George Washington University Campus Plan
BZA Case #16553
Testimony

September 26, 2000

Dear Board Members:

I am writing in support of the recommendations of the Foggy Bottom/West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission, the Foggy Bottom Association and the D.C. Office of Planning in the above referenced case in an effort to decrease the negative impact that George Washington University (GWU) currently has on the surrounding community. I support a cap on student enrollment, a valid student census, valid enforcement mechanisms and an increased requirement of on-campus housing. While GWU and its leaders apparently do not recognize it now, it is in their best interest to be a good neighbor and reduce its enrollment size if it is again to become a top tier academic institution, which is its stated goal. While it should not be the role of the Board of Zoning Adjustment to educate the institution on what is best for the institution's future, this appears to be necessary given the present facts, such as overcrowded classes, students living in study halls, etc. A lower student/teacher ratio, good student living conditions and being a good neighbor are all hallmarks of a fine academic institution.

It is in the best interest of the District to insure an appropriate balance of residents and students in the residential community immediately surrounding the GWU campus. Full time residents are a vital component to the economic health of the District. The board should take the appropriate and legal steps to protect this special and historic residential area from becoming a primarily student population.

I would like to write briefly about the senior citizens living in the Foggy Bottom community. Many have given invaluable service to our country, not necessarily as war veterans, but through a life-time of dedicated Federal civil service. GWU and the District should do everything possible to protect and enhance these citizen's lives in their declining years.

Finally, as the board has noticed through these proceedings, there is new capable leadership in the Foggy Bottom community, including student representation. The new leadership is ready and willing to work with the University to insure its continued success, benefiting the school, the students, the District of Columbia and its citizens, while protecting the community's interest. Therefore, I sincerely appreciate the Board's support of the community's interest in this proceeding.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

M. Craig Pascal

M. Craig Pascal
Foggy Bottom Resident
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BZA
Case No. 16553
Exhibit No. 211

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
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EXHIBIT NO.211