

1547 44th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007

2011 MAY 15 PM 2:12

12 May, 2011

The Honorable Anthony J. Hood, Chairman

D.C. Zoning Commission

441 4th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Hood:

In 1966, my then-husband and I moved from Boston to a house in Foxhall Village on the east side of 44th Street and thus overlooking Glover-Archbold Park. Coming from a Harvard community that we had enjoyed, it seemed appealing to live near a university. Within just a few years, there was a battle between Georgetown University and its neighbours concerning the first power plant proposal. We saw surveyors in the street. They told us that they were measuring sound levels of airplanes, so that the university could combat objections to the anticipated noise of the proposed power plant. The surveyors (or whatever types of experts they were) said that there would be a constant, steady sound, 24 hours per day, "only" as loud as the flights over the area. There were, of course, no whisper jets then, so that their information was frightening. Many neighbourhood residents took off from work to attend a zoning hearing. Testifying were one or two men, purportedly from an engineering firm hired by Georgetown. On what I recall as flip charts, one of them drew various lines and discussed what many of us assumed to be specialized sound information; however, the audience included quite a few physicians and scientists, among them my husband. Our neighbourhood professionals told us that the "experts" were using terminology that did not exist and drawing charts that were altogether fabricated. There were many other criticisms of that power plant proposal. It was ultimately not built.

Since that time long ago, there have been other astonishingly offensive proposals, blatantly disrespectful of any concerns that neighbourhoods might have. These include the second power plant, also not built as proposed, and the boathouse whose plan I understand still exists. Many people who did not live here in 1966 are certainly aware of the more recent proposals and their unacceptability.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO.

10-32

EXHIBIT NO.

124

Although I have lived outside this country for a number of years in the past, I have kept the Foxhall Village house and have occupied it myself for a total of almost 40 years. I have walked literally hundreds of times on the path that travels the length of the section of the park south of Reservoir Road. A few years ago, the damage to the steep slope from the university down into the park was very visible. Eventually, repairs and re-planting were completed, very slowly. I understand that the university was fined for damaging a federal park. I find it hard to believe that the loop road proposal exists at all and that, once again, residents must attend meetings, hire attorneys, write e-mails and letters, offer to testify, etc. This is a massive plan which will surely cause more damage than that which occurred just a few years ago. Some university staff have told residents here that the road will be used far more often than the university has revealed. There is always endless construction on the campus. Surely huge trucks, bulldozers, etc. will use the road from early morning on. We already hear the noise.

How can such a road be proposed at all? How is it possible that it has not already been blocked by laws, statutes, ordinances, regulations, etc. that prohibit damage to federal park land by anyone? Surely if I built even something small on the edge of the park behind my house, across from the university, I would be stopped immediately and would suffer consequences of any damage and illegal actions. Surely residents of Washington are somewhat more important than universities.

I believe that many residents of these neighbourhoods do not trust Georgetown University, which has not always been honest and often seems to assume that we are ignorant or will not notice what is going on. Recent mailings still show the same attitude to people who live in this city. The university appears to display only the most superficial veneer of interest in residents' well-being. In my view, the road should not be allowed, and the proposal should not take more of anyone's time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Anne H. Reese". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Anne H. Reese

Tel. 202-333-7237

E-mail: annehollisreese@yahoo.com