

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO THE GU 2010-2020 PLAN – CASE 10-32

June 6, 2011

Good Evening, Chairman Hood and Commissioners:

I am Nan Bell and a resident of Burleith since the late 1970s. I am here tonight to support previous testimonies by the 2 ANCs, the four neighborhood associations, our political representatives and neighbors who oppose Georgetown University's 2010-2020 Plan.

To underscore the words of BCA President Lenore Rubino, I am "angry, frustrated and saddened" by what is happening in our neighborhood—a deterioration caused solely by a powerful university that refuses to do what is necessary, right and possible. GU CAN make policies that ensure a sustainable community for now and for the future. The university should have taken corrective steps many years ago. It is now imperative that GU move 100% of undergraduates onto campus or on satellite campuses to right the wrongs and save the surrounding neighborhoods.

I joined the effort to engage GU in a discussion about our neighborhood's needs almost one year ago. After several months of meetings, I became discouraged by GU's lack of respect for our legitimate concerns, and, what I saw, as a disdain for its surrounding neighborhoods' quality of life issues. I finally and regrettably concluded that GU simply did not care, or certainly did not care enough, to take significant action to address the communities' long-term town-gown problems. Growth has trumped GU's ethical and regulatory obligations not to become objectionable to neighboring properties.

When I first moved to Burleith in the late 1970s, I spent several nights a week going to student rental homes asking for quiet. Later my block changed to homes primarily occupied and owned by young professionals. As several home owners are currently moving and plan to rent, my neighbors and I are holding our collective breath for fear that the block will return to one with a number of student rental houses. Over the years, I have seen too many blocks change overnight from owner-occupied houses to student group rentals, resulting in rundown homes and unbearable noise. We should not have to live like this, because the unacceptable can so easily be fixed.

This university has had many opportunities over the past 10 plus years to put in place policies that ensure the viability of the communities that are now, in an unprecedented way, unified in opposition to this irresponsible ten-year Plan...an inadequate Plan that does not even include a new location for, or other relevant data on, a huge hospital called MEDSTAR or, to date, thorough transportation information for consideration.

I therefore ask you to reject GU's 2010-2020 Plan.

Thank you.

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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 10-32
EXHIBIT NO. 219