

2011 JUN 19 AM 9:06

1924 37th St., NW
Washington, DC 20007
June 19, 2011

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

Dear Commissioners:

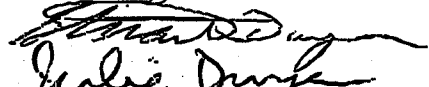
As residents/property owners in Burleith, we would like to lend our support to the position of the Burleith Citizens Association in opposition to Georgetown University's Proposed Campus Plan. To be clear, we are not looking to vilify Georgetown or place every ill in the neighborhood at its doorstep. The university brings much to the city, and we accept that having the amenities of the university nearby means that we'll have a diverse and lively mix of neighbors that includes students, as well as families, faculty, and others.

But we must strike a balance, and in our view that balance is precarious. We can attest to the accuracy of complaints you have heard from the Burleith Citizens Association, and numerous neighbors, about loud and unkempt group houses. There is no "silent majority" of residents here -- as some would have you believe -- who feel the BCA is exaggerating the state of affairs.

To expand enrollment without providing for adequate housing, as Georgetown currently envisions, risks pushing this neighborhood over the tipping point. While we appreciate the university's efforts to patrol its students, unfortunately that approach clearly is not the answer. This is a neighborhood of townhouses with shared alleys and back decks over which sound carries for blocks. Pinpointing which student house is causing a problem at any given time is difficult. The onus should not be on the residents to make that determination at 2 am. And unfortunately Georgetown's efforts do not help with large groups of students who pass by noisily late at night. By the time a call is made, the immediate problem is gone.

Finally, while the defensive, self-righteous missives from some students on this issue make us smile -- it wasn't *that* long ago we were doing the same -- one point strikes a chord. Georgetown's strict on-campus limits on alcohol clearly *do* have the effect of pushing partying out into the community. A more tolerant stance towards off-campus drinking on campus could help redirect some of this activity, and give Georgetown's voice more credence on this issue.

Sincerely,


Julie and Stuart Dwyer

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 10-32
EXHIBIT NO. 300