810 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Washington, D. C. 20037
17 April 2000

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

'00 APR 20 P 3:41

re: George Washington University Campus Plan
BZA Adjustment Application No. 16553

Dear Ms. Reid-Cross:

As a resident of Ward 2 and a neighbor of the George Washington University on and off since 1972, I am writing to ask that the above referenced application be returned to GWU for greater specification and a pledge to restrict themselves to a developed plan within the limits of a set space unless they return to the city for further approval.

It is interesting to note the location of the new Hospital on Washington Circle property owned by GWU is being allowed to expand beyond the housing line of the homes which existed there when I first arrived in Washington. I, a property tax payer, can't expand my home into the space between my existing front wall and the sidewalk, but a non-taxpaying entity which will block open space and increase pollution on the "residential" side of 23rd Street can and will. The new GWU Hospital is just one of 36 properties which were "changed" since the last plan was approved ten years ago. This tradition of buying and then changing the purpose is what worries me about the present plan. It is too vague and ignores parking and space use issues. If the plan is to eliminate Foggy Bottom as a residential neighborhood, then that should be stated and the city either concur or put GWU on notice that they must limit themselves to a set of boundaries that respect the shared nature of our lived environment.

I have watched as home by home the FB neighborhood has evaporated before my eyes. I have nothing against GWU per se. I make use of its public facilities and note its contribution to the intellectual life of the city and betterment of society. However, this is not license to destroy a neighborhood when there is plenty of land within the existing GWU plot which could be much better put to use. A plan should address specifics of what will be done, not just say "bigger".

I urge you to reject the present plan and to ask GWU for a plan which addresses growth within its existing boundaries and to return what it has purchased outside to their previous purposes. GWU is an educational institution, not a real estate venture. That concept needs to be reflected in the plan and respected by them when approved.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,
Thomas W. Bower

BZA
Case No. 16553
Exhibit No. 117

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16553
EXHIBIT NO.117