

D.C. Zoning Commission
Suite 210, 441 4th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

2011 JUL -3 AM 9:48

RE: OPPOSITION to Georgetown University Campus Plan 2010-2020, Case No. 10-32

Dear Zoning Commissioners:

My name is Sara Page Smith and I live in Burleith at 3618 Whitehaven Parkway, N.W. I have owned and lived in this property for thirty years, and prior to that I lived on T. Street N.W. in Burleith for ten years. Consequently, I have a total of forty years of experience living in close proximity to Georgetown University student houses. Because of all those years, I wish to voice my very strong opposition to the proposed Campus Plan put forth by Georgetown University.

For the past thirty years, I have had three GU student houses across the alley from my home and a half block away on 37th Street, there are four more GU student houses. Perhaps one or two of these houses are well maintained by their owners and cause few problems but the rest of them are a constant source of loud noise, abuse of garbage and trash, and the houses are rarely, if ever, consistently maintained, thereby leaves are never raked, lawns never mowed, snow left of public walks, and repairs to the property not done. In essence, the properties could easily appear in a photo of an urban slum.

In addition to the embarrassment of living near these houses and having to constantly deal with the loud, alcohol-driven behavior any time of day or night, I have been personally assaulted, both verbally and physically, when I complained to students about their noise. I have had one young undergraduate student come to my house and throw beer on me and my belongings, I have had students call me foul names, come into my yard in the middle of the night and destroy my plantings and bushes, and steal lawn objects. I have had an undergraduate student tell me that, "this is a Georgetown student neighborhood and (I) better get used to it". Following that outburst, he spit in my face.

These are just a few of hundreds of incidences that I have personally experienced over the years. Some were prior to the establishment of the Off-Campus Student program but many have occurred after. The only real difference the Off-Campus program has done for me is that I now have a phone number and an email address that I can use to report the incidents. I use these resources often as I do 911....probably once or twice a week. However, I rarely or never get feed-back. I have no idea if the offending students have been counseled or sanctioned but what I do know is that the same houses are at it again days later and year after year.

As for SNAP, I have never seen them or spoken with them. When I call the "hot line" to report offensive behavior, all I get is, "we'll send someone over to the address". Whether that is done or not, I never know. If SNAP does what it says it does, it remains the

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neighborhoods, then why do I have to call the "hot line" and/or 911 after the drunken group party of 20-30 kids has been going on for 3-4 hours? Where and when is SNAP roaming? If they are roaming, are they doing so while listening to their IPODS plugged in their ears so they cannot hear noise that the rest of us hear from a block away?

Georgetown University has fallen short in every area to lessen the negative impacts that their students have on the neighborhood. I have been watching the recent hearings and am aghast at the testimony of the university officials. They try so hard to be convincing that the neighbors are just angry, uncompromising people. Well, yes, we are angry but it is us, the neighbors who have been babysitting their students who act like spoiled, self-indulgent youngsters. It is us who have to teach them to bag garbage properly, not to park at fire hydrants or block alleyways and other's parking spaces. It is left to neighbors to pick up their garbage, beer cans, used condoms, etc.,etc.

Commissioners, help us, help me. Get these students back on campus so the university can take over the duties that the university continues to thrust on us and then wash their hands. Their current programs do not work! We need relief now, not tomorrow. If Georgetown's programs worked, then I and other neighbors would not have to call anyone about loud parties, trash, improper parking. I would not have to walk down the alley at midnight to get the correct address of an offender to give to the "hot line" or to the 911 operator. If their programs worked, there would be no parties of 30 to 50 students in the first place.

I could go on and on but I am tired of spending so much of my personal time and energy on problems that Georgetown University has forced on me and my neighborhood. I would like to think that I could enjoy my retirement in peace. With you help, perhaps I can.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara Page Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sara Page Smith
3618 Whitehaven Parkway N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007