

Dwan Tai, Ph.D.
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TO: Members of the D.C. Zoning Commission

SUBJECT: Testimony in support, GW Health and Wellness Center, Case #02-26A

HEARING: November 15, 2007, 6:30 PM

My name is Dr. Dwan Tai, a resident and alumna of George Washington University ("GW"). I serve as president of Allies Building Community Inc. (A.B.C.), a 501c3 nonprofit organization located in the Foggy Bottom/West End neighborhood. I have lived in Foggy Bottom for more than 38 years. I originally came to Wash. D.C. to complete my Masters and Ph.D. degrees at GW. Since then, Wash. D.C. has been my home. I have devoted almost 40 years to volunteer community services in Wash. D.C.

I am here to testify in support of GW's request related to the Lerner Health and Wellness Center ("Center"). My neighbors and I would appreciate if the Zoning Commission would authorize the university to permit approximately 300 new users who are either immediate neighbors or GW alumni who live in the neighborhood to have access to the Center.

This will allow GW to live up to a community spirited offer it made nearly 10 years ago to the community because approximately 50 complimentary passes would go to the nearby residents of St. Mary's Court of senior citizens, members of the St. Mary's Church and to the Remington located directly across G Street from the Center. Allowing 250 paid neighborhood alumni gym access would be one way of ensuring that they stay connected to the institution.

Of the various users, the only folks who may be driving to the gym are St. Mary's Church members. The Church has sufficient on-site parking to accommodate its pass-holders. No one else presents a parking issue. St. Mary's Court and Remington residents are within feet of the front door and alumni who live in the blocks surrounding the Center are unlikely to drive to the gym since it defeats the purpose of working out.

The elderly residents at St. Mary and GW alumni in the neighborhood already have had the opportunity to join the Ritz Carlton Sports Club but they have found the for-profit gym either too expensive or too far away. Very limited access to the GW gym would not compete with any for-profit gym to my knowledge.

With all due respect, on behalf of my fellow alumni, my neighbors and the elderly at St. Mary's, we would appreciate your kind consideration to authorize the university to allow the proposed very limited community access to Lerner Health and Wellness Center. Thank you very much!

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
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CASE NO. 02-26A
EXHIBIT NO. 31
ENACTED NO. 1