

Zoning Commission Testimony- Taylor Price (B'10)-
5/16/11

Good evening members of the Zoning Commission and thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak tonight. I know my time is short so I will get right to the point. Georgetown University is a great school and it is a community that I am proud to have been officially affiliated with since December 2003, when I was accepted for early admission. My journey to graduation from the McDonough School of Business in May 2010 was longer than originally anticipated after I was involved in a catastrophic diving accident July 8, 2004. Immediately after my accident, I made a decision that Georgetown University was too good of a place to not do everything in my power to one day arrive on campus. I have continued my education by enrolling in a Master's program in Georgetown's School of Continuing Studies with an expected graduation date of May 2012. Due to my enrollment, I have been provided a special exemption to maintain my on-campus living eligibility.

As an undergraduate, I served a two-year term as the student representative to Georgetown's Board of Directors, I started one of the largest privately funded scholarship funds at Georgetown in honor of a friend's father who passed away, and am a leader of a student-run nonprofit party planning group called Party For A Cause, which I believe has been mentioned in previous testimony. Last spring, I got an opportunity to be one of 100 full-time interns at the White House. I mention these activities, not "beat my own chest", but rather show that I have been privileged to be a part of high level conversations at this University and have a deep understanding of campus student issues.

Overall, I want to fully endorsed Georgetown's 10-year campus plan. This plan encompasses a number of projects that will change Georgetown forever and continue to help develop our student body into the leaders of tomorrow.

One component of the plan that I have been heavily involved in is the New South Student Center (NSSC). Most recently, I have spent almost 100 hours advocating to the Student Activities Fee Endowment Commission on behalf of the NSSC for a multi-million dollar allocation. This building will become the central union for all of our student groups and an asset that all students

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 10-32
EXHIBIT NO. 136

can utilize. In my opinion, Georgetown is in the minority of premier universities that does not have a central student activities space and this needs to change. It will not just be a meeting space, but it will also provide a large event space with a 400 person ballroom, dance studios, space for The Corp, Georgetown's student run business and the largest student run business in the country, to expand and further food and beverage points of sale. Without a doubt this space will revolutionize campus and be a vehicle for which students can build an affinity to after they graduate. I would be remiss if I did not point out that this building will create more on-campus activities for students and that is something the neighborhood surely approves of.

I would like to conclude by discussing a component of the campus plan that is personally important and relevant to me. Georgetown remains committed to admitting the most diverse students to its community and with this in mind, it has stressed the importance of making it's campus more handicap accessible and pedestrian friendly. I like to joke that while I have managed to maneuver campus quite well, I rarely use the front doors to buildings and I have seen a number of boiler rooms and hidden access ways. Here, in the 21st century, there are so many individuals that face various challenges and Georgetown must be able to adequately accommodate them so they feel comfortable attending this University. The diversity of the student body is what contributes to Georgetown's uniqueness and greatness.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight and I hope that this process can progress and we can all recognize the importance of this plan for Georgetown and the larger neighborhood.

Hoya Saxa!