COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001
(202) 724-7772

DAVID A. CATANIA
Councilmember-At-Large

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
APR 26 A 9:50

April 26, 2000

Sheila Cross Reid, Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

RE: The George Washington University Campus Plan, BZA Application No. 16553

Dear Ms. Reid:

Increased enrollment figures proposed by The George Washington University ("GWU") in their 2000 - 2010 Campus Plan threaten the diversity and historic nature of Foggy Bottom. In order to deal with an increase of undergraduate students, GWU has suggested that they will continue to purchase and invest in off-campus properties for student housing. Not only does such action take certain properties off the District's tax rolls, but it also violates provisions of the Comprehensive Plan. Specifically, that plan calls for the preservation of long term residential housing in the Foggy Bottom/West End neighborhood.

If the proposed enrollment figures are accepted by the Board, new purchases by the university would expand an already large concentration of students who reside in the surrounding neighborhood. While we are all well aware of the many contributions which GWU makes to communities throughout Washington, increased enrollment threatens to engulf an entire neighborhood.

Because I, and many of my colleagues, believe that university enrollment is key to preserving long term residential properties in Foggy Bottom/West End, the Board is encouraged to give serious consideration to the potential impact of increased enrollment at GWU. Although the university suggests that this action is necessary to remain competitive in an evolving higher educational environment, we must not risk destroying the residential character of that community.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by calling my office at 724-7772.

Sincerely,

David A. Catania
Councilmember (At-Large)

BZA
Case No. 16553
Exhibit No. 152

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16553
EXHIBIT NO.152