

Via email: zcsubmissions@dc.gov

June 8, 2011

Mr. Anthony Hood, Chairman
DC Zoning Commission
441 - 4th Street, NW
2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Support for Georgetown University's Campus Plan

Dear Mr. Hood & Members of the Commission:

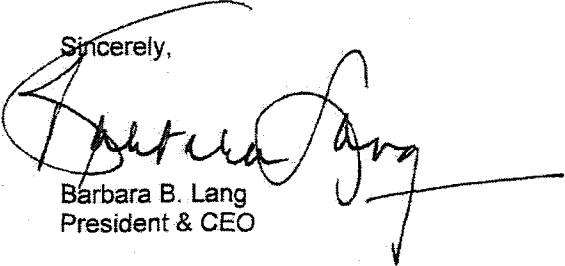
The DC Chamber of Commerce, representing over 1700 member businesses in the District of Columbia and throughout the Washington region, submits this letter in support of Georgetown University's campus plan.

As you know, Georgetown University is the largest private employer in the city. Therefore, Georgetown University plays a critical role in contributing to the economic well-being of the city and, indeed, the region. According to a just-released study by Dr. Stephen Fuller, which Georgetown University has submitted as part of its campus plan application to you, the federal government sector is expected to become less important as a source of long-term job growth while the higher education sector will gain increasing importance as the area's economic base. Moreover, employment trends for the city project the need for a more highly educated workforce as well as increasing demands for advance professional and continuing education by workers already in the labor force. Georgetown University can continue to play a critical role in educating the city's future workforce, *provided* it is allowed to grow within the framework of its proposed campus plan which projects growth primarily in the School of Continuing Studies and in its graduate-level programs. To not allow for this growth would harm the economic viability of the District for years come.

Recommendations made by the Office of Planning that Georgetown University house 100% of its students on campus or face a reduction in its enrollment, would severely strain the financial and academic programming of the University and stifle the growth the District deserves. The lost revenue and millions of dollars in capital investment could be debilitating to an institution that is an asset to this city through its employment of thousands of people and education of scores of individuals who go on to serve as leaders and decision makers locally, nationally and internationally. The Chamber recognizes the need to have neighborhood growth plans but to include draconian requirements on a growing business sector will harm the District beyond this one University and set an inappropriate precedent. Businesses, especially Universities, should be allowed to expand in an appropriate measure if the District truly wants to improve its workforce and economic vitality.

I would respectfully urge you to keep in mind Georgetown University's importance to the local economy and to the city's workforce when reaching a decision on the University's future. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Barbara B. Lang
President & CEO

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 10-32
EXHIBIT NO. 274