

May 13, 2011

D.C. Zoning Commission,
Suite 210, 441 4th Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20001

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

Dear Zoning Commissioners:

My name is Eve Ball and I live in the Foxhall Community at 4470 Reservoir Rd NW Washington, DC 20007. I have lived and gone to school and paid taxes in the district for 20 years but in my current location and further into Georgetown on 35th Street. I have watched its transformation into the much better city it has become in services and the like, but I ask for your vote for our citizens not the out of towners and against the University Expansion Plan.

We are the ones who pay lots of taxes to live here with imperfect representation for it. We put up with a LOT of inconveniences to live in this city and the last thing we need is you – our representatives – acting to make our lives more difficult. Please vote to oppose a lot of aspects of the Georgetown University Campus Expansion Plan and specifically the proposed loop road right next to my home.

I have owned this property for a decade and although I of course knew when I bought the property that Georgetown University and its hospital were down the street, I did not know the insane amount of expansion that would be occurring of the student basis on and off the campus and the correlating vehicles in those years. We have enough problems in our neighbor currently with our street parking being taken up by people who are students at or work at the university every day not wanting to pay the on-site parking fees, but the GUTS bus system is unbelievable. The volume of people that I understand they are currently taking back and forth is insane to me because they are everywhere, and the fact that those numbers could increase much less the new loop road on the edge of Glover Archibold Park which is right next to my home.

I am unsure if you have ever physically attempted to walk all around Georgetown University or ever been at the intersection of Foxhall and Reservoir Roads in a morning or evening commute, but if you had you would learn some things which are irrefutable. Please come to Jetties and get a coffee in the morning and sit down and watch. The answer is obvious and I don't need a study to prove it. What's the quote "you don't need a weatherman to tell you where the wind is going to blow". We don't need any more evidence that just one day watching the morning and evening commutes for you to understand what is happening now and why you should vote against the expansion and against the loop road.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO.

10-32

EXHIBIT NO.

12C

Within a few mile basis from my house we have commuters not only from Georgetown University & George Washington University with their buses and cars, but we have them dropping their kids off from a large amount of private schools such as The Field School, St Patrick's, The River School, The Lab Schools (2 campuses), The Georgetown Day School, Georgetown Visitation, Trinity, and I'm sure I am forgetting some. Then add the commuters for downtown from Maryland and Virginia who all come in through Canal Road, MacArthur Blvd, Foxhall and Reservoir Roads. Seriously, sit at the intersections and look at the license plates and count how many are not from here.

Then ask yourself....what does the local in DC do? How do they even get in their cars in the morning without being hit because the volume coming down the road is so heavy? (Literally I have almost been hit several times just getting into my car) How do they cross the street without practically getting hit? (I have literally had my dog hit in the road) How do they get around to what is their daily life in the city? (Tolerable, but increasingly challenging)

You as our representatives actually should really be lessening the significant burden on us because it is significantly disproportionate to almost any other area of the city, and helping free up some of those avenues with other options for commuters to get around so that the locals can have yes a volume, but a tolerable one to their commutes in their own city.

But instead, you are allowing Georgetown University to ask the opposite. They cannot be happy with what they have which is a lot – but ask for more of the community. I personally have never been sure exactly what we get back in the equation i.e. where is the balance? I have lived next to them for 20 years and never used their hospital or any other services, as I as a citizen have NEVER benefited from their existence at all. I am excited when the students leave in the summer and traffic and noise all go down and life is better, literally the birds sing more and I want to go to a restaurant and walk around: Why do we as a community give them so much and when is it time for you to address what we want in return?

They intentionally plan on bringing in more out of towners and ask for more buses on more routes and bring them more into the community on our roads next to all of our parks which is some of the small salvation we have in the urban jungle be ruined with the smell of gas fumes and noise of push up the hill? Seriously – just sit behind one GUTS bus – you will see, smell and hear what I am talking about.

And why would they ask for that? Is there some critical need? No - none, other than their personal desire to route things through differently for their own conveniences and their own desire to make more money by bringing more folks in. Last time I checked they are not even a public university with a goal of educating the betterment of the local citizenry – they are a private corporate university who benefits no one but themselves. I have seen 100 times where something was approved for X on their campus and then they afterwards applied X, Y, & Z through Student Housing, Multiples in a House, Fires, Garage in the streets, Zoning codes broken all over, drunken disorderly conduct.... So do not think their approaches reasonable because even if it is they will not abide by them, so know if you give them an inch they will move it back a mile so know that whatever you do approve it will be exceeded and keep

that in mind in your debate as well. What is the line "it is always easier to apologize later than to ask permission first"? That unfortunately seems to be their attitude much of the time because no one has held them accountable. But when people are spending millions of dollars and putting up with a lot of insane inconveniences to live here – they have a right to say what they want and hold their government accountable for it.

I have never see them attempting to care about the significant concerns of the citizens who LIVE here year round year after year and pay property and personal taxes and vote here – not for a semester, not for a year or two, but for a lifetime. They are not conscious of the other side of the fence – and what it means to live here with them - how it feels to feel like you the expansive land owning tax payer is a second class citizen to the needs of the great and powerful university.

Between the Boat House, to the side road, the GUTS buses, to the last Campus Plan to now....all I have seen in the past 20 years is Georgetown Expand and Expand and Expand with almost no push back. I go on their campus and see the development they have done on their land now making it into its own small city within our community. Hotels, Food, Hospitals, Housing...without any regard to what that possibly does to the property values, the police issues, the social services of firemen and garbage disposal and yes – traffic – that affects the community just around that university . Like a parasite insect larvae that feeds and feeds on its host until it kills it. I know that may seem extreme, but it is how we the citizens feel. This argument is not just about the road – it is that the road is after a lifetime of accommodation i.e. this is the straw that broke the camel's back and somewhere someone has to draw the line for the citizens and we can take back our city and have it work for us..

I am here to express my strong opposition to Georgetown University's Proposed Campus Plan and ask that you our representatives who are supposed to look out for my needs come on by for a coffee and I will take you around and show you what I have lived through for 20 years.

It is obvious that all attempts to find a solution should be made, but the proposed solution given is just intolerable to the people who will be MOST impacted. OPPOSE THE GU LOOP ROAD – OPPOSE THE GUY STUDENT # EXPANSION.

We will not forget your actions because all politics is local. Do not drive us the people who actually live here and care about this city and its future away. Do not make us more discontented with our daily lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Eve Ball', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Eve Ball