

**Testimony of Dr. Walter Hillabrant in opposition to the Georgetown University 2011-2020
Campus Plan**

Z.C. Case No. 10-32

My name is Dr. Walter Hillabrant, I reside at 1927 38th St., NW, Washington DC 20007. While this is my individual testimony, I am the vice president of the Burleith citizens Association, and former president of the District of Columbia Psychological Association. I have dual citizenship as I am an enrolled member of the citizen Potawatomi Nation. I have lived in Burleith for 39 years, since 1972.

1. **Solidarity with neighborhood associations in opposition to the plan.** First let me say that like so many, I fully endorse the positions taken by the Burleith citizens Association, Citizens Association of Georgetown, and my local ANC-- all in opposition to the campus plan
2. **GU's adverse impact on Burleith and other neighborhoods is not new.** This adverse impact is long-standing, getting worse, has reached a critical stage. This is not news-- it was documented at the similar hearing 10 years ago.
3. **GU has the wherewithal to mitigate its adverse impact on neighboring communities.** The University has known for more than 10 years about its adverse impacts; it has the expertise and resources necessary to mitigate these adverse impacts. Thus, the issue is not a matter of capabilities but of will.
 - a. GU's adverse impact on neighboring communities is not unique; rather, it is relatively common among urban universities. Many of these universities have worked collaboratively and have developed successful solutions (e.g., housing all undergraduates on campus; developing significant sanctions for student misdemeanors off-campus). It is unlikely that GU's failure to seek similar solutions is born out of ignorance; again, is likely to be a matter of will.
4. **No man or institution is above the law.** GU is a great university with schools foreign service, medicine, law, and liberal arts. It makes manifold contributions to the city, the region, and the world. Nevertheless, it is required to comply with the laws and regulations of the District of Columbia. The communities adversely impacted by the University's refusal to provide safe, affordable, and adequate housing for its students lack the power to enforce these laws and regulations-- we appeal to the Zoning Commission to require that the University come into compliance.
5. **GU's adverse impact on neighboring community includes threats to public health, safety, and welfare.** These threats primarily stem from substance abuse, especially binge drinking by GU students residing in and/or visiting students residing the neighboring communities. These threats include alcohol poisoning, sex abuse, and drunk driving. Associated with binge drinking (almost exclusively manifested by GU students) is

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unnecessary utilization of valuable healthcare resources (e.g., utilization of ambulances, emergency room visits). The University is aware of the binge drinking problem. It has put into effect a number of programs designed to mitigate this problem. It appears that these solutions have worked much better on-campus than in the neighboring communities. The University is aware that its programs and policies are ineffective in the neighboring communities. Nevertheless, it is made virtually no effort to collaborate with the neighboring communities, and it refuses to seriously discipline student off-campus misconduct.

The following is a summary of a study showing that colleges can influence binge drinking. This is just one of many studies. Certainly, GU is aware of this and similar studies. Yet, it is chosen not to implement this approach with respect to off-campus drinking

Strict Enforcement of College Alcohol Policies Reduces Binge and Underage Drinking on Campus

August 17, 2010

Research Summary

Tough college alcohol policies reduce underage and binge drinking on campus without causing a compensatory rise in marijuana use, according to investigators at the Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research (CeASAR) at Children's Hospital Boston.

The CeASAR study team surveyed students and administrators at 11 Massachusetts colleges and universities to assess the results of a more restrictive alcohol use enforcement policy put forth by the Mass. Board of Higher Education. The researchers found declines in past 30-day rates of any drinking, binge drinking, and regular heavy drinking. Declines in binge drinking were greatest among schools that adhered to the new enforcement policies from the outset. "Policies can only work if they are sufficiently enforced," says Sion Kim Harris, PhD, CPH, lead author of the study. "Our study adds to a growing body of evidence that alcohol control policies and strong policy enforcement can, over time, reduce underage high-risk drinking behaviors. We found that an aggressive enforcement stance by college leaders is particularly important to the success of these efforts."

THE STUDY WAS PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT, PREVENTION, AND POLICY.

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Re: ZC Case 10-32

Attached is the Testimony of Dr. Walter Hillabrant

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