



DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative

3701 HAYES STREET NE ♦ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20019 ♦ (202) 398-2230 X 106

April 13, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Hood:

As Founder and CEO of Cesar Chavez Public Charter Schools for Public Policy and the Project Director of the DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative, I am pleased to support Georgetown University's 2010 Campus Plan. As you know, the DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative (DCPNI) is one of 21 communities nationwide that successfully won a planning grant from the US Department of Education's Promise Neighborhood Initiative. DCPNI will create a cradle to college pipeline of services and supports that will dramatically change outcomes for children and youth who live in the Parkside-Kenilworth neighborhood in Ward 7.

Georgetown University is and will continue to be a valuable partner to the work of DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative. In my role as the CEO of Cesar Chavez Public Charter Schools, and more specifically during a period in which I served as Principal of our Parkside campus, I became very familiar with the work of Georgetown's Ward 7 Initiative through which Georgetown students provide critical mentoring and tutoring services to students in the schools of the Ward. Danielle Smith, the Coordinator of the Georgetown Ward 7 initiative, has been a regular participant at our monthly neighborhood dinners and has been very supportive of DCPNI.

The community at Georgetown University, including their students, staff and faculty, has demonstrated their commitment to service in Parkside Kenilworth. Their DC Reads program, under the leadership of Nathaniel Roloff, provides mentoring and tutoring to underperforming students both during the school day and after school at Kenilworth Elementary School. We have partnered with DC Reads to submit an application to the DC Children and Youth Investment Trust to provide an extended day summer academic enrichment program to Parkside-Kenilworth students. We look forward to working with Georgetown and DC Reads to extend the program within Parkside-Kenilworth as part of our US Department of Education Implementation Grant application, which is due in late June or early July.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 10-32
EXHIBIT NO. 60

Georgetown students in the DC Reads program provided much needed support for two DCPNI Neighborhood Resident Retreats on January 22nd and March 19th at which more than 150 Parkside-Kenilworth residents spent a full day. Georgetown students served as note-takers and supported the process that allowed the residents to define the needs of their children and articulate their expectations of DCPNI. At the end of one of the retreats, a young resident of Parkside-Kenilworth testified that "Until today, I did not know that anyone in the neighborhood cared about us (youth)!" Without the contribution of Georgetown students that day, this young lady might not ever have come to this realization.

Charlene Brown-McKenzie, who leads the Meyers Institute for College Preparation at Georgetown, serves as Co-Chair for DCPNI's Successful Middle School to High School Transition Results-Driven Work Group.

Students from Professor Joseph A. Ferrara's masters level policy class volunteered to staff the DCPNI Policy Desk and provided critical research into policies affecting college admissions for students in the District of Columbia.

John J. DeGioia, President of Georgetown University, has been one of the strongest supporters of DCPNI's plan for improving outcomes for children in Ward 7 and committed Georgetown to be one of our partners in the successful planning grant that we received from the US Department of Education. On March 31, 2011, he co-hosted and moderated an education forum on Character Development and Student Achievement in order to address a key missing element in the national debate about how best to deliver quality education to underserved populations.

The students and faculty of Georgetown have demonstrated repeatedly their dedication to DCPNI and the children of Parkside-Kenilworth. We look forward to working with them as we move forward with the DC Promise Neighborhood. It is with great pleasure that I wholeheartedly support Georgetown University and their new Campus Plan. Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Irasema Salcido', with a stylized, sweeping flourish.

Irasema Salcido
CEO & Founder, Cesar Chavez Public Charter Schools for Public Policy
Project Director, DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative