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D.C. Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210,
Washington, D.C. 20001

June 19, 2011

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

Dear Zoning Commissioners:

My name is Mario Bravo and I live in Burleith at 3541 S Street, N.W. with my wife and fifteen year old daughter. I am writing today to declare my opposition, not only to Georgetown University's ten year expansion plan, but to its request for a continuance of the hearing scheduled for tomorrow, June 20, 2011. We need closure and we need it now. The University has had ample time to submit viable campus and transportation plans. As one Burleith resident said during her testimony, the University has had since 1789 to get it right.

Further delay means more uncertainty for the citizens of Burleith and Georgetown and the loss of more home-owner occupied properties as frustrated and exhausted residents give up and move away.

We bought our Burleith home in 2000 and we adore our community. Regrettably much of what we like about it—the vibrant mix—is being inexorably altered as whole blocks convert to student rentals (group houses). Some have tried to argue (University supporters) that it's better to have students in rental houses because the University has the leverage needed to get them to behave. If that were true, we wouldn't be having the battle we're now having and SNAP would have been roundly declared a success, which it clearly is not. Let's face it: the University will never be able to control off-campus behavior.

When young professionals rent, they keep hours similar to working families and may even invest time in maintaining their properties and gardens—in a sort of "dress rehearsal" for home ownership. Students—even graduate students (with the exception perhaps of medical students)—have very different schedules and agendas.

In closing I want to make clear that I strongly support the Office of Planning's recommendation that the University house all of its undergraduates. There are some who are saying that it is only a vocal minority in Burleith who are opposed to Georgetown's plan but that is wishful thinking on the part of the University and the District of Columbia.

CASE NO. 10-32

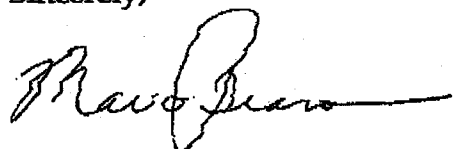
EXHIBIT NO. 203

supporters who refuse to take the community's complaints seriously. We are not expendable and we are tired of being treated as though we are.

I watched the webcast of BCA President Lenore Rubino's testimony and CAG president Jennifer Altemus' testimony and can assure you that they speak for the vast majority of residents. They accurately depicted the gravity of the problems and they proposed solutions that we residents are in full agreement with.

Thank you for taking my views into consideration. Please understand that the fate of our beleaguered community is in your hands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mario Bravo", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mario Bravo
3541 S Street, N.W.

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