

Good evening Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission. My name is Tom Strike. I have lived in Burleith for over 12 years at 1933 – 39th Street, NW. I am here tonight to express my strong support for Georgetown University's campus plan. I'd like to say, I have no affiliation whatsoever with the University. I graduated from Gonzaga High School, received my undergraduate degree at Towson University, an M.S. in Business Management from John Hopkins, and an MBA in Finance and Economics at The University of Chicago. Neither my wife Sarah or I work at the University.

When I moved to Burleith 12 years ago, I was a bachelor. The proximity to Georgetown University played a pivotal part in the decision to buy my house. In 2002, I got married and my wife Sarah moved in to the house. Today, I am the proud father of 3 children – a 4 ½ year old girl and 2-year old twin boys, who were all born at Georgetown University Hospital. When I moved to Burleith, there were hardly any children in the neighborhood. Today, there are so many families with young children like us in Burleith, my wife, along with a couple other young moms, started a Burleith Moms group where they have play dates and help each other out with things like babysitting or picking up groceries for one another. On Halloween, one of the fun traditions in Burleith is that everyone dresses up – adults and children alike – and goes to the Tot Lot on 35th Street for candy and cider. This past Halloween there were so many families and children in attendance, that to be honest, one could barely move around the playground. This past Christmas, I dressed up as Santa Claus, and along with my trusted "Elf" Lenore Rubino travelled with the reindeer to certain houses to surprise the kids. On my block alone, there are 8 children under the age of 4 ½, with my daughter Katelyn being the oldest. There are two more children on the way. There are similar stories of families and children all over Burleith that it has kind of become a joke about "something being in the water."

And, that's the main point I want to make tonight – Burleith has not been overrun by Georgetown University students during these last ten years. In my humblest of opinions, Burleith has been overrun by families and children.

On our block, we have two student houses. One house, right next door to us, has Medical Students and the other house, about 4 doors up, has graduate students. Frankly, I had an issue with one of the Medical Students driving too fast through the alley. I called the University and spoke directly to the Medical School Dean who was extremely helpful. He sat the student in his office and explained to him how important it was to maintain neighborhood relations. But regrettably in the end, the student and I have never seen eye-to-eye. But, to be honest with you, I don't hold my experience in any way against Georgetown University.

Sarah and I absolutely love living near Georgetown University. A couple Fridays ago, we took the kids to the campus on Georgetown Day, the last day of classes. We knew about this event because the University sends around a week-ahead calendar and this was on it. The University invites the community to the event to celebrate the end of the school year. People who work there bring their kids and we brought our kids. They went on the moon bounce as well as other rides, and ran around Healy lawn. We enjoyed pizza, hamburgers and hot dogs, but the highlight of the day was a family picture with "Jack the Bulldog", the Hoya mascot. It was great. We have been to the Family Movie Night on the Lawn for the last two years, and our children routinely run around the Yates fields learning the finer points of soccer and lacrosse. We often walk through the beautiful campus, either walking our dogs or taking the kids into Georgetown.

Burleith is a magnificent neighborhood in our city, and the University is part of what makes it so great.

I've been really saddened by the tone of resentment that a minority of my neighbors possess. I don't

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question that people may have had problems with student neighbors, but I firmly and honestly don't believe that any citizens association can dictate or demand that 100% of students should be housed on campus. This action in itself seems to be unashamedly discriminatory, and thus not even legally viable as set forth. I also fervently disagree with the way people are complaining about new graduate students. As a former graduate student, I feel that many, if not all, of these students will add to the true sense of community.

One final point that I would like to make is a quote from native Washingtonian John Foster Dulles – "The measure of success is not whether you have a tough problem to deal with, but whether it is the same problem that you had last year".

I unequivocally support Georgetown University. I think it's an excellent neighbor and urge you to approve their plan as submitted. Thank you for your time and efforts.