Thank you for providing the opportunity to have community member's voice their opinions about the proposed Georgetown University Campus Plan. My husband and I live at the corner of T and 37th Street. Our address in 3700 T Street, N.W..

While there are many subjects concerning the proposed campus plan I could discuss, e.g. student housing and their "parking lots" in the back of group houses full of cars with out-of-state license plates, trash, noise, the disturbances, the total lack of home and lawn maintenance, the extreme on-street parking hassles, vandalism, I presume my neighbors will address these topics. My presentation will instead focus on the proposed change to the Georgetown Hospital entrance.

I am not an engineer, nor a traffic safety expert so I can not report to you any conclusions based on data projections with technical terms. I am, however, a careful observer so I can relate to you some qualitative findings related to traffic in Burleith. To provide even more insight to support this, two particular instances have proven to be invaluable. I have found myself at home during much of the weekday for the past five months because of pregnancy complications; due to limitations on my activity I have spent a large amount of time watching the traffic. I also assisted my neighbor when her car had to be towed away from in front of our house due to vandalism this spring (I assume this incident has been discussed in other testimony). This gave me a unique perspective as dozens and dozens of drivers during the evening rush hours were highly irritated with T Street being obstructed due to the tow truck!

The traffic in Burleith is already at an unacceptable level. Traffic seems to be like water: it finds any possible alternate route when backed up or if the flow is slow. The key to understanding our traffic situation involves two principles:

1. Drivers are seeking shortcuts to avoid the congestion of Wisconsin Avenue by going up or down 37th Street. One accomplishes this when travelling south on Wisconsin by simply turning onto 37th Street immediately before Calvert Street and continuing south, thus avoiding a huge amount of traffic on Wisconsin. Truck drivers seem to particularly like this shortcut, despite most of them being in excess of the weight limit. Going north the reverse holds true in that drivers use 37th Street. So we are experiencing the use of 37th Street as an alternate Wisconsin Avenue.

For ambulances coming to Georgetown Hospital and going south on Wisconsin Avenue, 37th Street is the direct route to the Reservoir Road hospital entrance. I won't devote any of my time speaking with you to describe the siren issue. Suffice to say Burleith already experiences too many negative impacts from Hospital traffic.

2. Limiting the amount of time on Reservoir Road by using T Street as a shortcut has become extremely popular. The light at the intersection of 37th and Reservoir seems to be particularly avoided at all costs by most drivers – both of trucks and cars. The load of traffic on T Street bears witness to this observation. The disproportionate ratio of cars to residents is highlighted as cars going both east and west on T Street between 37th Street

BZA
Case No. 16566
Exhibit No. 142

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16566
EXHIBIT NO.142