

Testimony in opposition to Georgetown University Campus Plan 2010-2020, Case No. 10-32
June 6, 2011

I am not against students. I myself have 3 advanced degrees including a doctorate, so I have spent more years as a student than most people have. So I don't dislike students and in fact I like diverse neighborhoods.

But I can personally attest to the excessive noise, trash, and commotion from living in a neighborhood that is far too dense with student group rental houses. I lived at 3623 S Street and after many sleepless night and many mornings picking up trash, I moved out. The continued expansion of GU will make these problems worse.

I still live in Burleith because it is convenient to my work. I moved down the street where my direct neighbors are home-owners, so the level of disturbance for me has decreased. Still, I am often awakened by students walking about late at night and by houses in the vicinity that have frequent outdoor gatherings. The fact is, where there is a very high proportion of student rentals there is no way to avoid these problems. GU expansion means the neighborhood will suffer further from increases in students and traffic.

I ask: Why does GU want to expand? It cites the desire to upgrade academically; however, we know that a larger school is not necessarily a better school. Let's face it that a prime motivation for expansion is additional revenue for GU. If GU would like to bring in more tuition money, then it should take on the costs of that expansion by housing additional students and their cars on campus. Why should the neighborhood bear *any* additional burdens so that the university can bring in more money?

Not only has the neighborhood paid for an ever-expanding GU through a compromised quality of life, but we literally pay for the large populations of students in DC, since they do not pay income taxes and the rest of us see our tax bills soar to cover city expenses for them.

I very much oppose the GU expansion plan.



Dr. Carol Baume
3602 S Street NW
Washington DC 20007

ZONING COMMISSION
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