

**Testimony Before the DC Zoning Commission Case #02-26A
GW Health and Wellness Center Hearing**

Good evening. My name is Paige Blumer. I am a homeowner in Old Foggy Bottom, having owned my house since 2005, the year I began graduate studies in English Literature at George Washington University. I received a Masters Degree from GW last May and I am now on the English faculty of the National Cathedral School for Girls.

While I was a graduate student at GW, I was a regular and enthusiastic user of the Health and Wellness Center and became dependent on that facility as my primary means of exercising and staying in shape. My daily teaching schedule has me coming home after dark in the winter months. If I were offered a membership in the Lerner Center, I would be able to walk to the gym early in the morning before I leave for school and take up my fitness regimen where it left off when my student membership expired. This would make my satisfaction with life in Foggy Bottom complete.

As an educator, I plan to stay connected with GW, perhaps even working for the university during the summers, drawing on the university's extensive resources for research and for field trips for my students, and staying connected to the department from which I received my degree. It makes sense that I would also want to walk to the GW Health and Wellness facilities. One of the reasons why I chose this neighborhood is the ability to not have to depend on a car or other transportation for aspects of my daily life such as shopping and pursuing physical fitness.

Georgetown, Trinity and Howard alumni are permitted to use the facilities of their schools. I know that colleges and universities in other cities also routinely grant alumni access to their fitness facilities. It just seems logical that, as an alumna, I should be accorded a similar privilege by GW.

I urge you to support gym membership for GW graduates who reside in Foggy Bottom; we are good Foggy Bottom citizens. I trust that you will agree with me that the university's offer is a generous and sensible one. Helping graduates to feel welcome in and a part of both the GW community and Foggy Bottom is an important and positive gesture by the university which you have in your power to approve.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

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EXHIBIT NO. 32

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