

June 19, 2010

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3818 T Street NW  
Washington, DC 20007

Anthony Hood  
DC Zoning Commission  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
Via Fax: 202-727-6072

Subject: Case No. 10-32. Opposition to Georgetown University's 2010-2020 Campus Plan

Dear Commissioner Hood:

As a long-time resident of Burleith, I am writing to express my continuing concerns about Georgetown University's proposed 2010-2020 Campus Plan. My concerns at the moment specifically involve two issues: (1) graduate students and (2) the university's request for a continuance.

Graduate Students. Increased numbers of graduate students will only add to Burleith's problems. As you have heard and read in scores of testimonies, the threat to Burleith's survival as a residential community stems principally from too many students living in too many group houses. Both undergraduates and graduates flood the neighborhood because GU, over many years, has failed to limit its growth even as the obvious objectionable effects from that growth (noise, traffic, misconduct, health, and safety) have accumulated at an unsustainable rate. This should not be our problem to solve. It is the university's problem to solve, yet they have not been forced to do so even when the effects of their growth clearly violate the law. Instead of solving the problem, they are dangerously exacerbating it by proposing more students without providing for alternative housing either on campus or in satellite campuses. It is also clear that their attempts to stiffen sanctions on students for behavioral violations have never worked. Ineffective efforts such as SNAP are the subject of ridicule even among students (other than when they are giving testimony in the hearing room under the gaze of university officials). Furthermore, the hard reality is that anything the university promises with respect to heightened enforcement will not and cannot solve the fundamental problem of student group houses in a residential community. Finally, the university's cavalier and condescending statements that "graduate students make better neighbors" is patently absurd to anyone who has had their life made miserable by partying group houses, both graduate and undergraduate. The "solution" to Burleith's survival is reclaiming group houses for longer-term residential use and thereby attracting non-students who will be invested in improving the neighborhood's quality of life.

Continuance. I realize this is a procedural matter and hope that my commenting on it won't be seen as presumptuous. But I am concerned about GU's request. The Commission has been extraordinarily patient with Georgetown University. They have had ample opportunities and literally years to prepare a complete, well-researched plan. They have failed to do so with respect to traffic analyses, the hospital, enrollment management, and related provisions for housing their

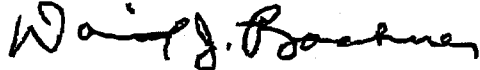
COMMISSION  
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 10-32  
EXHIBIT NO. 308

students. Rather than be granted a continuance, they should if anything be penalized for lack of due diligence, for wasting many people's time, and eroding the scarce resources of scores of community volunteers. Having observed Georgetown University's machinations since I moved to Burleith in 1978, I am more than a little suspicious that their request for a continuance is really a tactic in a war of attrition against a very weary and worried community. I am also very concerned that their request for more time is really a ploy to keep building their graduate numbers in the unregulated interim. Instead of being given more time, they should really be subject to a moratorium until they can provide clear numbers so we can understand their graduate enrollment trajectory since Fall 2009 (the numbers that are in their request for continuance)—in other words, actual graduate numbers for Spring 2010, Fall 2010, and Spring 2011, as well as projected graduate numbers for Fall 2011.

Thank you for your kind attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,



David J. Bachner  
3818 T Street NW  
Washington, DC 20007  
202-239-1209

# FAX Transmission

Number of pages including cover sheet 3Attention: ANTHONY HOODDate: 6/19/11Company: ZONING COMMISSIONFrom: DAVID J. BACHNER

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Fax: 202-727-6072Phone: 202-239-1209Comments: CASE NO. 10-32..Opposition to Georgetown University?  
2010-2020 Campus PLAN

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