

Board of Zoning

My name is Jean Smith and I live at 3538 Whitehaven Pkwy NW in Burleith.

In my 30 plus years as a real estate broker almost exclusively in the Georgetown/Burleith areas, as well as a 30 year resident, I have worked with many clients looking at properties in these communities.

While group houses have not really been a major issue with high end detached properties, it certainly has been of concern to potential purchasers in the lower price ranges or those looking at row houses ...particularly housing relatively close to GU....i.e. West Georgetown and Burleith.

When taking clients on tours to show properties on a beautiful spring day, an unkempt lawn often with trashy furniture strewn about and the occasional beer keg in the back yard does not provide the ambiance most purchasers are looking to call home!

The usual response is

"let's look somewhere else...less congested, easier parking and not so close to the University "or,

"we have been there, and do not want to relive our college years." unless, of course, that client is an investor looking to pack a house full of students for maximum rental income, and no concern for the neighbors or the community.

Clients will not choose to buy the house with students living next door or on a street with many student houses.

I support all that the Burleith Citizens Association is doing in this regard and add my voice to those hoping the BZ will reduce the number of undergraduate students at Georgetown U. and require them to house them all on campus. The graduate student population is unreasonable. Enough of that group will live in the area to overwhelm the neighborhood. The numbers need to be decreased substantially.

Thank you for opportunity to express my concerns and opinions.

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