

June 4, 2011

Walter and Alexandra Parrs
3308 Prospect St. NW
Washington, DC 20007

To the Zoning Commission,

My name is Walter Parrs and I live at 3308 Prospect St, NW with my wife, four year-old daughter and six week-old son. We live on one of the many streets in Georgetown and Burleith that suffers from the absolutely out-of-control effects of constant student drunkenness and disregard by group houses for the residents of this neighborhood.

In its testimony on June 2, the CAG showed you video clips of the effects of late night student drunkenness. One of those clips was taken in front of my house. A second was taken on the sidewalk across the street, facing my home. One Commissioner asked if the student activity shown in those videos was typical, or only happened from time to time. I live there, and let me confirm for you that what you saw in those videos is the situation that we face almost every single Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night of the school year. My family wakes up to that several times a night on those nights, starting at about 1:30 am and continuing until 3:30 am. It is absolutely out-of-control and far beyond any reasonable standard of objectionable behavior. All of Prospect St. is subject to this, at least three nights of every week that school is in session. We cannot sleep in our homes.

Some witnesses in support of the GU plan suggested that perhaps the complaints you hear result from isolated incidents, and those people likely don't take advantage of the resources GU makes available to help. Those are outrageous claims. This is a sustained, constant, predicable problem that anyone who ventures to my street at 2:30 am on a Sunday morning will see for himself or herself. I have absolutely exhausted myself trying to engage GU to do something about this problem. I have called SNAP many times this year, and it has never done anything. I have had a long, frustrated history of communicating with GU's community outreach program to absolutely no effect.

SNAP does not work, by its own admission. On May 8 at 2:30 am, I had a frustrated phone conversation with the SNAP patrol begging them to do something about screaming of drunken students streaming down our street. The SNAP car was parked at 34th St and Prospect, one block from my home. I could hear the SNAP officer on the phone saying to these drunken, shouting students, "hey, come on guys. We're starting to get complaints from neighbors," and "hey, come on. Keep moving guys." I asked if what he said had any effect. The SNAP officer's direct quote to me was, "they don't listen to me, they're half drunk."

In the email string attached to my written testimony, you will see a history dating back to October of my communication with GU officials on this and group house problems in our neighborhood. As you read that email chain, look for two things: First, my unfortunate descent from polite communication in October to outright begging for help in May. Second, in GU's responses, look for any acknowledgement

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EXHIBIT NO.

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of the problem (you won't find one), or any attempt to combat it (you won't find one). In GU's responses you will see two things throughout, sympathy (but not acknowledgement of the problem), and a forward-leaning outreach policy to local residents. Neither does anything about the problem.

I also note in this email chain a concrete example of how GU's efforts to control the behavior of students in group houses does not work. On May 17, I complained to GU about late-night noise from a local group house that had woken us up. On May 18, GU's Director of Off Campus Student Life wrote to me about the productive conversation she had with the students of that group house, who admitted to having been loud and committed to be more mindful. On May 21, the same house woke me up again at 3:20 am. You will see in my email back to the Director of Off Campus Student Housing my explanation that her outreach to the students did not work, and I ask what can be done next. No response.

The statistics from the CAG and ANC about complaints by residents are grossly under representative of the true problem. I can prove this because I contribute to those statistics, and I have only complained on a small number of occasions compared to actual incidents. I have not reported every incident because I quickly learned that calling SNAP does not work, nor does engaging GU. I see no use in spending time reporting incidents if it does not result in anything. All the same, I still do occasionally call SNAP, and I continue to engage GU directly. I do not believe many residents on Prospect St. call SNAP or GU to complain because they learned long ago, years or decades ago, that it does nothing. I am new to the neighborhood and it has taken me about six to eight months to give up hope of any response to these problems. I do know, though, that my neighbors on Prospect St. are as upset about this as I am. In October, every neighbor I invited to my meeting with GU's Director of Off Campus Student Life attended, and every one voiced the same concerns. After years of frustration, they do not report incidents because it does nothing.

