

PATRICIA T. SCOLARO
1807 37th STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20007
June 16, 2011

2011 JUN 20 AM 8:40

The DC Zoning Commission
441 Fourth Street N'W
Washington, DC 20001

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

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Patricia Scolaro. I am a long-time resident of Burleith. In the year 2000, I was President of the Burleith Citizens' Association (BCA) when Georgetown University's 2000-2010 Plan was heard before the Board of Zoning Adjustment. Once again I am participating with other members of the community in opposition to a Ten Year Plan proposed by Georgetown University, the 2010-2020 Plan.

During the hearings on the 2010-2020 Plan, I have heard questions about the extent to which opponents of the plan represent the Burleith Community. We opponents do represent the Community.

Every resident of this community has had multiple opportunities to come forth -- in meetings, at picnics, at parties, in letters, by phone, by email, by word of mouth -- to let the leadership know their views on the proposed plan. The BCA Board unanimously adopted a resolution formally opposing Georgetown's 2010-2020 Plan after carefully listening to the views of Burleith residents expressed during these events. The current President of the BCA invited two residents who expressed opposition to the BCA's position to meet with her to discuss their concerns. Neither responded to her invitation. If there are other residents who do not stand with the BCA in its opposition, they have not come forward, despite ample opportunity to do so.

In November of 2008, prior to the University's first presentation on the 2010-2020 Ten Year Plan, the BCA President's letter in The Burleith Bell (the community newsletter) stated "I urge all members of the community to attend and let your voice be heard. This is your chance to make a difference in how Georgetown University affects our everyday lives". Practically every newsletter in the following two years echoed the same message and included an update on the current status of the plan. The BCA's website (burleith.org) has been consistently updated with all relevant reports from the University as well as the ANC, OP, DDOT, relevant media, position papers, etc. Georgetown University held the first meeting to introduce the 2010-2020 Ten Year Plan to the surrounding communities on November 8, 2008. There were three more such meetings over the next one and a half years, the last one on April 26, 2010. Georgetown University submitted the 2010-2020 Ten Year Plan to the Zoning Commission on December 31, 2010.

The meetings held by Georgetown University were well-attended by the community. Most community members who spoke made clear their opposition to the University's plan to provide no new campus housing for students, despite a planned significant increase in enrollment on top of the significant increase in enrollment since 2000. Furthermore, at ANC's 2E and 2D well-advertised and well-attended Public Meeting, only a few people spoke in support of the Plan whereas numerous people spoke in opposition.

Commissioners, let me assure you of the commitment of the many people, all volunteers, who have been working these past two years to save this community. This large project had many facets requiring extensive research. Volunteers spent hours and hours working in small and large groups, in individual meetings, in workshops and discussions, talking to the residents, and often quietly, one-on-one, to work out some little detail or to verify a fact or even to give encouragement when spirits were low. Other volunteers ordered and distributed lawn signs opposing the University's Plan—and kept replacing them when they were stolen. Assembling the documentation and preparing the testimony for the BCA was a formidable task, but the residents of this dedicated community completed the project. Seventy-three residents gave

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO.

10-32

EXHIBIT NO.

296

close to \$14,000 in support of the BCA's efforts opposing the 2010-2020 Plan, Residents wrote letters to The Burleith Bell and The Georgetown Current, attended Georgetown University's presentations; organized and presented three separate (and well-attended) informational meetings in the neighborhood and signed petitions. Twenty-two residents willingly testified before the Zoning Commission, even though they had to stay late and then return another night in order to meet the schedule for testifying; and many many wrote letters to the Zoning Commission describing their personal unpleasant experiences.

The efforts and commitment of so many Burleith residents over such a sustained period of time shows how deeply concerned residents are for the well-being of our neighborhood. This concern is also reflected in the unified stand of four well-established neighborhoods which cover the entire area surrounding the University and the two ANC's who represent the residents of these four communities.

Well-established and cared-for neighborhoods are the bedrock of the living city and now Burleith, just such a neighborhood, is in crisis. In the end, it is up to you, the Zoning Commission, to protect us,

I urge you to give every consideration to the BCA presentation, the documents submitted by the BCA, the testimony of our witnesses and the letters from many Burleith residents, all of which speak to the objectionable impacts Georgetown University has on our community, objectionable impacts that will be exacerbated by the 2010-2020 Plan.

Sincerely,



Patricia Scolaro