The George Washington University
WASHINGTON DC

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS AND RECREATION

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May 11, 2003

DC Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Commission Members,

I have been a resident of the Georgetown community and Head Coach of rowing at the George Washington University for seven years. Over that time, I have seen both the use of the Capital Crescent Trail as well Thompson Boat Center increase substantially. However, where there are trails and paths for people to bike and walk on throughout the city, there is only one facility on the Potomac River for crews to row out of. The enormous growth in the sport of rowing has created an overcrowded, poor situation at Thompson Boat Center and rowers in the DC area a screaming for more space. To sacrifice a small section of unused park (in exchange for the same amount upriver) is the only smart solution.

Georgetown University and their rowing team have spent over ten years working on developing a plan which I and many others believe will enhance the waterfront and serve a large population of not only the university, but the local community as well. Over one hundred students will use the facility during the university school year, and during the summer, learn to row programs for high school students, and adults will be offered. So many people will benefit from this facility. The location proposed for their boathouse is an ideal location because it is currently a muddy, overgrown, garbage collecting area on the upriver section of the park. The addition of a boathouse in this location will only clean up this area and even create a safer environment for those using the Capital Crescent Trail.

It surprises me that there is any opposition to the plan at this point since this planning process has been a very open, hands on process. The Georgetown Waterfront Park plan (conceived in 1985) has called for a boathouse on this site all along, yet there have been no opponents to it. Several times over the last five to ten years, the university has presented plans to the Georgetown Waterfront Park Community and has made modifications to the plans according to those suggestions. Opponents of the plan, (Washington Canoe Club and Sierra Club members) have been at and involved in this process and yet have not voiced opposition until now. Now after the university has spent thousands of dollars on developing a great plan that will work and enhance our waterfront, a small group of misinformed vocal people are opposing it.

The Georgetown University Boathouse will be a source of pride for the University and their Rowing team, and huge enhancement to the Georgetown Waterfront. The benefits our community will receive from such a facility make this a win-win situation for everyone.

Sincerely,

Steve Peterson

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 140

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.140

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