In your search for evidence of the standard of objectionable behavior, I offer the following:

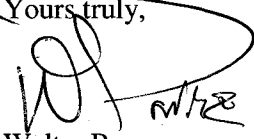
- Waking up at least three nights out of seven because of noise from drunken students is objectionable
- Cleaning beer cans, vomit, spilled paint, and trash on average two or three times a week is objectionable
- Kicking over every trash can on Prospect St. between 33rd and Bank St. four weeks straight last fall is objectionable
- Drunken students wrestling on my property, kicking my trash can - which was on my property - down my front steps and trashing the bushes in front of my house and on my property are objectionable
- Public drunkenness, which is illegal, and disturbing the peace, which is illegal, are objectionable and occurs in hundreds of individual instances every week
- Playing beer pong in your backyard at 3:00 am, and the shouting and screaming associated, is objectionable
- Installing an above-ground pool, littering a yard with beer cans, and kicking down a party fence, then leaving that mess for months next to a beautiful Georgetown home which the owners are trying to sell is objectionable
- and on and on and on and on and on. I alone can fill two pages of examples, and I am just one resident.

Georgetown University's refusal to acknowledge the seriousness of these problems and to do anything substantial about them is irresponsible.

There is a way forward, but that way is not through a plan that will put more students into our neighborhoods. The CAG did not exaggerate when it said these neighborhoods are on the verge of no longer being residential. The proof: when I learned that Georgetown University was planning to expand in a way that will put more student pressure on our neighborhood, my wife and I had a serious conversation about whether we could continue to raise a family here.

I call on the Commission to protect our residential neighborhoods, and to roll back the already egregious effects of Georgetown University students on our homes and families.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss any of this further: waltparrs3@gmail.com or (202) 294-7461.

Yours truly,

Walter Parrs

Attachment: Email chain of my conversations from September 2010 with Georgetown University's Office of Off Campus Student Life.

From: lordj@georgetown.edu

Date: June 2, 2011 2:35:13 AM EDT

To: "Walter Parrs III" <waltparrs3@gmail.com>, "Anne Koester" <ayk2@georgetown.edu>

Subject: Re: Student problems on Prospect St.

Reply-To: lordj@georgetown.edu

Dear Mr. Parrs,

Thank you for your note, which I have read carefully.

I know that Ms. Koester has made every effort to address the concerns you raise and I deeply regret that you continue to experience these problems.

Rather than continuing to attempt to address all this by email, would you be willing to meet to talk? I'd appreciate that and will be happy to arrange a place and time that are convenient for you.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Jeanne Lord

Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile

-----Original Message-----

From: Walter Parrs III <waltparrs3@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 21:14:53

To: <ayk2@georgetown.edu>

Cc: Jeanne Lord<lordj@georgetown.edu>

Subject: Re: Student problems on Prospect St.

Ms. Lord,

I would appreciate your input on the many, many egregious issues I raised in the long email chain below, and which represent only a small fraction of the outrageous behavior we have had to put up with this year. From my ongoing conversations with GU on these issues, I can only come to the conclusion that GU has given up trying to manage late night drunken students.

Please tell me this isn't true. Please tell me that GU does care and will do more. The residents of this neighborhood are, quite literally, begging you. If you take the time to read what I describe below, I am sure that you will understand why this has, unfortunately, reduced me to begging.

On May 21, 2011, at 7:22 AM, ayk2@georgetown.edu wrote:

Dear Walter,

I have kept Jeanne Lord, Associate VP for Student Affairs, apprised of your concerns. You may contact her at lordj@georgetown.edu.

Regards,

Anne

Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile

-----Original Message-----

From: Walter Parrs III <waltparrs3@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, 21 May 2011 03:22:02

To: Anne Koester <ayk2@georgetown.edu>

Subject: Re: Student problems on Prospect St.

3:15 am and another disaster of a night with drunken student noise. Everyone is in tuxes, I assume those are students. Again, to my same question below, what is being done about this? From your continued non-response to this question from last October, I can only assume the answer is nothing. Who else at Georgetown can I talk to?

