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President, CEO
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June 20, 2011

Zoning Commission
441 - 4th Street, NW, #200 *South*
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Support for Georgetown University's Campus Plan

Dear Commissioners:

I came to the city as a student at Georgetown University in 1948 and graduated Class of 1952. I have been a resident of the District of Columbia for 51 years, since returning from New York in 1960. I have lived and worked here ever since. I love this city. I lived and worked in Georgetown for 41 years and now have my home and business in Chevy Chase DC with my wife Karen. I am writing to you in support of the University's campus plan, out of frustration for the way in which the University has been treated throughout this process, and indeed, by the city agencies who are supposed to be fair and balanced. I decided I could no longer stay silent and began thinking about my own experience in Georgetown with the neighbors.

In 1960 I founded the 1789 Restaurant, the Tomb's and F. Scott's on 36th Street, NW, close to the University. I came to serve the school as well as the community. The property was and still is owned by the University; I bought the businesses that were operating on those properties. Twenty-five years ago, I sold all these establishments to the Clyde's Restaurant Group and, today, I am very proud to say that they are all highly successful businesses frequented not only by the University community but also by the Georgetown residential and business communities and visitors to the city far and near.

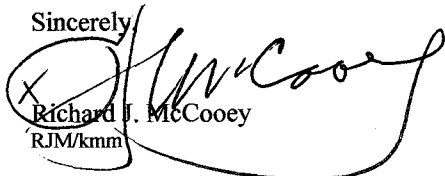
Back in 1960 when I went to the ABC Board for a liquor license, I was opposed by the Citizens Association of Georgetown. It was a fight that would continue all the way to the Court of Appeals and cost me a significant amount of time, energy, trauma, and money. It was such an ordeal that the issue received national publicity. Fortunately, not just for me, for the community and the city, I prevailed. Today, the 1789 Restaurant is renowned in this city, throughout the country, and dare I say, throughout the world. In fact, President Barack Obama brought German's Prime Minister there for dinner last Monday evening.

To me, all of this is relevant to the issue at hand: the Citizens Association of Georgetown fights everything in Georgetown. They are currently fighting Tudor Place for reason that escapes me. If they had their way, nothing, nothing would get done in Georgetown. Georgetown would never evolve, grow, and change for the better to meet the world. Georgetown tragically would become a place where no one would want to go. This would devastate the community and Washington, DC.

I urge you to think long and hard about the influence of the citizen's association. I believe it does NOT speak for the vast majority of the residents in Georgetown. Please provide fairness and balance to your deliberation, something which has been sorely lacking throughout this process.

Thank you again for all you do to help make this city great.

Sincerely,


Richard J. McCooley
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