



ANNE BEERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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June 24, 2010

Mr. Anthony Hood, Chair
Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Hood:

I am writing in support of Georgetown University's 2010 Campus Plan. Georgetown University has been a valuable partner with Anne Beers Elementary School in recent years and we feel extremely fortunate to have worked with their students, staff and faculty. They have helped to improve and sustain our school in many ways, which I will discuss later in this letter.

First, let me tell you about Anne Beers Elementary School. Located in Ward 7, we are a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Catalyst school. We are also the only NASA Explorer School in DCPS. These two programs, combined with the School-Wide Applications Model (SAM), means Beers students have access to an excellent core curriculum supplemented with individualized emotional and developmental supports. Anne Beers offers preschool and Head Start classes for 3 year olds, as well as art, music and physical education classes for all of our students through grade 5. Our faculty and staff are dedicated to our students. In fact, several members of our staff live in our community, with many sending their own children to Beers. Demographically, 100% of our students are African-American.

Georgetown University staff and faculty have enthusiastically supported our school but I would like to first provide a few examples of the tremendous work in which Georgetown students have engaged at Anne Beers:

- PhD biology students conducted marine biology labs throughout the school year as part of a Marine Discovery Program. They work with a classroom of 5th grade students every week at the Anne Beers site.
- Another group of undergraduate students volunteer with first, second and third grade students in a literacy afterschool program called DC Reads. They provide on-site tutoring sessions twice a week during the school year. This effort has been a valuable resource for many of our students.
- Georgetown students also volunteered to help set up, manage a display table, and present in workshops during the 2008 STEM Summit, a city-wide event for DC students, parents and teachers.

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We are also appreciative of Georgetown staff's on-going support for the STEM initiative. Several STEM advisory board seats were/are occupied by Georgetown staff. In addition, Georgetown underwrote the lunches for all attendees at the Summit.

These examples underscore the generosity from Georgetown University and clearly demonstrate their support not only for Anne Beers but also for their neighbors throughout the District of Columbia. I commend the University for its service to the community and urge the Board to approve the Campus Plan.

Sincerely,

Gwendolyn Peyton

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Principal