RON'S POTOMAC VIEWS

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April 13, 2000

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Sheila Reid-Cross, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW 2nd Floor
Washington, D, C. 20001

Re: The George Washington University Campus Plan
Board of Zoning Adjustment Application No. 16553

Dear Members of the Board:

As a neighbor of The George Washington University and a resident of Ward 2, I am writing this letter in support of the above-referenced application. I feel the Campus Plan continues the direction of the leadership at George Washington University to be responsive to both the city and community in which it is located as well as maintaining and enhancing its reputation as an institution of higher education serving the youth of the nation.

A part of the reason I chose to retire in the city of Washington is because of the proximity of Foggy Bottom to the University. I have found the University to be an extremely valuable neighbor enriching my life in many ways. I have carefully reviewed the campus plan and find that the plan gives careful consideration to the need for the University to grow and develop while attempting to be sensitive to the needs of the community. I have also considered carefully the objections of the ANC-2A. I find the majority of their objections to be directed largely to the style of the report, to a questioning of past figures and interpretations, and lacking a knowledge of the complexities in the operation of a major institution. Further I feel that the University has increased tremendously their efforts to reach out to the community for its input. Indeed, while I feel that the University has taken many constructive steps to reach out, I know that I and many of my associates purposely stay away from ANC meetings because of the hostile and intimidating atmosphere created by many on the Commission. As a new comer to the community it appears to me that the Commission serves primarily as a deterrent to progress and adds to the expense of worthwhile projects in the campus area through the delays they cause.

There is one area, however, where I am in agreement with the Commission and feel that restraint of the University is needed. That is in the area of University expansion OUTSIDE of the campus plan. It is there that I feel the development of Foggy Bottom as a balanced residential community is threatened. I realize that the official restraint to off-campus development is through Zoning and market considerations. I value Foggy Bottom as unique residential community and feel that unless reasonable restraint or sympathetic communication facilitates it, there will be a loss of the ability of middle income people to live in the area. Indeed I feel that the University is attempting to address this issue, and I commend them and the few voices of reason on the ANC which are attempting to meet more harmoniously on this issue.

I believe that the speedy acceptance of the campus plan will facilitate this action. I urge you to approve this application.

Sincerely,

Roland J. Lehker

BZA
Case No. 16553
Exhibit No. 108

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16553
EXHIBIT NO.108