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24 Sumner Street
London SE1 9JA

#10.32

24 May 2011

District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 Fourth Street N.W.
Suite 210
Washington DC 20001

Dear Members of the Commission and Attendant Office Staff:

My name is Adam Talbot and I am a rising Senior at Georgetown University. Currently spending an academic year studying government at the London School of Economics, I am eagerly looking forward to returning to the school I love in a few short weeks. It is because of this passion for Georgetown — both school and neighborhood — that I am writing from London to support the Campus Plan.

I knew I wanted to be a part of the Georgetown community as far back as my Sophomore year of high school. The history of the university, the beauty of the neighborhood, and the passion of all who call Georgetown home — student and non-student residents alike — made my college search a short one. Once at Georgetown, I became involved in its student government as a means of making my environment a better place. After attaining the position of Speaker in my Sophomore year, I was pleased to participate in programs like Georgetown Samaritans, which brought students out into the neighborhood to shovel neighbors'

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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 10.32
EXHIBIT NO. 172

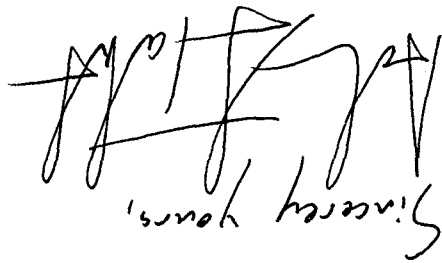
drive ways and to keep the community pristine. My friends engaged it with organizations like DC Schools and DC Reads, hoping to ensure that every Washington youth has access to a quality education and a role model.

I highlight programs like these both because they shed light on what Georgetown University is really all about and because they represent the true face of its student body. An unfortunate element of the public discussion of the campus plan has been that a politically disempowered group — that is, students — has been targeted and smeared by both private citizens and elected officials alike. Some in this former category believe they are acting in the best interests of their community; most in the latter just seem to know a good political football when they see one. Neither is acting from anything like a reasoned consideration of the facts central to the campus plan question: that the university has made repeated and meaningful concessions after consultation with neighborhood residents, that a mandate requiring 100% of undergraduates to be housed on-campus is unprecedented and seemingly in conflict with DC law, and that the continuation of Georgetown University as a world-class educational institution is vital to the continued prosperity of the greater neighborhood.

It is, frankly, regrettable that the tenor of debate on the campus plan has sunk to the level that it has. My peers who have elected to

live off-campus and have complied with all legal obligations such a choice entails have been invasively photographed on private property by a resident attempting to document "rowdiness" and have had their character generalized about with impunity in meetings across the city. This is to make no excuses for those students who are disruptive, but rather to highlight the extent to which festered debate has run roughshod over observable fact: that the university and students described by opponents of this plan bear no apparent relation to those that have existed in Georgetown since 1789.

Nor do they seem to bear any similarities to the Georgetown I love - the Georgetown that I would love to call home one day, should I be fortunate enough. It is with this image of Georgetown in mind that I urge you to support the campus plan as currently constituted, and implore you to help bring this unfortunate debate back to earth.

Sincerely yours,


Adam S. Talbot

Georgetown University
Class of 2012