B. Warren Lane
1506 Q St., NW
Washington, DC 20009

July 7, 2000

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Ms. Jerrily Kress
Executive Director
Office of Zoning
441 4th St., NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Kress:

I just learned that the BZA has scheduled an all day hearing on the George Washington University **Campus Plan** for **election day**, September 12th. Many of the residents from the West End of Ward 2 who have been under siege for so long by GWU's insatiable appetite for expansion in their neighborhood are very disturbed by this scheduling of such an important hearing on election day. Residents who are interested in testifying at the BZA hearing and who would normally stay all day because this subject is of great importance to their neighborhood and their quality of life feel that the hearing should be rescheduled so that they do not have to choose between election-day commitments of working at the polls and attendance at a hearing that will effect their lives for years to come.

I understand that this scheduling conflict was brought up informally at the BZA meeting held on July 5th by a West-end resident who requested that the date be changed to September 13th or later, and that the Board's response was no. The Board did not think it necessary to reschedule because the hearing is expected to be over by 6:00 pm--in time for anyone who wanted to vote to get to the polls. The point was not well articulated by the complainant in that it was not a matter of voting that was in question but the fact that many of the same activists who have an interest in the Campus Plan would also be active at the polls on election day.

This is to strongly recommend that the date scheduled for this hearing be changed with respect to this obvious conflict. District voters are always being criticized for their lack of civic-mindedness when it comes to exercising the vote and being involved in democratic processes. Our Government should not be throwing obstacles in the way of voter participation in the election process. I believe that this is no way to treat the voters. It does not show good faith in the commitment of GWU or our Government to treating residents fairly on the whole subject of Campus Plans and their importance in resolving

BZA
Case No. 16553
Exhibit No. 171

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16553
EXHIBIT NO.171

future conflicts related to containment of Universities within our vulnerable neighborhoods. Any help you can provide our citizens in rescheduling of this important hearing will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



B. Warren Lane,
Chair, Ward 2 Democrats

cc: Mayor Anthony A. Williams
Andrew Altman, Office of Planning