

Eric Langenbacher
3515 T Street, NW

March 29, 2011

Mr. Anthony Hood, Chairman
DC Zoning Commission
441 – 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Georgetown University's Campus Plan

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission:

My name is Eric Langenbacher and I am a 14-year resident of Burleith and father of 2—I am also a current faculty member of Georgetown University. I write in all capacities in support of the Georgetown University campus plan and to disagree with the position of the Burleith Citizen's Association.

In my years living in the community, only rarely have I been disturbed by noisy neighbors. In fact, on the rare occasions where noise has been an issue, sometimes it is young professionals (usually renters) and sometimes long-term, home-owning residents. Much worse has been the noise coming from the new air conditioning system installed at Hardy Middle School—but that is another issue.

I also feel that the stance of the BCA and CAG have been one-sided and extreme. Moreover, various accusations have been made without substantiation, leading to many questions:

- 1) Have property values gone down?
- 2) Are the increased number of rentals due to students?
- 3) Are the number of disorderly conduct calls related solely to students? Has the number increased because of worse behavior or because people are simply calling more?
- 4) Is there no difference between undergraduate students and graduate students (the only category that the university wishes to increase)?
- 5) Has crime really increased due to students' late night activity, creating "targets of opportunity" as a recent CAG newsletter asserts?

Of course, I (and many other residents) live in Burleith because of the proximity to the university. Many more use university facilities such as the hospital and Yates Field House. Various common sense proposals by the university have been shot down. I cannot believe that the BCA and CAG would oppose the re-alignment of 38th and Reservoir Road intersection, which is one of the most dangerous in the area.

I have always felt that one of the benefits of living in this community was having young people around and appreciate the energy they bring to the neighborhood. In fact, I was a graduate student.

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when I moved into the neighborhood. I also do not support the rhetoric that has surrounded part of community's opposition to Georgetown University's plan. The demonization of "students" has often been deeply inappropriate and at times offensive. In addition, the university has negotiated in good faith and has dropped many of the more controversial proposals (such as the new smokestack). And how did the community associations respond? By moving the goalposts and demanding things that were never mentioned previously and are extreme—such as housing 100% of students on campus.

Georgetown University has been a good neighbor—and I might add—a great employer for me and many others in Burleith and other surrounding neighborhoods. I and my family are dependent on the continued well-being of the university, which has every right, in my opinion, to pursue its own development plans without being micromanaged by community associations that fail to realize that the university provides many benefits (besides employment) to many of the residents that they supposedly represent.

As a resident of Burleith, I would appreciate your giving my views the same consideration to those being expressed by people who are opposed to the plan, even if those people have controlled the position of the BCA and CAG. There are quite a few others who agree with my position, even if they have not felt comfortable voicing their opinion in the face of intransigent community leaders.

Best regards,

Eric Langenbacher