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Monday, June 6, 2011

DC Zoning Commission
441 - 4th Street, NW
Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Support for Georgetown University's Campus Plan

VIA FAX AND EMAIL

Dear Members of the Zoning Commission:

I first moved to Washington in 1985 after graduating from college in Boston. In the late 1980s, I rented a house in the 1400 block of 33rd Street NW. In the early 1990s, I lived in an apartment in the 3300 block of O Street NW. In the 1997, I bought a house in the 1500 block of 34th Street NW.

For 25 years, I have had residences in Washington, all of which were within 3-4 blocks of the campus of Georgetown University.

In those 25 years, I have observed a pattern. Georgetown University submits a campus plan. Various Georgetown citizens associations express indignation. The University makes changes to address the concerns of the neighbors and a plan is adopted. The changes to the campus are built, and prove to be beneficial to the University community and the neighboring community.

Since 1997, I have lived across the street from three houses that have been continuously rented by Georgetown students.

In the course of those 14 years, I have had a few run-ins with the owner of the properties, but have never had an issue with the student renters.

In those 14 years, I have seen traffic problems caused by poor management and planning on the part of the DC Government, but not as a result of the University.

At the risk of being too brutally honest, the quality of life in our city could be improved if the absentee landlords of Washington, and the DC Government were as competent as the administration of Georgetown University.

Since the administrations of Washington, Adams, and Jefferson, Georgetown University has contributed to the intellectual life of Washington DC. I have personally found the presence of a world-caliber University library within walking distance of my house to

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be an asset of immeasurable value. Programs in the arts, and seminars on various academic topics are made available at no charge to area residents.

I have found the University to be a valuable asset to the community. I chose the location of my house because, among other things, I wanted to be close to the facilities of a major university. I often wonder why people who do not wish to be close to students and late night activity choose to buy houses in an urban location between a major, world-known university and a nationally-known shopping and dining district.

I reviewed the first draft of the latest campus plan, and the most recent version. The University has made numerous changes to the plan to accommodate requests made by the DC Government and the various neighborhood groups.

I believe the plan as it currently exists before the Zoning Commission is a reasonable compromise that will improve both the University community and the local community, and I urge the Zoning Commission to vote in favor of it.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert B. Vanasse", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert B. Vanasse