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The Honorable Anthony Hood
Chair, DC Zoning Commission
441 4th St., NW
Washington, DC 20001

June 17, 2011

**Re: ZC Case Number 10-32: Opposition to Georgetown University's 2010
Campus Plan/Loop Road**

Dear Chairman Hood:

As a long-time resident of Ward 3 (13 years in Glover Park and 34 years in Palisades), I write in opposition to the Georgetown University (GU) loop road, proposed for the edge of Glover Archbold Park, an extraordinary natural treasure in the nation's capital.

There are many reasons to oppose the loop road:

1. The loop road is not in the public interest because it would detract from the enjoyment of the natural beauty of the adjacent parkland.
2. As stated by Councilmember Mary Cheh before your committee on May 12, "The construction and use of the Loop Road will create substantial noise pollution, light pollution, and air pollution."
3. The Foxhall Citizens' Community Association, representing Foxhall Village residents, is opposed to the loop road.
4. It is unclear how Georgetown University plans to modify the current road for use of buses and other transportation needs in the future. Will the weight of buses and other vehicles using the loop road add further stress to the Glover Archbold Park slope, causing it to collapse? The slope has collapsed on two occasions already in the past, resulting in a fine by DDOE of \$30,000 a few years ago.
5. Any modification of the current road during and after construction will result in unpredictable amounts of stormwater runoff into Glover Archbold Park and a stream that flows into the Potomac River.
6. GU is uniquely situated in that it borders on two national parks: the C&O Canal National Historical Park and Glover Archbold Park. Both of these parks require good environmental stewardship from its neighbors, park visitors, and the University. Currently, universities throughout the country are finding ways to "go green" as part of their sustainable development efforts. Instead, GU is denying the potential negative environmental impacts to Glover Park from a loop road on the edge of the park.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 10-32
EXHIBIT NO. 286

7. Point 3 in the Scenic Easement agreement between GU and NPS dated September 15, 2003 is unclear and ambiguous: "Private roads and utilities may be constructed on the Property; however no road shall be constructed which would connect the north and south parts of the campus other than a gated road for service vehicles." What type of roads/gate does GU contemplate for this land if not ones related to a north-south road? Also, is the University denying the considerable risks (and costs) of the slope collapsing if new construction occurs on the scenic easement? Has the University considered the resulting negative impacts to the park, to park visitors, and to Foxhall Village residents from the plan?

8. The proposed loop road is not necessary; an alternative location for the proposed loop road is possible.

9. If approved, the loop road would set a precedent for other construction on the edge of other beautiful national parks.

The University should abandon its idea to build a loop road and find an alternative route that protects Glover Archbold Park, the park visitor experience, and the adjacent residential neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sally C. Strain".

Sally C. Strain
5712 Sherier Pl., NW
Washington, DC 20016