

Catherine Wrisley
New Hall 904
2350 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20052
June 28, 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

As a student at The George Washington University, I have lived on both the Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon campuses over the past two years. As a freshman student, I became involved in a wide array of campus activities while living on the Mount Vernon campus. I am majoring in both international affairs and history at GW, and my experience at Mount Vernon allowed me to further explore these academic areas. I participated in the United States and International Politics cohort of the Women's Leadership Program (WLP). This living-and-learning community provided me with challenging academic courses, small class sizes, and close friends.

The smaller size of Mount Vernon provides its students with a great opportunity to connect with both George Washington University and the city of Washington D.C. However, my fellow WLP members and I often tried to find extra space for our extracurricular events on the Mount Vernon campus. The Pelham redevelopment project will provide future residents of this smaller campus with the same resources as the Foggy Bottom campus, including much-needed space for student activity groups.

Mount Vernon provides academic and social opportunities for students. I was able to participate in an internship with the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project, a historical research project located in the basement of the biggest dorm on Mount Vernon. With the renovation and expansion of Pelham, similar opportunities will surely arise. My internship provided me with a valuable introduction to the world of historical research in practice. Its location allowed me to pursue this internship as a first-year student, which has definitely been advantageous to my further internship and career plans. The student support spaces will provide new social venues for the students at Mount Vernon.

Our university has a huge number of student organizations, all struggling to gain the same spaces available on Foggy Bottom. With a new, advanced dorm on Mount Vernon, there will be more opportunities for student groups to meet and hold events. As the Chief of Staff of the Washington Area Model United Nations Conference, I will be thrilled to have more event facilities for my organization's use. The unique aspects of the renovation project, especially the student support spaces, definitely fit the needs of GW students.

As a first-semester freshman, I began working in the Mount Vernon Residential Property Management Key Depot. After two years in the Mount Vernon Key Depot, I am now supervising the Foggy Bottom Key Depot this summer. The small, friendly work environment at Mount Vernon has definitely prepared me for the challenges of the Key Depot. Even though I have never lived in Pelham Hall, I understand the need for its

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renovation. Pelham is not typically utilized by its residents to the same extent as other dorms on the campus. The residence hall, as it currently stands, is not greatly integrated to the further Mount Vernon campus. With the completion of the renovation, the hall will become integral to both campus residents and neighbors alike. At the same time, the planned renovation will still represent the beauty of the tree-lined, red brick campus. Mount Vernon has a wonderful, campus-like feel that it will retain even with the addition of these needed amenities. The Mount Vernon Campus is a wonderful aspect of The George Washington University, and the Pelham Replacement Project will help to serve the needs of all students.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Wrisley". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Catherine Wrisley,
Class of 2009