

Thank you for hearing me through this evening.

My name is Jane Alexander and my husband and I have owned our home in Burleith for ten years. Since moving in, we have had two children.

When we first moved to the neighborhood, we expected that an eventual move to the suburbs was a given as the public school situation in the District was less than satisfactory. However, over the last six years a number of wonderful improvements have been made. Stoddert Elementary School has an amazing new principal, a terrific teaching and support staff, and a building that rivals many private school facilities. In addition, the community library has been rebuilt and the neighborhood pool has been renovated - both adding to the life of our community and the vibrancy of the neighborhood. Young families love the community feel of the neighborhood, the walking culture provided by the proximity of Wisconsin Avenue, and the overall benefits of residing in the District.

However, the many homes in our area are rented to Georgetown University students is an issue for the neighborhood and district as a whole. Student renters are not invested in the community and are not paying taxes that contribute to all of the resources available to them. Additionally, their lifestyle is often not compatible with the hours that a family with two working parents and two young children are apt to keep.

Not only do student renters create issues for home owners, such as lowering our property values, but it creates issues for the District. Homes are generally not well kept, trash is not contained in a way that prevents rodent issues, and it taxes DC's law enforcement resources when they are called for issues related to student housing among others.

Additionally, early in 2010 there was a house fire two doors down from my home. The landlord was renting the home with a "boarding house" mentality. The renters often did not have a connection to each other or the neighborhood and the number of people living in the house at any given time was unknown. The carelessness of one of the residents caused the fire and ultimately jeopardized numerous homes. The firemen that came to control the fire and the entire fire department that expertly took care of the situation received its funding from members of our community - not the students they are also responsible for protecting.

I truly hope that the district will put the needs and wishes of long-term taxing paying residents above those of the transient student population.

Sincerely,
Jane Alexander

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 10-32
EXHIBIT NO. 231