

STEFANIE L. BACHHUBER
3423 Q Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007

OFFICE OF ZONING

2011 MAR -9 AM 11:35

March 7, 2011

DC Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

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

Dear Zoning Commissioners:

For almost 12 years, I have owned and lived in my home on Q Street. My house abuts an alleyway on 2 sides - both on the side and in the back, with houses all around. My house is adjacent to the back yards of more than a dozen other homes - on Q Street, on 35th Street, and on 34th Street. Our neighborhood is one in which the residents tend to live in their homes for long periods of time (I'm one of the newer folks on the block) so you get to know your neighbors well and they become part of your "family." It's impossible not to have an impact on each other when you're 15 feet away from so many families!

I'm writing to strongly oppose Georgetown University's Proposed Campus Plan as it will negatively impact the quality of life in the neighborhoods that folks have spent so much time building. Putting so many students out into the neighborhoods will not only ruin the feel of the neighborhoods, but it will also hurt property values. Students are notoriously poor at maintaining a home and it's usually evident which homes are group houses with all the trash outside, flags and banners flying from windows, or the general state of disrepair.

As a resident that is close to campus, I've had many incidents of property damage from intoxicated students walking home late after a night of partying. I am constantly cleaning up beer cups, cans and bottles from my front yard and have had many plants stepped on or broken. Just last spring, I had my miniature, old growth boxwoods devastated after a student fell into them one night. It is going to take years to bring them back to proper health. And one morning, I woke up to Silly String sprayed all over the sidewalk, my plants, and my iron stair railing (that took a good scrubbing to remove.)

In addition, I was one of those unfortunate neighbors affected by the Georgetown University students living on 35th Street. They called themselves "The Apostles of O'Neill" in order to skirt zoning regulations, and for 3 years I had to put up with the noise and constant foul language coming from the back yard in addition to the late night parties and trash everywhere. Despite the house being at the end of my alley, the proximity of all the houses made the sound amplify and echo. I spent countless hours awake in the middle of the night, calling not only the DC Ward 2 police, but also the GU Campus Security. I even sent a letter to Dr. DeGioia, the President of Georgetown, asking for his assistance and there was zero response from him or Campus Security. Aside from the noise factors, there is also the issue of student cars off campus. When the GU students lived on 35th Street, there were often times cars illegally parked in my alley. How is GU going to handle all the additional cars off campus, adding even further to our crowded streets?

There has to be a point at which a school that is physically bound by neighborhood streets must cease to negatively impact the community with its growth. Given the fact that GU has been ineffective in controlling its off-campus students AND, just as importantly, has been unresponsive to neighbors' concerns when they occur, how can anyone be in support of this plan?

Sincerely,


Stefanie Bachhuber

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 10-32
EXHIBIT NO. 17