

May 5, 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 Kathleen Long and my family and I live on the east side of Georgetown. We originally moved to 3344 Prospect Street, NW in May 2005, but moved just two years later for the very same reasons so many families in Georgetown have expressed their own opposition to Georgetown University's Proposed Campus Plan.

Shortly after moving to Prospect Street in 2005, we learned that nearly all of the houses on the block were occupied by students. As young adults, we were fine with this and actually enjoyed the activity and energy they brought to the area during the day. It was not long before we learned that the evening activity was very different from the daytime activity. Living in a row house, we had neighbors on either side as well as directly behind us. Between the houses around us and behind us, at least one would host a party in their yard and/or rooftop late into the night with loud music, loud voices just about every night of the week. In the morning, we would walk outside to find dozens of broken beer bottles, cigarette butts, paper plates and other garbage strewn in front of the houses as well as our own, and spent nearly every weekend cleaning up the yards on our street. Also, we were also faced with students walking in droves, primarily Thursdays through Sundays between the hours of 1am and 4am, from the bars in Georgetown back to their homes and campus. Screaming, fighting, vomiting, congregating outside our home - all of this kept us awake night after night. There was literally not a room in our house where my husband, our children, or I could sleep uninterrupted for the night. Needless to say, it was not long before we were miserable and felt like prisoners in our own home.

Efforts to speak directly with the neighboring student residents helped, but did not solve the problem, and in a few isolated instances, made matters worse. We called the University's SNAP line as well as the DC police hundreds of times in the two years we lived on Prospect St. We also communicated by telephone, email and had two in-person meetings with University representatives (specifically, Judy Johnson, Director of Student Conduct, and Raymond Danieli) to discuss the issues we were dealing with on a daily basis. While each time we were assured our concerns would be addressed, we saw no tangible action on the part of the University and there was no improvement in the living conditions on our street or in the neighborhood. We eventually faced the sad reality that we had no choice but to move and in December 2007, at the height of the economic collapse no less, we were forced to put our house on the market. We simply could not

live under those conditions any longer. Attempts to sell our house were frustrated by house parties sometimes starting as early as 10am (the day of our first open house) and the For Sale Signs being stolen from in front of our house night after night (eight signs were stolen in all).

Solely due to the noise, trash, vandalism and open hostility we experienced from the students living on our street, and at significant emotional and financial expense, we moved from our home on Prospect Street in December 2007 to the other side of Georgetown out of concern for our wellbeing and that of our two young daughters. In one week the improvement in our quality of life was astounding. We felt like we were 100 miles away from the ordeal we had just been through, when we were only four blocks away. We now enjoy the community and beauty that Georgetown has to offer, surrounded by family and friends that respect and care about their neighbors - and their right to live peaceably in their own home.

The University has promised us for years that its off-campus student program would improve the situation. At the end of the day, the University's solution places the burden on the residents of every block to report loud late night student parties to GU or the police, and to report trash and other problems to other DC agencies. The University did nothing to monitor or discipline the students and homes we reported night after night for months on end. They have given me no reason to believe this will change - and no reason to feel assured that any concern that might arise in the future as a result of any expansion will be adequately addressed, particularly given that so many current concerns remain unaddressed.

The Zoning Commission needs to ensure the University grows responsibly while ensuring the adjoining community is not displaced or otherwise adversely impacted. To that end, it is imperative the University assume responsibility for monitoring its students residing off campus in the adjoining community. If they fail to do so, I have no doubt there will be few, if any, families left living on the west side of Georgetown in the not so distant future.

