

**Testimony for Zoning Commission: Candith Pallandre 3601 T Street NW
Washington DC 20007**

Good evening, Mr. Chairman, good evening, commissioners, my name is Candith Pallandre, and I live at 3601 T St NW in Burleith. I have lived in the community for 14 years. I have also taught at Georgetown University for 15 years, and I am conflicted. Georgetown has been very important in my life, and it has provided many opportunities for me, but my community is also very important to me. I am here tonight because I want to preserve my community. In my testimony tonight, I would like to raise three points.

First, an example: I discovered three weeks ago that the graduate nursing students who have lived next door to me for a year and a half are moving out. They have been good neighbors, and I am sorry to see them go. Their lease was terminated early because the absentee landlord has decided to rent to 6 male undergraduates from Georgetown starting in June. There were only 5 nursing students. I have experienced having young male students next door in the past, and there were problems with noise and trash. My point is that anyone in my neighborhood could experience this, on very short notice. We simply do not share any common goals with landlords, who focus on maximum rental income and minimum maintenance, and we have no control over when and where this happens.

My second point relates to trash and rodent infestation in our neighborhood. As a member of the neighborhood Committee for Trash and Rat Eradication, I have toured the alleys in our community with the DPW employee responsible for Burleith. I also walk the neighborhood frequently with my dogs. Rental homes frequently have 4 or 5 trash cans, many with missing covers. These are tempting targets for rats and other rodents. The Program Manager for Rodent Control at the Department of Health has stated that rental homes in Burleith create problems regarding rodents, trash, and mosquito infestation.

My final point has to do with regret. I regret that we are here tonight, and have been and will be here for other nights, in opposition. We have spent a lot of time, money, and effort on these issues. There is a positive way to find solutions to town-gown issues, and other universities have found ways to work with communities and local government. I have read extensively on the website of the International Town Gown Association and on other town-gown websites, about Best Practices in this area. The bottom line is that all parties must be willing to work together and explore options that work for all. I have raised these issues at a Georgetown Town Hall Meeting and at the Faculty Senate as well. I have had no response. In conclusion, I believe that we don't need to reinvent the wheel: there are solutions that are out there. We just have to want to do it. Thank you.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 10-32
EXHIBIT NO. 201