Testimony for the Board of Zoning Adjustment, July 18, 2000
by The Rev. C. Perrin Radley,
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The house we live in, ~~at the corner of 37th and R Streets~~, is the house I moved to in 1948 when I was 6 years old. To a large degree, we moved back here because I remember so fondly the feeling of neighborhood I experienced there. Indeed, some of the people I remember from those days still live there. It was a neighborhood of nicely kept up yards, of children playing; and we knew everyone. Students at the GU medical school came and went, and mostly studied. Even when we would visit the house during the days when we rented it out, it seemed to be enough like the neighborhood of the past for us to be eager to come here to live. We moved back in December, 1999.

But it has changed. ~~There are little children in prams, but fewer of them. Neighborliness is still there, but many people are busy now or keep to themselves~~. In some of the houses, medical students still study hard. But the big change is the number of undergraduates—and the behavior of a good number have a bad effect on the quality of life in Burleith. All too often, the weekend begins on Wednesday night. On the weekend, roving bands of students can be heard yelling and shrieking up and down the streets. The next morning I go out to pick up the half-full beer cups and all kinds of nasty garbage on or next to my property. They throw balls in the street or across lawns and endanger property in the process. When they are asked to stop, they don't. The houses in which they live—like sardines—aren't kept up—the lawns are a mess, there is garbage everywhere in the alleyways, rats are a new part of the neighborhood. With some of the students, I can exchange pleasantries; but with most, my greeting is met with sullen stares. So long as there are students in the neighborhood I want them to bear full responsibility for being a part of it.

I see young men urinating on my sidewalk.

around us

Calling student houses to complain of noise + loud music, is met with an answering machine.

~~[illegible]~~

But most of all, I want GU to take full responsibility for the housing of its students. ~~and the supervision of landlords be made much tighter~~. My hunch is that doing this will help immeasurably to enhance the quality of life on campus by keeping together the college community.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

C. Perrin Radley

BZA
Case No. 16566
Exhibit No. 140

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
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EXHIBIT NO.140