

Hello,

My name is Habib Zalzal, and I am currently a senior at Georgetown University. I will be graduating from the College on May 21st with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, and will be attending Georgetown Medical School in the Fall.

I have been around Georgetown all my life, with my mother having attending the university in the 1970's along with my uncle. My younger brother also attends the university, as have 6 of my first cousins. My hometown is in Bethesda, MD, where I attended the Landon School. But ever since being accepted into Georgetown, it has been a dream come true.

I currently live off-campus on the corner of 38th and R St in Burleith, and I have never had any issues with SNAP, MPD, or neighbors at my house. This past year, I have been a part of the Off-Campus Student Life Advisory Board, working closely with Anne Koester in helping to address concerns of off campus students.

As a member of the OSCL advisory board, I have also helped organize many campaigns throughout the year that helps students feel welcomed into the neighborhood. In the fall, many Georgetown students, including myself, spent a day helping to clean up trash in the surrounding neighborhoods of the university. In addition, Off Campus Student Life ran a campaign called "Rake & Roll," which would advertise the cleaning up of leaves from city streets by raffling off rakes and shovels for the upcoming winter months.

In December, several volunteers and I helped go door-to-door to hand out bags containing important move-out details for students in all off-campus houses in both West Georgetown and Burleith. The bags contained smoke detectors and important phone numbers to call prior to leaving for the winter break. In the winter, my house was deemed a "snow house" for helping students clean up snow throughout the several snowfalls we had. There were several other off-campus "snow houses," and the OCSL provided each home with shovels and ice melt to hand out to off-campus students who did not have the means to shovel snow from their sidewalks.

Unfortunately, the response from our neighbors has not always been friendly or helpful. Over the Christmas holidays, I was staying with my parents in Bethesda and came by to check on the house. As I was leaving, I saw one of my neighbors and motioned her to cross the street in front of me. I was taken aback when her response to me was to "flipped me the bird" for no reason at all. It's something that's hard to get used to.

OCSL has been extremely helpful for me and my friends living in Burleith in terms of home issues. Whenever there was an issue with our house that we couldn't get a hold of the landlord for, Prof. Koester and the OCSL organization have been extremely helpful in guiding us to fixing the problems associated with living off-campus. Living off campus has been quite the experience for me, and while I plan on returning back home to Bethesda next year for medical school, the knowledge I have gained from the help of the OCSL will be essential for whenever I decide to move permanently into a new home.

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District of Columbia

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EXHIBIT NO.

111