

June 16, 2011

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Dear Zoning Commissioners:

My name is Sara Paulson and I live on 4434 Q Street, NW, in the Foxhall Community. I would like to present my objections to Georgetown University's proposal to build a loop road along the Glover Archibold Park.

My husband Arne and I bought our townhouse from his mother in 1980. My husband grew up in the townhouse, after his parents bought it in 1961. He was born in Washington, DC. I myself first moved to the area in 1953 as an Army dependent, and have lived here off and on all my life.

Arne and I met while undergraduates at Georgetown University in the late 1960's. We highly treasured our experience at Georgetown and continued to have ties with those on the academic side, providing career advice to groups of undergraduates for many years until we retired 5 years ago.

However, in the past 10 years our views of Georgetown have been negatively colored by our experience with its administrators, who appear to have the aim of expanding the school for monetary and prestige reasons, with little concern for the effect that this is having on neighboring communities. Our concerns for many years were for the increasing numbers of students who moved into our community and caused noise in the evenings with their parties.

Now we are faced with a more serious and lasting threat, in the form of the loop road that the Georgetown administrators would like to build on the west side of their campus, abutting Glover Archibold Park. This road not only threatens our peace and quiet, it threatens a beautiful and much used national park.

With regards to ourselves, we live about half a block from 44th street and can clearly hear noises from the Georgetown campus: football games, clock chimes. These sounds have not bothered us. However, the thought of listening to diesel engines and, eventually, the sirens of emergency vehicles if and when a new hospital is built, from early morning to the evening, is very unnerving.

Just as important, we use the Glover Archibold Park for walks and appreciate its beauty. It is unimaginable that the process of building the loop road and the utilization of the road itself by heavy vehicles will not have permanent negative effects on this park and its animal inhabitants. This type of green space is what makes Washington a beautiful city, and was one of the reasons that it was recently named the top city in the US for families with children. At a time

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 10-32
EXHIBIT NO. 317

when all of us need to get outdoors to exercise for our general health, why destroy the areas where a large number of people walk and play?

I know the campus well. I take walks through there from time to time. I know that there are areas where Georgetown could create turn around spaces for its buses, such as by the Lombardi Cancer Center. The fact that Georgetown is not considering such options at this time leads me to believe that they have even more ambitious plans for this loop road, e.g. a major artery for bringing traffic from Canal Road to a new hospital on Kehoe Field.

I would also like to point out that this road is in clear violation of the scenic easement that Georgetown negotiated with the Park Service. I have no idea why the Park Service is sitting under a bushell basket on this issue; it is something that you Commissioners should look into. It is clear to Foxhall neighbors that when this swap was made both sides felt they were giving and getting something of value. Georgetown received land that allowed it to enlarge its Canal Street entrance. The Park Service got an easement aimed to preserve the park. Georgetown is now pretending that somehow hundreds of buses daily will have no effect on the "scenary".

I urge you to forbid Georgetown from building this road. It is a travesty to the beauty of our neighborhood and the beauty of Washington DC itself.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara H. Paulson". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'S' and a long, sweeping underline.

Sara H. Paulson

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