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OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Ms. Sheila Reid-Cross, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20001

April 4, 2000

Dear Ms. Reid-Cross:

RE: The George Washington University Campus Plan
Board of Zoning Adjustment Application No. 16553

I have been solicited by the University to write the Board of Zoning Adjustment recommending approval of GWU's campus plan application. The letter served to galvanize me to write in OPPOSITION to the plan. I do not oppose the existence of the University; I do oppose its reckless disregard of the neighborhood.

I have lived in Foggy Bottom for over 25 years; I own property here; I daily see the incursions of the University into the neighborhood because of their inadequate campus plan. I have been present to hear Dr. Trachtenberg's intransigence regarding neighborhood impact. Indeed I have written him, asking for a 10-year moratorium on expansion into the neighborhood; his response was "Nobody has the power to make peace single-handedly." But GWU is the hundred-pound gorilla in our tiny little corner of the world, and he *does* have such power. Declaring a moratorium, however, does not fit in with his goal.

I worked to defeat the November passage of GW's revenue bond application on the basis that moneys approved would (sub rosa) be used to acquire more property (tax-free) in the neighborhood. I failed. I protested the granting of a building permit for the new GW hospital. I failed. We HAVE tried at each step of neighborhood disintegration to plead for a stay of execution. And now there's another opportunity before the BZA.

I hear you saying these matters of community opposition are beyond the scope of this hearing of the Board of Zoning Adjustment. Allow me to plead the case that your passage of the application will, in the twisted way the University skews the city's approval process, *encourage* their expansion into the community. We ask that SOMEONE in the city step forth for the residents. Disapprove the Campus Plan application until written agreement is secured that approval of the Plan is contingent upon the University's acquiring not one more inch of private property in Foggy Bottom. I invite you and any Board member willing to listen and learn to come to my house and hear our concerns in person. What can that hurt? We have three weeks before your hearing. I will host this event at any time you choose. Let me know: 338-5364.

Sincerely,

Linda Frees

Linda Frees

BZA
Case No. 16553
Exhibit No. 68

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16553
EXHIBIT NO.68