

SIDNEY D. & FRANCES L. SPENCER

Cloisters West-Georgetown

3721 Winfield Lane, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20007

Telephone--202 338 8024 E-Mail--sdfls@msn.com

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April 4, 2011

Mr. Anthony Hood, Chairman
DC Zoning Commission
441 4th St., NW
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Georgetown University Campus Plan

Dear Mr. Hood and Members of The Commission:

We are writing this to support Georgetown University's Campus Plan.

As background, we live about as close as it is possible to live to the main Georgetown Campus. Opening our back gate, we step on to University property adjacent to Reservoir Road, the access road that exits from the main building of the School of Health studies, and a major entrance walk way for students, staff, faculty, and visitors. A parking lot for Medical staff is perhaps 40 feet across the road from our back fence.

We moved here almost 24 years ago anticipating my retirement (yes!! We retired from Connecticut to Washington, DC). We enjoy our neighborhood thoroughly. There are students in The Cloisters and just up the street in Burleith and, from time to time there have been issues involving both partying and traipsing back and forth to/from campus. However, we have never had a situation that could not be handled reasonably or that was a continuing issue. Our Homeowners' Association has been efficient and outreaching to students and cooperative with the University which has made major efforts, particularly in the last 10-15 years, to ameliorate student-related problems. We ourselves have always worked very hard to meet and be friendly with students. We can honestly say that in our immediate area there have been no really bothersome incidents for several years.

Most of the strident complaints against the University seem to involve student-related issues such as those just noted. Our experience is that the benefits of living next to a first class university and hospital are far greater than any of these "town-gown" contretemps. There are lectures, concerts, courses to be taken, a top notch library, and things like lacrosse and soccer to be enjoyed by anyone who wants to do so. When we first moved here I joked that we could walk to the emergency room. Well, we have! At least 3 times! And at our age the easy availability of first class medical care turns out to be very important. No wonder that so-called "college towns" are high on the list of preferred retirement locations. Finally, on this point, we suggest that you ask those who are so stridently opposed to Georgetown's existence (that's really what it is), what their property values are today compared with 20 or even 10 years ago.

On the proposed Campus Plan itself, we simply don't see anything that bothers us.

Finally, two items about Sidney in the interest of full disclosure. First, my undergraduate degree is from Georgetown's School of Foreign Service a long time ago—1951. At that time on-campus living space was very limited and School of Foreign Service and Language Institute undergrads basically had to live off campus. So I now live closer to campus than I ever did as a student. Second, I was Captain of DC Voting Precinct 6 for several years, including 1996. In the

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

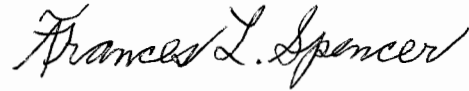
CASE NO. 10-32
EXHIBIT NO. 31

November election that year neighborhood activists challenged the right of over 200 Georgetown undergraduates to vote. With the help and advice of Board of Elections staff, I rejected all the challenges on legal grounds. The case went through various appeals but in the end the rejections were upheld by the DC Superior Court. My point in bringing this up is that I do have some knowledge and experience in local relations as they affect the University.

Very truly yours,



SIDNEY D. SPENCER



FRANCES L. SPENCER

cc: Anne Y Koester, J.D., M.A.
Director, Off Campus Student Life
Georgetown University