JOHN HARDY
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June 15, 2000

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ZONING
2000 JUL 17 A 9:51

Ms. Sheila Cross-Reid
Director, Board of Zoning Adjustment
Suite 210
441 Fourth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Madame Chair:

I have been a resident tax payer in Burleith for nearly thirty years; and during that time have been a victim of increasingly objectionable living conditions in the neighborhood directly attributable to the continuing growth in enrollment at Georgetown University without any proportionate effort by the University to provide on-campus housing to accommodate increased enrollment.

Whatever excuses the University offers for its failure to provide the necessary housing in timely fashion as promised to this Board ring hollow when one considers the solution Georgetown should have adopted when it became aware of its (inability) (unwillingness) to live up to its part of the bargain with this Board and its neighbors, i.e., cap enrollment until such time as it actually delivered on its promise to create more on-campus housing. Whatever the reason for the University's failure, the result is that its neighbors suffer while it reaped the economics benefits of increase enrollment and no outlays for campus housing. To date the University has effectively 'gamed the system' and caused the precise kind of objectionable conditions in neighborhoods that the DC Code directs this Board to prevent. I respectfully submit it is not only relevant but essential for this Board to consider the University's track record. Since the past is prologue, what can the neighborhoods reasonably expect if the University Ten Year Plan is approved? In near thirty year, the times I have been awakened by loud frequently alcohol induced noise from gangs of University students going to and from parties in student occupied houses and from the parties themselves are countless. The incidents of this objectionable behavior have increase over the years as enrollment increases and more and more students are forced to seek off-campus housing. Often trash and garbage is strewn about these properties, increasing the problem of rat infestations. Moreover, many of these houses have actual occupancy rates in excess of what the DC Code permits, and this exacerbates the noise and garbage problems, and creates its own safety problems.

The police have admitted that its response time to neighborhood noise and disorderly complaints is often not as timely as it ought to be because of limited resources. The authorities charged with administering and enforcing the Housing Code are handicapped for similar reasons. In my view, these restraints on other agencies of the municipal government should be considered by this Board

BZA
Case No. 16566
Exhibit No. 99

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16566
EXHIBIT NO.99

as it evaluates the potential impact of the University's Ten Year Plan on Burleith and other neighboring communities.

For all the forgoing reasons I respectfully urge that this Board reject the Plan.

Sincerely,

John Hardy

John D Hardy

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DATE: July 16, 2000

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