July 11, 2000

Ms. Shelia Cross-Reid
Director, Board of Zoning Adjustment
Suite 10, 441 Fourth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

16566

Dear Ms. Cross-Reid,

We urge you to give serious consideration to the opposition of the Burleith Citizens' Association to the changes proposed by Georgetown University in their 10-year plan. The city requires that a University in a residential area shall not become objectionable to neighboring property because of noise, number of students, traffic an other objectional conditions. The University as it is now, violates all those conditions in our neighborhood. Any further enrollment of students who will not be housed on campus will continue to degrade our neighborhood.

We have been subjected, over the 16 years we have lived here, to late-night, early-morning raucous parties. Trash accumulation in the alleys from student group homes is intolerable. Absentee landlords do not keep up their properties and certainly the students either don't have time or are not interested in the simple tasks of mowing the lawns or cleaning up around their houses. They don't registers their cars in the District so they crowd the alleys with vehicles registered elsewhere.

Over the years, we have made substantial efforts to be good neighbors with the students but there seems too much of a difference in our senses of quality-of-life issues to come to a reasonable compromise. And if we do succeed in some sort of peace, the students move on and we have to begin all over again with new groups in the houses around us. The police have been vigilant when we call them in the middle of the night but that's after we've been kept awake until after 3am in the morning. And the police cannot control their relieving themselves in our garden because there are not enough toilets in the houses for the scores of students who assemble for a party. Our house has be entered by drunken students.

The root cause of all these problems is that Georgetown University simply enrolls more students than they can house and will not take responsibility for the behavior of the overflow. If they are to be good neigbors, and good citizens of Washington DC, they must conform to the zoning requirement that they not be grossly objectionable to the neighboring communities. We hope you will exercise your good judgment and consider our neighborhood's quality of life.

Sincerely,

Victor H. Reis

1804 37th Street NW
Washington DC 20007

BZA
Case No. 16566
Exhibit No. 96

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16566
EXHIBIT NO.96