Jonda McFarlane
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Washington, DC 20007

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Ms. Sheila Cross Reid, Chairperson
District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

RE: BZA Application # 16566
Georgetown University Campus Plan

Dear Madam Chair:
As an ANC commissioner (2E-06) from 1995-2000, whose SMD included Georgetown University, I would like to put on the record my support for the new Campus Plan.

During my six years on the ANC, I have worked closely with Georgetown University on many issues that have had an impact on the quality of life for residents in the university neighborhood, and it has been my experience that the university has worked very hard to address the concerns of the community. Indeed, starting in 1995 with its commitment to create a position for a community relations specialist (since elevated to Vice-President for External Relations), the university has taken seriously the need to have a working relationship with the community wherein it resides.

Some examples of its effort include:

The Canal Road entrance to the university. This issue was extremely difficult, as different neighborhoods perceived that what would help one area would hurt another. But countless meetings and studies, lasting 10 years, resulted in compromises on both sides that led most parties to agree on a solution. The university invested an enormous amount of time and effort to ensure that the outcome would have almost no negative impact on any one neighborhood.

The renovation of the LXR complex from classroom space to dormitory. In this case, neighbors were concerned that noise and trash problems would increase exponentially with the conversion of the building to dormitory space. Here again, the university agreed to use thicker glass in windows that would only partially open, and to change the configuration of the building so that entrances were limited. It agreed to place a long planter box in front of the entrance on 35th Street, as neighbors feared that students would use the alley opposite the entrance to approach the dorm. When concerns by the Fire Department delayed the implementation of that plan, and then the feared outcome didn't occur, the university agreed with the neighbors to eliminate the planter and instead create extensive landscaping for the building. More frequent trash pickups, as well as a greater university security force presence, were also added.

Bulk trash pickup. One of the most annoying effects of students living in the community

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EXHIBIT NO.107

has been the large amount of trash and furnishings that get left on the curb in residential neighborhoods when students are moving in and out. In response to community concern regarding this problem, the university established a special several-week period in which either students or residents could call for a pickup of items the DC trash force would/could not remove. Flyers are circulated throughout the university neighborhood prior to this period, so both students and residents are aware of the number to call. This effort has been an enormous help in keeping our community both clean-looking and more free of rats.

Alcohol-related problems. With the death of one student in December 1999 and several other behavior problems related to student drinking, the university helped to assemble a community task force to address these concerns. Ongoing meetings with ANC commissioners, members of the Business and Professional Association, the Business Improvement District, and other concerned residents continue to work toward the elimination or at least reduction of this serious problem.

Behavior problems. Not surprisingly, students sometimes do not comport themselves in a mature manner, resulting in annoyance to residents among whom they live or travel. Having said that, the university has, in my view, taken far more responsibility for monitoring and correcting student behavior than any other university I am familiar with. The "Hotline," which takes complaints on four nights a week and to which has been added an "on-duty real person" to take action in real time, has helped greatly to reduce the sleeplessness of neighbors. More importantly, the university responds to those complaints by meeting with the offending students and imposing punishment – is almost unheard of in this time of "individual freedom."

Finally, I would commend the university on its support of students who take part in the political process by running for local offices. Considering the low percentage of young citizens who actually vote, it is encouraging to see students become actively involved in the political process. In my time on the ANC, I served with three student commissioners, all of whom were excellent representatives for their districts. And there is no doubt that their presence on the ANC further helped to build relationships between the university and the community.

Georgetown University has earned its reputation as a fine institution of higher learning and is an enormous asset to the Georgetown community. Over the past 10 years, it has made a concerted and extensive effort to improve its relationship with the community wherein it exists. There will always remain issues to be resolved, but the energy it has invested in establishing a healthy process for resolving those conflicts is reassuring to nearby residents.

I urge the Board of Zoning Adjustment to approve the Campus Plan.

Sincerely,

Jonda McFarlane

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FAX TRANSMISSION

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DATE: 7/17/00

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MESSAGE: Please see that all Board Members receive a copy of this before tomorrow's hearing on the Georgetown (Univ) Campus Plan —
Thank you!
Jonda Mcfarlane