

GINA FERNANDES - STUDENT.

Good evening, my name is Gina Fernandes, a senior at the George Washington University. I am here this evening, on behalf of the GWU student body, to express my support of expanding the membership of the Lerner Health and Wellness Center to include members of St. Mary's Court, St. Mary's Church, the Remington, and GW alumni who live in the neighborhood.

GW students pride themselves on being part of the Foggy Bottom community. We plant trees and clean up the neighborhood with our neighbors. We share Thanksgiving with the members of St. Mary's Court and many students help out at Miriam's Kitchen when they have the chance. Our neighbors also have the opportunity to use our library, eat on our campus, and audit our classes. Best of all, we get the chance to celebrate our amazing community here in Foggy Bottom every fall with the FRIENDS Block party on the Eye Street Mall. It only makes sense to allow our neighbors to use our exercise facilities as well. Being part of a community means to share resources with one another within that community – by opening the Lerner Health and Wellness Center to our neighbors, we will do just that.

In addition, many of our GW alumni stay in the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhoods and, as a new working force in DC, contribute to

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 12364
CASE NO. 02-26A
EXHIBIT NO. 28
EXHIBIT NO. 28

its growth. I know many graduates who have chosen to stay in the District, specifically in Foggy Bottom and I hope to do the same. I feel that keeping our GW community together means giving our alums access to the Learner Health and Wellness Center. I know that I along with many other classmates plan to stay in Foggy Bottom. We hope to continue our undergraduate tradition of urban living without a car and that means we need to live in a walking neighborhood with access to grocery stores, drycleaners, libraries, coffee shops and all the other things, like a place to workout, which we want in our future home neighborhood. I think it would be great if I could continue to have to a facility that I have been accustomed to using over the past 4 years.

By allowing members of GW's local alumni community and the members of St. Mary's Court, St. Mary's Church, and the Remington access to our exercise facility, you will be allowing our neighborhood to grow stronger – both in the physical sense and the community sense. I urge you to vote in favor of this case tonight.

Thank you.