Now 3:19, and the boys in the group house at 1216 33rd are out back and loud after having returned from your night out. Unfortunately, your talk to them did not work. What do we do about that?

Georgetown U obviously does not have an effective strategy. Do you need any more proof? Please please please pleaseplease do something.

On May 19, 2011, at 7:05 AM, Walter Parrs III wrote:

Thank you, Anne. I appreciate your efforts, which I hope will address the group house issue. I am concerned, though, that the noise from drunken students between 2:00 am and 3:00 am is still not being addressed anywhere near adequately. As I mention below, the current solution with SNAP and reimbursable detail is clearly insufficient. To us, this is the real problem, because this is what makes the most noise. Have you been out lately after 2:00 am on a weekend night? It's wild.

On May 18, 2011, at 4:08 PM, Anne Koester wrote:

Dear Walter,

I followed up with the students at 1216 33rd St this morning. They are aware of and accept responsibility for the fact that when 4 of them were in their backyard talking last night, they disturbed you and your family. I was told that when you told them at 11:55 pm to go inside, they did as you asked. However, they were not out when you were awoken later in the night. It is likely that the noise you heard was from the street. As for the 11:55 p.m. incident, the students regret that their volume woke you up and assured me that it will not happen again.

I also followed up with these students after your call to the Hotline last weekend and subsequent SNAP visit. There were less than 10 students at the house that night, but they admitted that their music was too loud. I addressed this with them and took appropriate action.

I am sorry about the disturbances on the street last weekend. As you know, the University sponsors three off-duty MPD officers (reimbursable detail) on weekend nights and one during other nights to address the issues you raise. The Vice-President for University Safety and I are following up with MPD and with the DPS Communication officers (who answer the Hotline outside of SNAP hours) about the issues you identified.

On a final note, today is Ben Anderson's last day with OCSL; he is relocating to the west coast. I am in the process of hiring a new Community Advisor for West Georgetown and will be sure to introduce him or her to you this summer.

Best regards,
Anne

Walter Parrs III wrote:

Will you please have a conversation today with the boys in the group house at 1216 33rd st.

They, like the drunk students in the streets at night, have gone on late night steroids. They woke us up twice last night, once at 11:55 pm and then again later at I don't know what time, with what sounded like a full-on brawl. Screaming, fighting, etc. This is the same house that woke us up last Friday at 3:30 am, which I referenced below. You committed in the fall to talk to group houses about noise. I know that school is about to let out, but this stern conversation with 1216 33rd St cannot not wait. I want to sleep this week.

I note no reply yet from my email below. Please confirm that you or Mr. Anderson are receiving these emails.

Thank you,

Walter

On May 16, 2011, at 6:39 AM, Walter Parrs III wrote:

Anne, late night student drunkenness and noise has been OUT OF CONTROL these last three weeks. What is going on outside regularly from 2:00 am to 3:30 am is so far beyond acceptable in a residential neighborhood I just don't know how to express it. I have been on the phone regularly with SNAP, I have been outside myself telling students to be quiet, and every morning I pick up the garbage. It's monday morning at 6:00 am and trash and trashcans in front of our houses have been kicked around, and there is garbage on my front steps that I will have to clean up before going to work. I don't know what happened last night, but there was an explosion of noise at 2:00 am. All the non-students that live in the neighborhood have to wake up and go to work on Monday morning.

Last Friday, I had to call SNAP at 3:30 am (Friday morning, not Saturday morning). SNAP told me they were closed for the night, and could do nothing about the noise. So I ended up having to go out and get students to shut up. Then I had to get out of bed two hours later to get ready to go to work. How would you feel about having to do that?

Last Sunday at 2:30 am I had a long call with the SNAP team on duty, who admitted in frustration that he was helpless to do anything about the students streaming from bars. He was stationed a block away from me, and I could hear him shouting out of his car to students to "hey, please keep it down, guys," and "hey, we're starting to get calls from neighbors, please keep moving." I asked him if the students were listening to him, and he said (direct quote), "they're not listening to me, they are half drunk." He lamented that this always happened, and that he told his supervisors all the time, but no one did anything. SNAP is the wrong tool to stop students from screaming and kicking over trashcans after bars close. You need another tool. SNAP admits this and will tell you the same thing if you ask.

