

May 10, 2011

DC Zoning Commission
441 4th Street NW
Suite #210
Washington, DC 20001

2011 MAY 11 PM 2:35

RE: Opposition to Georgetown University Campus Plan 2010-2020, Case No. 10-32

Dear Commissioners:

The high density of student houses in Burleith has had a strongly adverse impact on the neighborhood. I very much oppose an expansion of the Georgetown University student population.

I moved out of the house I owned at 3623 S Street because of the noise from students next door and across the rear alley. My bedroom was in the back, and I spent many nights sleepless or being awakened time and again by students talking and laughing loudly in their back yards. Even after I would call the police who would quiet down a loud party, students would wander around the alleys and sidewalks and their drunken outbursts would keep me awake. At times during weekend afternoons I could not talk on the phone on my back deck because of the noise from music or groups socializing. In Burleith, sounds carry and even conversations or music at a normal level that are within three houses either direction can be heard clearly. It sounds as if the people are right in your room.

Since I moved down the street to 3602 S and have permanent residents living on either side of me and across the alley, my quality of life has much improved. There is a student house two doors down and they do have gatherings that I can hear, but since this is only one source of noise and the occupants tend not to have large parties, this situation is not as intrusive.

Although my personal situation has improved, the neighborhood would further suffer from any increase in students and traffic. I am happy to have some mix of students in the neighborhood, but the proportion of student houses is already far too high. Most of these houses and their yards are in shoddy condition. Furthermore, it is detrimental to DC as a whole when there are large populations of students, since they do not pay income taxes and the rest of us see our tax bills soar to cover city expenses for them.

I have attended community meetings and have listened to the Georgetown University presentations. I do believe that planners have tried to mitigate some of the adverse effects of expansion. However, the issue comes down to this: The main reason for increasing the student population is more money – for Georgetown University. The stated rationale of improving departments or programs implies that a larger school is a better school, *and this is simply not true.*

Although I would not like to see the university increase its population *at all*, if the university is intent on doing so, it should fully accommodate all additional students, faculty, and their cars. Why should the neighborhood bear *any* additional burdens so that the university can bring in more money?

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 10-32
EXHIBIT NO. 98

Thank you for your serious consideration of the concerns of DC residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carol Baume".

Carol Baume, Ph.D.
3602 S Street NW
Washington, DC 20007