

June 19, 2011

DC Zoning Commission, Suite 210

441 4th St. NW

Washington, DC 20001

2011 JUN 20 PM 9:06

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to oppose approval of Georgetown University's request for a continuance of the hearing scheduled for Monday, June 20, 2011.

I have lived in Burleith for more than 35 years, and have had many interactions with both Georgetown students and Georgetown University.

I am a teacher at the middle school level in the DC Public School system. Training teachers to recognize bullying has been a focus at our school this year. Three criteria can define bullying: first, it is aggressive and intends to cause harm; second, it is repetitive; and third, it occurs in the presence of an imbalance of power or strength.

While Georgetown University may claim not to intend to cause harm, it has done so—many examples of distress have been presented.

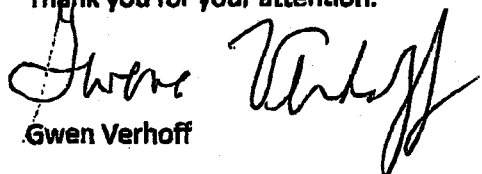
The University has repeatedly made ten-year plans for its future with no regard for the current and future harm to the surrounding neighborhoods and environment.

The University has vast resources and connections—far more than our neighborhoods—and thus is in a position of power.

I see a strong parallel between school children bullying other children and Georgetown University bullying the neighborhoods. The University's request for a continuance is like another ploy in the arsenal of a bully: when a bully's power is threatened, the bully may back down, but often only in order to avoid punishment. However, that bully will be back unless measures are put in place to educate the bully so that the behavior changes.

I urge you to deny the request of the University for a continuance.

Thank you for your attention.


Gwen Verhoff

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

EXHIBIT NO. 10-32
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