There has been no action taken that I am aware of since we and several neighbors raises this issue with you last fall.

Please raise this email within your chain. I have noted in the paper the bitter fights between GU and the neighborhood about the GU expansion plan. If other residents are facing what I am, I understand why they are fighting tooth and nail against you. This is unacceptable, and GU must do something about it.

On Oct 17, 2010, at 11:23 AM, ayk2@georgetown.edu <<mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu>> wrote:

Hello, Walter

Thank you for your note and bringing this to my attention. I will certainly be discussing these matters with colleagues.

In the meantime, I have asked our West Georgetown Community Advisor, Ben Anderson, to get the students out to help pick up the loose trash and put the trash cans where they belong.

Best regards,
Anne

Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile

*From: * Walter Parrs <waltparrs3@gmail.com <<mailto:waltparrs3@gmail.com>>>
*Date: *Sun, 17 Oct 2010 11:23:32 -0400
*To: *<ayk2@georgetown.edu <<mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu>>>; <rfd8@georgetown.edu <<mailto:rfd8@georgetown.edu>>>; ben anderson<bja35@georgetown.edu <<mailto:bja35@georgetown.edu>>>
*Cc: *Alexandra Parrs<alexandra.parrs@gmail.com <<mailto:alexandra.parrs@gmail.com>>>; Jeff Miller<jmiller@prospectco.com <<mailto:jmiller@prospectco.com>>>
*Subject: *Re: Fwd: Student problems on Prospect St.

Anne,

Unfortunately, I find myself having to email you on Sunday morning the day after our talk because last night was, yet again, another over-the-top night. Per your recommendation, I called SNAP at about 1.45 am. They said they would respond, which I am sure they did. The noise died down after about five minutes, no idea if it was because the students moved on or because SNAP arrived. But, not surprisingly, we woke up at least three more times last night. The trash cans that had been left out on the street because of late trash pickup this week were the target of one of the groups of drunk students. This morning, most of them on the block had been kicked over and were in the street. So, assuming SNAP responded, it didn't make a difference for the groups walking by every 15 or 20 minutes afterwards. Last night reinforces my main point to you yesterday: I appreciate the efforts you are making but they are clearly insufficient. Add trash-can football last night and several waves of screaming kids on October 16/17 to my list of issues from previous emails. Something more must be done to control Thurs-Sat midnight to 3:00 am.

I am confident there are ways to address this, even though it is a more difficult problem than trash and house parties. As several of us from the block confirmed to you yesterday, the situation in the last six weeks has been much much worse than last spring and summer. I would appreciate you letting me know what your next steps will be, and how I can help. I support the idea that police/GU actually pull kids aside (ticketing, citations, etc) for blatant violations of drunk-in-public, vandalism, and public disturbance. Finally, an easy one: trash. Probably because the trash stayed on the street all week before being picked up, there's garbage all along the street in front of the block of student houses on Prospect between 33rd and Bank. Also, I mentioned the open pile of trash on the corner of Bank and Prospect that the city probably wouldn't touch. Someone cleaned up about 80% of it, the rest is still there. It's not in trash bags, but garbage spread around on the sidewalk. Are these 'verifiable incidents' that you mentioned yesterday? I understand your strategy of 'verifiable incidents' will help address consistent problems, which we have.

Thanks,

Walter

On Wed, Oct 13, 2010 at 6:29 PM, <ayk2@georgetown.edu> <mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu>> wrote:

Great! See you then.

Anne

Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile

*From: *Walter Parrs <waltparrs3@gmail.com>
<mailto:waltparrs3@gmail.com>>

*Date: *Wed, 13 Oct 2010 17:26:05 -0400

*To: *Anne Koester<ayk2@georgetown.edu> <mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu>>

*Cc: *Alexandra Parrs<alexandra.parrs@gmail.com>

<<mailto:alexandra.parrs@gmail.com>>>; Jeff
Miller<jmiller@prospectco.com <<mailto:jmiller@prospectco.com>>>
*Subject: *Re: Fwd: Student problems on Prospect St.

