

**Testimony of David J. Bachner, 3818 T Street NW, Washington, DC 20007**

Good evening. My name is David Bachner. I moved to Burleith in 1978. Over the years, I have witnessed Georgetown University's damaging impact on the neighborhood. And now, more than ever, I fear for my community's survival as a residential neighborhood should certain major elements of GU's proposed campus plan be approved. My particular concern is the increasingly ruinous effect of too many students.

In offering my perspective, I want to emphasize that I am not anti-student. Quite the contrary. I recently retired as a university faculty member and was previously a college administrator. So I speak as one who has long supported students and universities. As a former administrator, I understand the pressures on academic institutions to balance budgets, generate revenue, and strengthen programs. And as a member of the Burleith community, I also understand residents' anxiety about our quality of life. The difference between the two sets of concerns is that the university has multiple options for managing finances and programs, while our small community has very limited options for protecting our quality of life. Said differently, the university can plan and act in its own interests while the community has to suffer the consequences of the choices the university makes. And GU's choices, historically, have been very bad for Burleith.

Accepted criteria for sound planning suggest that a campus plan should reflect the institution's core values and also take into account broader community needs. In my opinion, Georgetown's plan fails in both regards. For example, the *University Mission Statement* commits the institution to the common good and civic responsibility. Having observed GU's activities for more than thirty years, I see an institution that habitually ignores this commitment when it comes to being a responsible neighbor to Burleith, a community that is already at the oft-quoted "tipping point" in terms of student saturation. In fact, GU's plan shows not only shocking disregard for the negative impact its proposed actions will have on Burleith, but also, by extension, disregard for the civic consciousness it purports to promote.

For months now, in forums and in writing the communities surrounding Georgetown University have articulated compelling, data-based arguments as to why increased student numbers without corresponding provisions for either on-campus or satellite housing will be harmful, even fatal, to our neighborhoods. But when all is said and done, there is no better argument for concluding that GU's proposed plan is wrong for Burleith than the applicable DC zoning regulation, which prohibits the university from becoming objectionable with respect to noise, traffic, and number of students, among other conditions. Over the years, Georgetown University has spawned conditions in our neighborhood that are already highly objectionable. If approved, the proposed plan will only make matters worse and, I fear, forever irreversible.

Thank you.

ZONING COMMISSION  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO. 10-32  
EXHIBIT NO. 205