

May 28, 2011

3818 T ST. NW
Washington, DC 20007

Anthony Hood
DC Zoning Commission
441 4th ST. NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Commissioner Hood,

I had hoped to speak to the commission in person to express my fervent opposition to Georgetown University's proposed campus plan for 2010-2020. Unfortunately, I have an out of town conflict on the night our neighborhood witnesses are most likely to speak so I am mailing in my testimony as a letter. I sincerely believe that GU is breaking the zoning laws every day while showing an astonishing arrogance and disrespect not only to the neighborhoods that surround it but to the District itself by its disregard for the earlier opinions of the Office of Planning, existing regulations, and policies set out in the District's Comprehensive Plan. GU is a relentless, greedy, and wholly self-interested neighbor. We need your help. My testimony follows below:

Gentlemen,

You have heard and seen substantial evidence, that, in the terms of the zoning regulation, demonstrate how Georgetown University IS objectionable to neighboring property in terms of noise, traffic, and number of students. I would, however, like to address another 'objectionable condition' that Georgetown has imposed on the communities...that being the toll that GU's relentless presumption of entitlement to our neighborhoods has taken in terms of residents' time and energy.

In addition to managing the daily issues of trash, noise, and student misbehavior, we community members have, since the 1980's, found ourselves in a David versus Goliath position of trying to protect ourselves from GU's recurring encroachment into our neighborhoods through its callous, self serving growth and housing policies. Today we have more students in zip code 20007 than we did eleven years ago when GU made assurances that their 2000 plan would largely clear the surrounding neighborhoods of its students. Now, ignoring that history, GU now wants another enrollment increase, of 20 to 30% over 2009 levels, depending on the plan submission date.

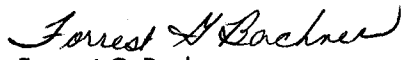
Since the fall of 2009 when GU first unveiled its 2010 to 2020 plan we have worked untold numbers of hours to first try to reason with the University and then to prepare our case before you, the zoning commission. We've raised money, hired experts, held community education sessions, conducted a door to door survey of our neighborhood, and compiled the unlicensed rentals for ourselves and DCRA. Moreover, throughout the process, we've had to contend with GU's gamesmanship in the timing of plan

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submissions, with shifting definitions and methodology for enrollment numbers, and, always, with GU's fanciful projections as to where students will and won't live and how they will behave. In essence, our small citizens' association has had to compete with GU's battery of administrators, staff, lawyers, and hired consultants to expose GU's very large and corrosive footprint in our neighborhood for what it is.

But, Gentlemen, we're tired. We're unpaid community members who have had to turn our lives upside down since fall 2009, to once again try to protect our homes and our quality of life. We need your help now and for the long run in not only rejecting this plan but seeing that GU takes its graduates and undergraduates either back to its own campus or to satellite campuses but out of our neighborhood... for good. We want to live knowing that we are not, as our local expression goes, just one party house from a nightmare. We want to live knowing we can make improvements in our homes as stable properties. Finally, we want to be able to assure anyone interested in moving into Burleith that he or she would be making an investment in a solid and steady residential neighborhood, and not a dorm.

Thank you.


Forrest G. Bachner