Anne,

Sure, let's say 2.30 on Saturday at our house: 3308 Prospect St. I look forward to meeting with you,

Walter

On Wed, Oct 13, 2010 at 12:45 PM, Anne Koester
<ayk2@georgetown.edu <<mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu>>> wrote:

Hello, Walter

Would 2:30 this Saturday afternoon work?

Regards,
Anne

Walter Parrs wrote:

Dear Anne,

Please let me know if you would have some time to meet this Saturday. I am copying my neighbor, Jeff Miller, on the email. I mentioned to him this meeting, and he said he would like to join in.

Thanks,

Walter

On Fri, Oct 8, 2010 at 9:23 AM, Walter Parrs
<waltparrs3@gmail.com <<mailto:waltparrs3@gmail.com>>
<<mailto:waltparrs3@gmail.com>
<<mailto:waltparrs3@gmail.com>>>> wrote:

Sure Anne. We'll look for another time soon to do this. Thanks, and have a safe trip.

On Fri, Oct 8, 2010 at 7:29 AM, <ayk2@georgetown.edu <<mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu>>
<<mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu>
<<mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu>>>> wrote:

Good morning, Walter

I'm actually at the airport. I am going to Ohio to spend a few days with my mom. Can we look at next Saturday in the afternoon?

Thank you. Enjoy the weekend.
Anne

Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile

*From: *Walter Parrs <waltparrs3@gmail.com>
<<mailto:waltparrs3@gmail.com>>

*Date: *Fri, 8 Oct 2010 06:51:41 -0400
*To: *Anne Koester<ayk2@georgetown.edu>
<<mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu>>

*Subject: *Re: Fwd: Student problems on Prospect St.

Anne,
Would you be able to meet sometime tomorrow (Saturday)?
Thanks,

Walter

On Sun, Sep 26, 2010 at 2:36 PM, Anne Koester
<ayk2@georgetown.edu <<mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu>>
<<mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu>>
<<mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu>>>> wrote:

Hello, Walter

Thank you for your note. I would be glad to meet with you during the evening or on a Saturday. Here's what would work for me in the coming week: This Thursday I have to be on campus a little later, so I could meet you at 7:45 or 8:00. I would also be available this coming Saturday between 11:00 - 3:00. I could also meet on Tuesday evening, Oct. 5th at 7:30. If none of these work, we'll look at other possibilities. I look forward to meeting you.

Regards,
Anne

Walter Parrs wrote:

Anne,
Thank you for your reply, I had no idea that the SNAP program existed, and we will definitely try it. I would certainly like to take up your offer to meet. Regular business hours will be difficult for me, as I will be at work. Would you be available in the evening during the week (7:30 ish) or on a Saturday? If those aren't part of your regular work hours, just say so, and we'll work something else out. Last night was another bad one: screaming at the top of lungs and cursing, kicking trashcans, etc. We woke up several times. Parts of the street this morning look like a mess. 3301 Prospect still has beer cans and plastic cups all over the street and outside of

the house from yesterday afternoon. (The neighbors are having an open house today, too...I am sure they can't be happy about that). We moved in in April, and it seems as if things have gotten substantially worse in the last three weekend (to include this one). Last spring was not nearly so bad, what has happened? Thank you,

Walter

ps, I am cc'ing my wife, Alex.

