

Burleith Citizen Statement Before the DC Zoning Commission
Thursday, May 12, 2011
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Washington, DC 20007

Chairman and members of the Commission, thank you for the opportunity to present my issues regarding Georgetown University's proposed ten-year plan.

Most people purchase a starter home. Ten years ago I purchased a "finisher" home in the lovely community of Burleith which reminded me of an English Cotswold Village and from which I planned to depart feet first.

Village atmosphere appears to be waning--and even more so with Georgetown University's future plans of enlarging its enrollment without enlarging its dormitory living quarters to accommodate its proposed enrollment.

At a January 20th community meeting I asked Georgetown representatives how they proposed to identify adequate class rooms if they could not identify dormitory rooms; they immediately answered they planned to have classes twenty-four/seven year around. This means intrusion on our community will now be a constant versus--semesters and day time classes only. It appeared these Georgetown University representatives spoke as a teacher to a student indicating to me they no longer know how to communicate with adults, only how to give instructions to "students."

Before even considering imposing more students on us every GU professor or administrator who supports this issue should house (unpaid as we are unpaid to experience their presence) student/s in order to experience twenty-four seven year round what we now experience.

With increased students living in our neighborhoods to date, my question to the Commission is how are my tax dollars being used to ensure each rental property is identified as such on DC tax rolls? In my recent search of DC property rolls for a home address of a rental property, it was identified as "owner occupied".

With DC budget deficits, has no one compared over the years how much in tax revenues are being lost to property rented by students versus property occupied by residents contributing to the DC tax rolls from earned income? It will be only a matter of time before the District of Columbia becomes the District of Education with property, other than Federal Government property, generating no tax revenues.

Commissioners, there are too many issues regarding living among student rental property to include in one paper therefore to add further instances, I attach to this statement my "vignettes of student neighbors" to be entered into the record as a part of this statement.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to come before you with these issues.

Attachment: Vignettes of Student Neighbors

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 10-32
EXHIBIT NO. 203

VIGNETTES OF STUDENT NEIGHBORS BURLEITH COMMUNITY

Noise and rotating red lights of police cars awaken one in the wee hours of the mornings, especially on weekends.

Early morning a young girl sat on curb in front of my house too nauseous to get up onto a gurney to enter EMS ambulance. I overheard a policeman pointing out where she had first vomited in the middle of the street.

Often are found empty beer cans and cigarette butts in my front yard--I neither drink beer nor smoke. Beware GU, a local devout couple asked their 16-year-old daughter if she wanted to attend Georgetown University; she stated no, "only sluts and whores go there." From the mouths of babes.

Just last Saturday, April 30, at 2:30 a.m. I was awakened by a pounding on my front door. A pizza delivery man was at the wrong address. Just imagine how frightening this would be for an elderly lady living alone to be awakened in the middle of the night!

Students, probably too crowded in their rental accommodations, often use the street/sidewalk as a telephone booth--most conversations can be heard quite clearly and drone on and on especially after a late night out. Trust me, nosiest of persons do not want to hear these conversations.

An easy way to identify some rental property is by the unkempt yards--just walk through our neighborhood.

Bicycles are locked around newly planted trees.

Georgetown University argues there is a difference between undergraduate and graduate students whom they propose will be the majority of increased enrollment. My experience with next door graduate students include:

1. A thrown 24" diameter pumpkin into my back yard. Not too heavy for me to pick up and throw in the trash.
2. Twice this past year--first time ever in my experience--my neighbors' house with whom my row house shares a wall has been fumigated for bedbugs. There were many sleepless nights as I imagined bedbugs coming through the walls into my bedroom!
3. Previous graduate students living next door began using my trash bins. With five to six persons in a house their trash bins generally are overflowing creating rat/possum/raccoon hazards; and attempts to "borrow" neighboring bins.
4. After digging out the sidewalk in front of my house during February 2010 snow storms, student neighbors' houseguest began shoveling snow off his car onto my freshly shoveled sidewalk.



