

Christin Aucunas

July 2, 2007

**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**

Dear Chairperson Mitten,

As a freshman I was accepted into the Elizabeth J. Sommer's Women's Leadership Program, an honor's program based on the Mount Vernon campus. Through the close-knit Mount Vernon community, I was able to find a home away from home. Whenever I was on the Vern express or at a social gathering or if I ran into a fellow Vern resident, we would all ways have something to talk about. As the year went on, I realized this sense of camaraderie was not brought on by the Vern's impressive programming or our shared love of the campus, but that we were all dealing with the same issues.

The Pelham Replacement project is a great step forward to make the Mount Vernon campus more of an integral part of the GW community. One of the issues I struggled with this year was that, as a Mount Vernon resident, I felt separate from the rest of school life at GW. And, from talking with some of my friends who lived on Foggy Bottom, I learned they felt they could not take advantage of the great opportunities on the Vern. The additional student beds in the new Pelham Hall will make the Vern a home and escape for more first year students. Additionally, the increased programming space for students will give student organizations more freedom and flexibility in planning events/meetings which will further integrate the two campuses and make a better overall community for every GW student.

**Christin Aucunas
Director of Mount Vernon Campus Affairs
Student Association
The George Washington University**

**ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia**

CASE NO. 07-12

EXHIBIT NO. 26
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