On Fri, Sep 24, 2010 at 9:55 AM, Anne Koester

[<ayk2@georgetown.edu>](mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu)

[<mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu>](mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu) [<mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu>](mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu)

[<mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu>](mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu)

[<mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu>](mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu)

[<mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu>](mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu)

[<mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu>](mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu)

[<mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu>](mailto:ayk2@georgetown.edu)>>> wrote:

Dear Mr. Parrs,

Ray Danieli forwarded your recent e-mail to me. I apologize for my delay in responding to you. I appreciate you contacting us with your concerns about Prospect Street. As you noted in your e-mail, the University does take a number of active steps to minimize the impact of student conduct in our neighborhoods. First, available to our neighbors is the University's 24/7 Hotline - [202-687-8413](tel:202-687-8413). During Thursday, Friday & Saturday nights from 10 pm -3 am, the Hotline is answered by our S.N.A.P. (Student Neighborhood Assistance Program) team, who patrol the West Georgetown and Burleith neighborhoods in cars (with yellow flashing lights and a SNAP decal). They respond to all Hotline calls during these nights and go to the residence or area reported to address the situation. (At all other times, the Hotline is answered by a Communications Officer at the Department of Public Safety, who will determine whether to dispatch MPD.) I know from firsthand experience of being out with our SNAP team periodically that they give significant attention to Prospect Street, moving along the students who are walking and addressing various conduct issues, including noise disturbances, if any, at student residences along Prospect. I receive all SNAP reports and follow up immediately on all incidents reported. I also receive all reports of Hotline calls during the hours that DPS answers the line and follow up with the students who live at the addresses reported.

Second, there are University-sponsored MPD reimbursable detail officers out in the neighborhoods various nights of the week. As with SNAP, I know that these officers give attention to the Prospect Street area. Finally, I have met with a number of students who live along Prospect Street this Fall to discuss expectations and their responsibilities. These conversations have been very positive. Our West Georgetown Community Advisor, Ben Anderson, also reaches out to these students, as does Ray. Please feel free to call me at 687-3199. I would be happy to talk with you further. I will also try to stop by sometime to introduce myself.

Thank you again for your support and for keeping us informed. Best regards,
Anne Koester

-- Anne Y. Koester, J.D., M.A.
Director, Off Campus Student Life
Georgetown University
1300 36th Street NW
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 687-5138 (OCSL Office)
(202) 687-3199 (Direct)
(202) 687-4544 (Fax)

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Student problems
on Prospect St.

Date: Sat, 18 Sep 2010 13:35:33
-0400

From: Walter Parrs

<waltparrs3@gmail.com <<mailto:waltparrs3@gmail.com>>
<<mailto:waltparrs3@gmail.com>
<<mailto:waltparrs3@gmail.com>>>

Dear Ray,

We met briefly in the spring on Prospect St. and you passed me your business card. I am writing to follow up on our conversation to say that drunken student behavior the last two nights on Prospect St has been absolutely terrible. In sum, the noise level was over the top Thursday and Friday nights (last night and the night before) between 12:30 am and 3:30 am, waking up me and my family several times. It sounded like students walking towards the University after a night of partying (as opposed to students living next to us). The problem was not just loud, boisterous talk. It was screaming (some singing) at the top of their lungs, cursing, and what sounded like the beginning of a fight. Groups of students returning home woke us up regularly about every half hour for three hours. Since the end of August, the situation on our street has really gone downhill. Two weeks ago, I tried to sleep through another night of drunken noise. In the morning, I found students had come onto my property and dumped my trashcan down the stairs leading to my basement entrance. It looks like they had a wrestling match on my front steps, given the damage done to the bushes on my property. If you recall my house, you'll note you have to climb steps to get to a landing where the students clearly were. I bring this up to emphasize this wasn't horseplay on the street that spilled onto my property. Instead, students clearly came onto my property intentionally and then caused the damage I explained above. Can you tell me what is being done to control these problems? Obviously, the behavior I explain above is well beyond the acceptable. I don't know of a community in America where regular public drunkenness, vandalism, and drunken brawling is tolerated, and it is frustrating to believe this cannot be controlled in Georgetown. Finally, I want to reiterate what I said to you last

spring when we met: I really appreciate that you and Georgetown University are taking active steps to manage the student impact on the community. I love Georgetown University, and the presence the students bring to the neighborhood is great. But, it is a balance. Let me know what I can do to help you in your efforts to restore that balance.

With my best regards,

Walter Parrs