938 Perry Place, NE.
Washington, DC 20017
24 February 2003

District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20001

via hand-delivery

To Whom It May Concern:

Although the Michigan Park Citizens Association participated in the Catholic University of America's (CUA) "Communiversity" initiative, it has no position on that subject. Accordingly, in further response to Commission Member Anthony Hood's question and CUA's rebuttal (to which citizens had no opportunity to respond at the hearing), I would like to add a few personal observations.

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2003 FEB 24 PM 1:17

The successor activities, such as the Brookland-CUA Neighborhood Improvement Partnership, which, while constructive and successful (notwithstanding some neighborhood activists' cynical moniker for it "CAT-NIP", meaning "CATholic U's Neighborhood Improvement Partnership"), did not fulfill the same objective as "Communiversity". The Brookland-CUA Neighborhood Improvement Partnership has not, as best I can tell, been active recently. I participated in its activities, but it was clearly an activity of CUA's excellent School of Architecture. Very few students participated in the Brookland-CUA Neighborhood Improvement Partnership, and there was little interaction with non-architecture students.

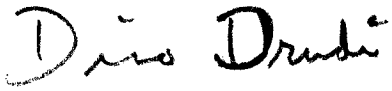
By contrast, Communiversity drew in a wide range of undergraduate students, particularly those involved in student body politics who were in a position to speak and intermediate on behalf their constituents, although students involved in charitable outreach, athletes, and others at various times participated. Had it continued, I believe much of the friction between the students, the University, and the neighborhood could have been mitigated by virtue of the fact all the players would have been in the same room and would have had to deal with one another on a human level. Moreover, it had a salutary educational effect in that the students learned better the real character of the neighborhood, rather than just seeing it as "the ghetto".

It succeeded because of the leadership commitment of the Campus Ministry director. I am not sure it would succeed now given the University's cool attitude toward it. It might, for example, be restructured to meet some weekday evening (such as every time there is a "fifth Monday" during the school year (Sep-Nov, Jan-Apr) as community organiza-

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 02-20
EXHIBIT NO. 63
Case 02-20
Exhibit 63

tions do not generally schedule meetings for fifth Mondays) to be more convenient to neighborhood residents. CUA's central campus is sufficiently safe that participants should not feel uncomfortable at night.

Respectfully submitted,



Dino Drudi