

Good Evening. My name is STEPHANY KNIGHT and I am here in opposition to GU Ten Year Expansion plan. We live at 3413 P Street, 1- ½ blocks from the north west entrance on P Street to the main campus, a route taken by many, many students to and from the campus.

We have lived in this house, as owners, for over 25 years. From 1960 to 1972, we lived on the East side of Georgetown in a rental house.. Because of Georgetown students, the difference between the two experiences is astonishing.

I should now say we do have affiliations with the university – very affectionate ones. We moved here in order for my husband to attend school at GU from which he has a BA, MA and PhD. We both attend classes there now. Our problem with the university is that the inevitable repercussions of this latest 10-year plan will be seriously bad for us as community members.

I will not at this point add to the litany of anecdotes of complaints, which you have already heard except to say that since our bedroom is on the front of the house, we observe everything you have heard and scene first-hand plus more.

I was baffled to hear members of the zoning board focus on those of us concerned about the issue of rental housing, suggesting we think rental housing is a venial sin. That's ridiculous. There is a difference between rental housing for families or professionals who use the houses as their homes, and rental housing serving as accommodations for **transcient** students. The latter are frequently rented to different groups twice during the summer and then again for 9 months during the school year. Neither the students nor the owners care about these houses.

In the blocks around the university, all one must do is stand outside an uncared- for house, replete with peeling paint, weeds, rats, and trash and – eventually – students appear. By not housing its undergraduate students on campus, the university is casting, like cannon fodder, an unending supply of young people to be crammed into often unsafe, horrifically expensive houses..

The university is focused on its growth and economic development– with utter disdain and genial contempt for its impact on the community. Did not the university promise 10 years ago to house their undergraduates on campus? What happened to that promise?

Do they throw out tidbits as “^{a sham}strawdogs” such as the intent to build an enormous power plant on campus or the intent to increase the student body to 3000, knowing perfectly well each outrageous “intent” would be rejected, thus allowing the university to proclaim”. See, what good folks we are: we compromised to satisfy our neighbors! One has to wonder.

Now GU has produced yet another 10- year plan that would even exacerbate what they know are on-going problems . Where is their credibility and community responsibility?

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 10-32
EXHIBIT NO. 244

The university may do wonderful things for the Duke Ellington School but its attempt at off-campus student programming and supervision is a failure as far as its adjacent neighborhoods are concerned. The university needs to provide residential space and social outlets on campus. As part of a community outreach program they need to strengthen sanctions by seriously prohibiting disorderly behavior. They can do this only by moving undergraduates on campus where they can provide some supervision and adherence to standards of right and wrong.