College Summit
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OCT 14 1999

September 30, 1999

Mr. Stephen Joel Trachtenberg
President, The George Washington University

Re: G.W.U. BZA CASE 16553

Dear Mr. Trachtenberg,

On behalf of the students, parents, teachers, and mentors who participated in the George Washington University Workshop, and our community that depends on harnessing young talent, I want to thank you for your effective support of the College Summit initiative. This past summer, 380 students exited the doors of our colleges with determination, carrying the hard-wrought admissions materials they will need to enter successfully college doors as freshmen in twelve months. We are now in the thick of our evaluation period, a time for reflection about the outstanding teamwork that has made college more achievable for hundreds of promising young people.

This is the third year The George Washington University has deepened its relationships with communities and institutions through College Summit. Kathryn Napper and Rhonda Leshman did a wonderful job of leading this effort and welcoming students. We are beginning to see the fruit of their admissions work with College Summit, as a number of College Summit alumni enrolled at the University this fall. Your faculty involvement was outstanding. English Professor Robert McRuer gathered a dynamic group of faculty members, Angela Hewett, Kevin Mahoney, Jessie Matthews, who produced excellent work throughout the four-day program. Student Melissa Nann was a terrific help in our office.

I will close with the words from the College Summit essay written by Daniel Trujillo.

> *I had been told that if the weather got too severe that I could always blow the whistle and the members of my team would find me. I reached down for the whistle and remembered I had left it by the fire. I panicked instantly. What if the storm got out of control and the rain and wind swept my whistle away? I crawled around for only a few minutes, but it felt like hours. When my hand found that shiny metal whistle, I held it close to my chest where it belonged and hastily returned to the lean-to. I put the whistle to my lips, but found myself unable to sound the rescue call. I had never been more confused in my life ... I returned outside and looked at the storm. Then I looked at the whistle. I don't know how long I stood there, but it felt as if time were standing still, waiting for me to decide. I faced the storm and threw that whistle as far as I could and grimly returned to my lean-to. There would be no giving up on this night.*

When students refuse to give up, it is a privilege to join their triumph. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Jacob B. Schramm
Executive Director

BZA
Case No. 16553
Exhibit No. 120

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cc: Kathryn Napper; Rhonda Leshman; Robert McRuer; Angela Hewett; Kevin Mahoney; Jessie Matthews; Melissa Nann

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16553
EXHIBIT NO.120