

STATEMENT OF ROBIN MEIGEL

601 24th Street, NW #902
Washington, DC 20037

DC Zoning Commission Case #02-26A
GW Health and Wellness Center
Hearing: November 15, 2007

Hello, my name is Robin Meigel. I have lived at the Remington since 1992; I have owned my condominium there since December 1997.

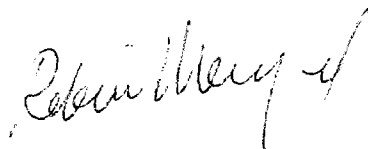
I support the petition of George Washington University to live up to the agreement they made with the Remington in the late 1990s, an agreement that helps to bridge greater interaction and communication between the university population and non-university members of the Foggy Bottom community. There can be no doubt that the physical participation of these residents in the activities of the wellness center may facilitate a level of integration with the surrounding community that cannot presently happen in the same way now. The likelihood that I will strike up a conversation with a student in the locker room or on the adjacent treadmill is greater than when we simply pass on the street.

The net result is a win-win for the university population as for the residents.

It is my understanding that one argument raised against this proposition is that it presents unfair competition for for-profit sports clubs in the neighborhood. If those making the argument can demonstrate paid memberships in these clubs that would be lost to the Wellness Center as a result of this petition being granted, then perhaps it is worth listening too. But the fact is that the market for those clubs is a very different socio-economic bracket than the candidates for these proposed memberships. Members of the LA Sports Club are not typically in the market for this kind of an alternative – it wouldn't have the same appeal. The Watergate sports club has been around since I've lived in the neighborhood. If I could afford it, I would have signed up by now. They don't have me as a customer to lose. The potential loss of customers in the universe of candidates for these memberships cannot be so great as to make or break the economics of those clubs in our location.

Urban life can be very isolating and this proposal is a small step in demonstrating that this need not be the case in Foggy Bottom. I urge you to vote in favor of the petition.

Thank you.



ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
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EXHIBIT NO. 41