I urge you to require the University to modify its Campus Plan to minimize the University's objectionable impacts on the community. In particular I urge the Commission to require the University:

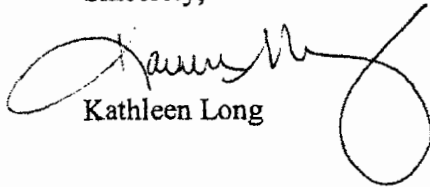
- To provide more student housing on the traditional campus,
- To readopt its former goal of housing 100% of its undergraduates on campus,
- To link undergraduate and graduate enrollment levels to University housing availability,
- To strengthen sanctions to reduce disorderly student behavior off campus and demonstrate that sanctions get applied,
- To post permanent patrols and outposts on high density streets, such as Prospect St, to enforce compliance with applicable community and city rules and

regulations and to relieve the burden of residents to address violations on their own;

- To reduce student traffic and parking demand on our neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Long', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Kathleen Long

April 7, 2010

Ms. Betsy Cooley, Executive Director &
The Board of Directors
Citizens Association of Georgetown
1365 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

by hand

Dear Ms. Cooley and Members of the Board,

I understand CAG is currently reviewing Georgetown University's master plan and thought it would be helpful to write about my experience living on the West side of Georgetown.

I moved from the suburbs to the West side over a decade ago. As a graduate of Georgetown University I welcomed a chance to experience again the vibrancy of the community.

To my complete shock and disappointment, these students were and are out of control. Sadly, the University seems at a loss about how to deal with kids that show up as freshmen with a huge sense of entitlement, many with binge drinking problems and rich, difficult parents. Certainly, a new attempt at improving community relations is not the answer. Though I participated in these encounter sessions, basically, it should not be the onus of non-student neighbors who work hard for a living to give up their free time to interact with students who feel they have the right to disturb others at will. It was completely maddening.

I do think it would be helpful for the University to investigate the best practices of other urban universities that are near historic and wealthy neighborhoods – I do not believe they have done so in earnest.

I moved from West Georgetown for one reason only – unruly and rude student behaviour. Many of my neighbors in West Georgetown have since moved as well (6 families that I know of within a 2 block radius): either to the East Village, a downtown condo, or the suburbs. And now, East Georgetown is not immune from the bad effects of student residents.

My complaints during the time I lived in the West Village, and what prompted my move include:

1. The total inability to sleep undisturbed. From a drinking party of "Thumper" next door that erupted around 2am on a Tuesday "morning", to throngs of kids walking up the street making all kinds of noise, to thirty kids standing outside my house smoking and yelling, the number and type of incidents I could relate would take up more pages here than I care to write-literally hundreds of such incidents. Basically, if I slept a full night undisturbed one night out of a week I was lucky. Sunday was the best chance, or over Spring Break.
2. The trash everywhere. From beer kegs left in the neighbors' yards for weeks at a time, to the insidious red plastic cups and Busch Lite beer cans that were found on the streets, in my garden, in my bushes, in all the neighbors bushes and more. And cigarette butts are everywhere. I picked up trash, but at some point I realized I had no desire to play maid to a bunch of ungrateful kids. This is the University's idea of creating community - to have non-students pick up the trash that students generate. The vast majority of kids who participate are those on "punishment duty" for previous infractions.
3. The vandalism and lack of respect for me or my property. From chaining bicycles to my antique fence to actually knocking it down, from parking on my property and blocking my car in to the response I received after I spent twenty minutes tracking down the offender "Oh, I'll be leaving soon," these incidents are too numerous to list here. The funniest one was when I had a leak in the roof and my roofer reported that someone had placed a lounge chair on my roof and there were tons of red plastic cups up there. Well, as they say, it's only money.

I hope your organization will have some luck getting student housing and a vibrant student center on campus. It is such a shame that the University passed on the opportunity to purchase the Mount Vernon campus - a chance George Washington University smartly seized. What a great place to house undergraduates and expand the University. Georgetown University could also have built the new business school remotely, like the law school. So it is not as if they have not had recent and good opportunities to expand, other than ruining West Georgetown.

Sincerely yours,

An Anonymous Ex-West Georgetowner

(Ms. Cooley knows my identity, but has agreed to keep it confidential)