enjoy the Mount Vernon Campus even more, and that my own and others' students groups will be able to utilize appropriate facilities that are set in a beautiful environment. These types of space; meeting halls, seminar rooms, practice rooms, and quiet areas; will greatly contribute to the education and personal growth of GW's students. I look forward to their use and eagerly hope for your approval of the Pelham Replacement Project.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Renner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kyle Renner, B.A. '06

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