

June 27, 2007

To: D.C. Zoning Commission
From: Nicole Capp, GWU Undergraduate, '09

Re: Pelham Replacement Project Approval

Good Evening. My name is Nicole Capp. I am a rising junior at GW, and a proud Economics major, minoring in organizational science. I am also currently serving in the position as Student Association President at GW, representing over 20,000 students attaining their education at The George Washington University.

First, let me say how greatly appreciative I am for the opportunity to speak with you all tonight; Mount Vernon has a very special place in so many students' hearts at GW, including my own. It is nothing short of the catalyst to having a well balanced College experience at The George Washington University. Although I love GW's location next to the White House, World Bank and State Department, I also appreciate the more traditional campus feel at the Vern. I call it my peaceful place for inspiration.

However, it's no secret that Mount Vernon has too little developed student space—the very component that provides for quality of life for students. The Pelham Replacement Plan truly creates an environment conducive toward community building and community sharing. I say community sharing, because it's a bit more difficult to build strong student communities in some of the facilities on the Foggy Campus. What is so perfect about the Pelham Projects, is all the neat niche-facilities that will be available to all GW students and community members.

As for having more students living on the Vern at Pelham: this has been a wish of not only administrators, but students as well. One major shortfall of the Vern right now, is a sense of being on the cusp—having the notion that there is potential to for the campus to be an even more intellectually stimulating and artistically driven community—but lacking the resources and redevelopment projects to catapult us forward. GW is ready to provide those resources to students, and we are finally ready with plans—I hope you embrace these plans with the same eagerness as me and my fellow students.

Since my freshman year, I have been following the University's Office of Real Estate and Development, alongside hundreds of student leaders who do PAY ATTENTION to GW's future development plans. We don't just listen and follow, though. In the recent years, thanks to Campaign GW, a group of students who have an on-going dialogue with administrators on development plans, we have a say in so much of GW's future. On behalf of hundreds involved in Campaign GW and the Student Association, with the thousands of student voices we represent, I urge you to support the Pelham Replacement Project plans.

Thank you again for all your work in D.C. government regulation, and I look forward to a decision not for a "Replacement Project" plan, but in favor of a community building and sharing plan for the students of The George Washington University.



Nicole Capp
Student Association President

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 07-12

EXHIBIT NO. 29
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