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02-25

Commissioner Carol Mitten
Chair, DC Zoning Board
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Commissioner Mitten:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the University of Notre Dame's request for a zoning waiver to convert the building at 1615 New Hampshire Avenue, NW into a dormitory and classrooms for some 50 undergraduates.

I appreciate the Zoning Board's good judgment in keeping the record open to allow this matter to be heard by the ANC, which voted on September 18, by 4 to 1 against the proposal. I join many of my neighbors in urging you to reject the University's request. The proposal is inconsistent with the character of the neighborhood, would result in a significant increase in noise and foot traffic (especially during football season), and would open the door to "university sprawl" as well as other uses for the building should the University sell it. The dormitory proposal would seriously affect the quality of life on my block as well as the property value of my condo.

In addition, despite the University claims at the Zoning Board hearing and the September 18 ANC meeting that they will be "good neighbors," they have done little to show a good faith effort to work with neighbors, even those within 200 feet (no prior notice, no assurance of an effective alcohol policy, no outreach before, during or after Zoning Board and ANC meetings).

I can find no good reason why the taxpaying, community oriented residents of my block should have to live practically "on campus" with no assurance of how the building may be used in the future. Please reject this proposal. It would be bad policy and set a dangerous precedent.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jean E. Bérubé

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-25
Exhibit 43

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-25
EXHIBIT NO.43