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U.S. OFFICE OF ZONING
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April 27., 2011

Mr. Anthony Hood
D.C. Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW.
Washington, DC. 20001

Re: Georgetown University's Campus Plan

Dear Mr. Chairman & Members of the Zoning Commission:

I am writing to you as a life-long resident of Georgetown. I was born in 1956 in Washington, D.C. and lived on 34th Street just up from the Volta Park Recreation Center. I have lived in Spring Valley and Potomac Falls Maryland before finally moving back to Georgetown. I love the cozy town, the 12 churches, and the architecture best of all. It reminds me of London, my favorite city.

I think the best thing that has happened is the *Georgetown Waterfront Park* being built in the last 50 years! It's a real winner for homeowners as well as all Washingtonians. I am what you would call a real "cave dweller". I went to Horace Mann Public Elementary school and then St Albans Boys School.

I moved back to 34th Street in 2007 paying \$1,475,000 million dollars for a nice 3 bedroom house next door to Secretary of State, Madeline Albright. During the first year, Georgetown students moved a very heavy dog statue of my wife's in front of the Secretary of State's front door and rang the doorbell at midnight. Ms. Albright came to see me the next day and I lifted the 100 pound statute back. She and I agreed that it had to be students - and she is a professor there of all things. Just last week students tried the same stunt but must have scurried off because they only moved it slightly. If I had found them doing it I would have called 911! I did not complain, nor have I ever until now.

I have no clue why the University does not seem to discipline these rich, spoiled students who have the highest academic grades and standards, but just act like drunken fools when it comes to Friday and Saturday nights. I feel sorry for homeowners who actually were fooled into buying property West of 34th Street. I would never buy a house anywhere near the University. My wife has complained too many times to count about the loud, drunken behavior of students screaming and cursing as they stagger back from the bars on M Street. I am sure Professor Albright hears them too. I know everyone I talk to feels the same way! But since we live in our million dollar plus homes, rental students are not near us.

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I love having such a fine University in Georgetown and admit that the University was here first. In fact my house was built in 1900.

I will say that Raymond Banieli, the Assistant Director of Off campus Student Life is doing a great job trying to fix the problem. He has done a great job cleaning up part of Prospect Street, where \$2 million plus houses used to look like dumps with overflowing trash cans by the dozens and in desperate need of paint. Of course, across the street are recently built townhouses for sale at \$3.9 and \$4.9 million dollars. The real estate agents pretend the absentee homeowners are planning to sell their properties and remove the student blight, but that's just a sales pitch to the ignorant, but it caught my attention if even they hide the issue to unsuspecting homeowners. If the students were not a problem why would these agents make up this promising story?

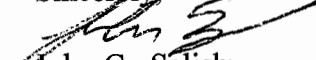
Mr. Banieli does his best and should be complemented for his work, but he cannot do it alone. He needs the City Zoning Board to figure out a way to file *in rem* lawsuits against these absentee landlord's properties and place liens on them every time a complaint arises from their respective properties. For example, there's another house on 35th Street that is the "iconic" is a keg party house and nothing has been done by the University for the five years I've lived here.

I am surprised it hasn't been condemned by the city yet! Start *in rem* legal actions against the properties, not the students and you would see such a change! The property owners would either sell immediately rather than risk liens or they would start renting to only what the houses were originally built for - single families with mortgages and pride of homeownership! Not hoards of academic brats!

I pay \$12,000 per year in property taxes, am a retired lawyer and my wife still works as a lawyer. I at first supported the University's plans for expansion until I realized that the city offers everything I need if the University did not exist at all. We have the greatest collection of libraries and public assets in the World unlike New Haven, Connecticut where my brother went to Yale.

Let Georgetown University build student housing. They have a huge amount of land next to them at that Women's Prep School which owns more land than any institution in Georgetown that I know of, other than the University. The Prep school surely don't need all that land for the few day students they have.

Sincerely,


John G. Salisbury