

Good evening Chairman Hood and members of the commission. My name is Edward Machir. I live at 3400 P Street, NW and I'm here tonight in full support of Georgetown University's campus plan.

For purposes of full disclosure, I am a Georgetown University alumnus, class of '74, and an adjunct professor, teaching auditing in the McDonough School of Business. I am a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

However, I am here tonight as a 7-year resident of Georgetown who, for the last two years, has followed, via the Georgetown Current and CAG newsletters, the exchange between the University and the community regarding the campus plan. I have been completely taken aback by the level of vitriol expressed by the citizens association toward the University because, honestly, as someone living just 3 blocks from the main gates, it's not been my reality.

Is there sometimes trash in front of my house and do I sometimes hear students having been at the bars in Georgetown, walking back to campus late at night or early morning, talking too loudly? Yes, occasionally, I do. But, as I said, I live 3 blocks from the main gate.

I grew up in Washington, DC. For 18 years, before moving back Georgetown, I lived and worked in Dallas, Texas. When I moved back to the area, I chose to live in Georgetown, near the University knowing full-well there'd be occasional, quote/unquote, issues from the students and, for that matter, from the University itself, such as traffic relating to such once-a-year events as commencement and homecoming.

But the benefits to me have been far more than trade-offs. I take advantage of so much at the University – lectures by prominent national and international speakers, the facilities at Yates, Mass at Dahlgren, attending an incredibly reasonably - priced cultural event at Ryan Performing Arts Center, or just walking through campus on a nice Spring or Fall day. The visitors to my house, of which I have many, love visiting the campus and always comment on how much Georgetown University and its students bring to the vibrancy of my neighborhood.

Speaking of the students, I take advantage of them too. I hire students to babysit my one-year old granddaughter when she is visiting.. I have students living nearby and I enjoy very much talking with them. They are very nice and respectful young men and women...

I'd like to also take this opportunity, as an alumnus, to say that the Plan itself proposes projects important to the mission of the University. An addition to Lauinger library, the loop road which will move GUTS bus traffic off neighboring streets, the open space improvements – all will contribute to the future of the campus **and** benefit the local community. My understanding of the recommendations made by the Office of Planning, which I read about in the Georgetown Current, seem draconian to me and would tend to further constrict the ability of the University to carry through on these and other proposals in the plan.

Let me say in closing, I appreciate all the good work of the Citizens Association. It serves a valuable purpose in our community. But, I honestly and truly believe on this one, they've gotten it wrong.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views. I hope you will give them consideration equal to the opposition, when making your decision on the plan.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 10-32
EXHIBIT NO. 137