

Testimony for Cory Matthews Parker, SNAP Officer, Georgetown University

Good Evening Everyone,

I am here today representing Georgetown University, The SNAP program, and the Off-Campus Student Life department. I am a Fifth Generation Washington with Roots throughout the city of Washington DC, beginning in Georgetown right off of 27th and PSts NW. I have been an employee of the University for 12 years, a homeowner in the Capitol View Section of the District for 11 years, and a member a the SNAP program for a little over 4 ½ years. I was invited to work with the SNAP program by Chuck VanSant to "help our students become responsible neighbors". I gladly accepted this task because of the footprint that Georgetown University and its students have put on Me personally and my community as well. There have been multiple instances where University Student Groups would be building homes with Habitat for Humanity across the street from my house, while grilling meals for the volunteers, tutoring kids at area schools, from those who excel to those you don't with programs, such as Kids2College, AfterSchoolKids, Head Start, DC Reads, and other program that are there but I cannot name.

My initial job description as I saw it was to respond to Hotline calls from members of the Georgetown Community about University students and take subsequent action to rectify the issue. If the situation did not involve University students we are to notify MPD. During the first couple of years there were issues establishing who we were and why we were at a particular resident's home. But once we explained those answers and that a party or pedestrians were causing a disturbance to the neighborhood, student's responses have been favorable. There are many different examples/experiences that I can give pertaining to the Thursday-Saturday 10pm-3am SNAP shifts and what the atmosphere of the neighborhood has been during those times:

- *Relationships in the Community (Student, Non-Students, Young Professional)
- *The Gradual Joint cooperation with MPD
- *The Improved Interaction with Students from the Beginning of Working with SNAP til Now
- *Students response to "Respecting the Light" of the SNAP Vehicle
- *Issues with Foot Traffic (SAFE Rides Shuttle Service)
- *Any Answers to a Plethora of questions related to the SNAP program.

I conclude that I have been objective in my above statements and that Georgetown University and its Students have improved their relations with the Community during the late evening/early morning hours of Thursday night through Sunday morning during the past four years that I have ridden with the SNAP program. Thru proactive efforts from the University and OCSL, the streets and homes of both Burlieth and West Georgetown have experienced quieter evenings and fewer disturbances than they did in the past. My final thought is that Georgetown University and its students have proven to be Great Assets to not only the Georgetown Community but also the Greater Washington Area through their

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