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July 2, 2007

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

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 07-12
EXHIBIT NO. 27

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

Dear Chairperson Mitten,

The replacement of the Pelham residence hall is exceptionally important for The George Washington University and the development of our Mount Vernon Campus.

The building will provide much-needed space and services as the university works to balance the number of academic and residential opportunities on the Mount Vernon Campus. This includes additional programming space for students, which is extremely important as interest in our dynamic student organizations continues to develop. One club that has grown from a group of three sophomores three years ago to over forty students of all levels today is Balance: The GW Ballet Group. A few months ago they booked the space for their annual spring show. They were given the go-ahead on the space only to find out a few weeks later that the stage had been double-booked for the same night by another student group. While this snafu was sorted out without much complication, it represents the problem all student organizations face at one time or another: there just is not enough space for all of the organizations who want to put on programming. Since its inception over three years ago, Balance has found the Mount Vernon Campus to be flexible and helpful, and the Pelham replacement project will allow the campus to continue to provide excellent care and attention to all of GW's student organizations.

The current Pelham residence hall provides 78 single-occupancy rooms. The proposed building greatly increases the efficiency of the site, with enough space for approximately 290—over 200 more than the current building. Additionally, the proposed building and increased gross floor area uses space the university already owns, so the construction and subsequent usage of the site will not intrude on the surrounding residential areas. Greater developed space also allows the many students who want to live on the Mount Vernon Campus the opportunity to do so.

The proposed building fits architecturally into the campus as well, providing a traditional university atmosphere in the middle of a bustling metropolitan area. Such

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architecture conforms well with the traditional design of the Foxhall neighborhood and continues to attract affluent residents who relish the opportunity to live in a first-rate area. The additional students will also provide economic stimulus for the area by dining at local restaurants and shopping at local businesses.

GW and its students no longer want to look at Mount Vernon as a satellite campus. It is our goal to see this former women's college offer first-class opportunities to students and serve as a complement to the Foxhall neighborhood. The Pelham replacement project is an integral part of achieving this goal.

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