

RE: BZA Case 21143: 3100 R Street NW - Zoning Adjustment Application

Dear DC Bureau of Zoning,

I live at 1681 32<sup>nd</sup> Street NW and am writing to you with concerns about the application to convert 3100 R Street NW from residential to commercial zoning, for office space. I have been a DC resident since 2002, a resident of Georgetown's ANC2E07 since 2010, and love the community aspect of the neighborhood.

I was stunned to discover that Dumbarton Oaks wanted to convert this neighboring property from residential to commercial zoning because they supposedly needed office space. It's sad when residential properties are taken out of availability because that means no neighbors, which hollows out a community. Dumbarton Oaks already owns over 16 acres of land in Georgetown, which is their main campus plus 5 additional properties including 3100 R - those range from townhomes to an entire apartment building all within a 3-block radius of their main campus.

Dumbarton Oaks already occupies a gigantic footprint in Georgetown, and it's incomprehensible why they cannot build offices on land they already own. Moreover, there is office space for rent in the immediate vicinity at 1732 Wisconsin Avenue NW on the same block where Dumbarton Oaks already owns a building. There is also office space for rent throughout Georgetown and nearby Glover Park.

Dumbarton Oaks has a 1.4 billion dollar endowment, yet they have failed to maintain 3100 R Street NW, since Dumbarton Oaks purchased it years ago, and have complained about having to pay DC property taxes. The Trustees of Harvard University, like the Director and Executive Director, who rotate in and out of Dumbarton Oaks are employees collecting paychecks – and did not purchase this property with their own money. However, because of their control of this huge endowment fund, they are bullying local neighbors and DC officials into degrading the neighborhood to their advantage. I wonder who is really behind this plot and why they are hatching this scheme onto the community.

A conversion to offices would set a terrible precedent that no property in DC is safe from outside interests purchasing a residential home and converting it into whatever they wanted. It is my sincere hope that the Dumbarton Oaks forces are unsuccessful in their mission to convert this home into office space.

Regards,

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