Fran Goldstein, Commissioner
Advisory Neighborhood 2E-02
3928 Highwood Court, NW
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 965-2044

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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August 3, 2000

Ms. Sheila Cross Reid, Chair
Ms. Jerrily R. Kress, Director
Office of Zoning
441 Fourth Street, NW Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Georgetown University Campus Plan Application #16566

Dear Ms. Reid and Ms. Kress:

In light of the testimony presented at the June 13th and July 18th BZA hearings on the above application, and as one of the five ANC 2E commissioners who voted to support the Georgetown University's Campus Plan application, I hope you give "great weight" to our motion presented by Commissioner and Vice Chair Bill Starrels.

As the senior member of this commission and having worked on two campus plans, I appreciate that town and gown relationships are emotional, often reflecting extremes to the exclusion of reason. As a locally elected official, I believe I have an obligation to travel a path of reasonableness among the many conflicting views often presented by both sides. It was this perspective that was expressed in the motion we passed.

A campus plan is, in my mind, a guide and conceptual tool for a set period of time. The plan as such, does not guarantee anything. The University must seek, at every phase, community and ANC approval before acquiring a city permit or change in zoning. This process provides the necessary checks and balances to assure continuing community input.

This community is not of one view, yet the impression one received from attending the hearings is that there is consensus. The commissioners canvassed their constituents and listened to citizens at a Town Hall meeting. It quickly became apparent that there was no single mind-set, even among the opposition. This was particularly evident with the graduate student issue and the new relationship created between the University's medical center and Medstar. The majority of Georgetown residents take pride and comfort in knowing that an outstanding medical institution is available in their backyard. It is not reasonable to impose limits upon a Trauma One facility, which impacts quality of medical care for the community, the city and the

BZA
Case No. 16566
Exhibit No. 166

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
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EXHIBIT NO.166

region. Traffic created by this partnership is a citywide concern, not just a local community issue. As such, it is being addressed as of this writing by a task force composed of members of the City, the University, the Community and Medstar. The task force is a direct outcome of the campus plan process.

I believe the ANC motion provides a reasonable resolve and balance among the many differing issues within the community and the needs stated by the University/Medical Center in its 10-year campus plan application.

Sincerely,

Fran Goldstein, Commissioner