

Testimony from :
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Re: Case No:10-32

Magis Row -- a densely packed, undergraduate student dormitory across a narrow street from families with young children, elderly and longtime residents -- is an egregious example of how Georgetown University has ignored the pleas of residents on our street to replace students with faculty or administration.

The underage and unsupervised children living in what is now called Magis Row, have no regard for the fact that they are living in a residential neighborhood. They are an unceasing source of noise at all hours, trash, parking and traffic problems on our little block of 36th Street.

Over the last 5 years that I have been living there, the neighbors have repeatedly pleaded with the University to remove students from our narrow street. After many years of doing nothing, finally, last year, the University's response was to rename the block, Magis Row, reassuring us that these students would be different.

I am here to tell you that they are not! My daughter, a college student herself at George Washington University, was aghast at the brazen and disrespectful behavior of the GU students. We have been accosted on two occasions by groups of drunken students loitering outside several of the houses shouting very lewd remarks to us as we were walking down our street.

These students also host large parties of visitors from outside the neighborhood who add to the noise and parking problems on our block.

I have was physically threatened by such a person after I requested that he turn down the radio in his car, which was parked outside one of the Magis Row houses, for more than 20 minutes, with no passenger inside, the motor running and the radio blasting.

When he finally came outside to retrieve his cigarets from the car, I informed him that he was not on campus, and that he had to conduct himself in a more civil way. He aggressively disputed the fact, and began walking toward me in a threatening manner as he called me disgusting names. I called the police, since, early on, I learned that calling SNAP was useless.

The University's experiment in formally integrating an undergraduate dormitory on our residential block, is a failure. There has been NO difference at all from the neighbors' perspectives. The Magis Row students are as loud, drunk and disruptive

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as the ones were before.

To make things even worse, during the summer, the University rents out those houses to summer students, and other transient individuals, who have an even less investment in the community and do not feel that they need to restrict their loud and offensive behavior. These transients are clueless about where they are living. They are not interested at all in adhering to rules of civility because they have no intentions of putting down roots into the community. So, once again, we are barraged by the individuals that the University pushes off its campus out into our neighborhood.

We, the neighbors on 36th and P streets, do not want a college dormitory on our 36th Street. This is a residential neighborhood - not an extension of the college campus. There is no buffer whatsoever between the permanent residents and the "dormitory" just across the street, as we live on a narrow one-way street, lined with small, historic row houses -- there is no escape for us in our homes or our in yards.

Ultimately, the University continues to callously ignore our rights to preserve our quality of life within our own homes. The neighbors on 36th Street and P Street appeal to the Zoning Commission to demand that the University not continue to increase its student population if it cannot house its students within the precinct of it's campus. The houses on Magis Row should only be used to house either University faculty or administrative offices.


Michelle Galler
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