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

July, 2000

Dear Ms. Cross-Reid

When the question was posed to one of the administration at Georgetown University where they intended on housing the increase in student enrollment the answer was simple "into the community"! Pushing the same question even further, I was assured that "there was ample room in Burleith". This attitude is but one example of the indifference displayed by the University.

To further display the dilemma facing not only the University but the neighborhood as well can be best illustrated by a situation that developed at the end of the last academic year here in my neighborhood. Several students that were completing their sophomore year were anticipating living on campus, their first request. To their dismay just before they were to complete the semester, they were notified they would have to find other housing accommodations as they did not make the short list to stay on campus as they had wished. A very difficult situation for these particular students. What could they do? All of the available housing in the surrounding neighborhoods had been already leased. No place to live for the next academic year. Their college education was seriously jeopardized.

Fortunately there are parents! When confronted with this distressing situation one of the fathers of the abandoned students came to the rescue. He was **forced** to research the matter and discovered he could purchase a home recently on the market for $350.000.00 so that his son and other friends could continue their education. In a discussion with the father who purchased the house, he stated that there was no other alternative. He had already invested thousands of dollars for his son's education and could not sacrifice the investment. Fortunately, he was in a position financially to be able to afford this arrangement but was appalled that the University could not accommodate the wishes of their students. He plans on selling the house when his son graduates in two years. Each occupant will have to pay rent in excess of what the "going market" in order to meet the mortgage payments – a delicate situation.

It is interesting to note that most of the residences in this family community that are owned and rented by landlords are charging the students a minimum of $650.00 per person/per month, around $4,000.00 a month with six occupants or a total of $48,000.00 for the full year. Not a bad deal for the slum lords! It should be mentioned that an almost total disregard for the condition of the property was highlighted on subject transaction. To say that the previous student occupants "trashed" the house and grounds is an understatement! Of even more importance we have discovered that these young men (boys) are staying in the same neighborhood for another year but will be closely monitored.

All in all, a regrettable situation.

Respectfully submitted.

Charles K. Mallett
3524 S Street N.W.
Washington DC 20007-2242

BZA
Case No. 16566
Exhibit No. 130

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16566
EXHIBIT NO.130