

Good Evening Commissioners

I am Bonnie Hardy. My husband, family and I have been residents of Burleith since the early 1970s.

I have been active in Town/Gown Relations with Georgetown University since the 1990s and was directly involved in the 2000 Campus Plan process. As a past president of the BCA I spent most of my time on quality of life issues created by Georgetown students. I worked with the University personnel dealing with off campus matters. Burleith and the other communities had high expectations that the 2000 campus plan would give us relief. As we now know, that did not happen. Eventually the University got its increase in enrollment based on assumptions and predictions that were never realized.

In this last decade, the current BCA leadership under Lenore Rubino and Commissioner Solomon have put much time and effort into a relationship with the University trying to keep the channels open for dialogue. They also work closely with such city agencies as MPD for enforcement, DPW for trash, and DCRA for housing in hopes of improving the quality of life issues that are so important to a compact neighborhood like Burleith.

I wish I could say that things have improved. They haven't. The numbers are against us. Simply put, there are too many students in too many of our houses. The OCSL Office has been dressed up, the shuttle bus is driving students from party to party, SNAP is snapping all of 15 hours a week and at the end of the day, complaints role in, properties are deteriorating, and the landlords are going to the bank. The winners are the University and the landlords – a simple matter of supply and demand. The students are temporary in temporary digs. Neighbors are permanent – we are the ones left, tired of the same battles and the anxiety of who and how many will be moving in next to them.

Burleith needs your help to break this cycle. The University has had its way the last twenty years with its enrollment policies which have been ruinous for our neighborhood. The Office of Planning in 2000 and now in 2010 has recognized the University's detrimental effect on Burleith and West Georgetown. We implore you to adopt the 2010 Office of Planning's recommendations. There is not room now for a balance between what the University wants and what we must have to save our neighborhood.

Based on my experience living in Burleith and despite the representations made by the University in the last twenty years I must conclude that the University is either unable or unwilling to control the conduct of its students to the extent necessary to ensure the peace and quiet to which residents are entitled as a matter of legal right.

Thank you for your time.

ZONING COMMISSION  
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 10-32  
EXHIBIT NO. 240