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ZONING COMMISSION
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May 16, 2003

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BY HAND

District of Columbia Zoning Commission
Attention: Carol Mitten, Chair
441 Fourth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Case No. 02-30, Georgetown University Boathouse

To the Honorable Zoning Commission:

I am writing in favor of the Commission's approval of the proposed Georgetown University boathouse. I am an alumnus of Georgetown who participated in rowing on the Potomac during my undergraduate years and, thereafter, at the Potomac Boat Club. I believe that after a fair consideration of the proposed use of the land and the Potomac River resulting from an additional rowing facility, you will conclude that the proposed boathouse should not only be approved but enthusiastically supported.

I cherish the time I have spent at rowing practices, land training sessions and races because it provided one the purest opportunities to learn valuable, lifelong lessons about character, commitment and teamwork. What initially rubbed off on me from my time on the Potomac was the realization that rowing is the ultimate team athletic endeavor; a rowing crew needs all of its members to be present and work together harmoniously and in unison to move the boat down the river and even more dedication is required for a team to become a competitive unit. I later realized I had learned more important lessons from rowing. A Jesuit philosopher once said that "in rowing the great lesson is learned that the effort is greater than the prize, or rather that the effort is the prize and that the victory won would be hollow were it not for the rigor required to attain the victory." Rowing has instilled in me these fundamental values. For this reason, and for the opportunity for additional District residents to learn the great lessons that rowing has to offer -- and ultimately translate those lessons into actions for the common good of the citizenry of the District -- I fully support any effort to expand rowing opportunities on the Potomac, including Georgetown's.

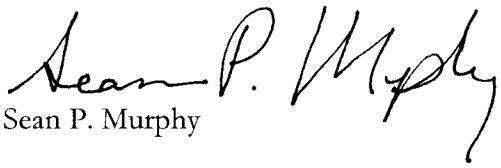
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 165

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.165

Aside from philosophical reasons, there are a number of other good reasons for your positive treatment of this matter. The project has been approved by the local ANC, the Old Georgetown Board, the Commission on Fine Arts and the Georgetown Waterfront Commission. The design of the boathouse has received uniformly positive comments. Rowing is a healthy activity promoting physical fitness. The existing boathouse, Thompson's Boat Center, is overtaxed and thus prevents optimal use of the Potomac by high school, club and university teams that wish to pursue rowing -- more use of the river can be accommodated without Georgetown's presence at Thompson's. Rowing is beautiful to watch and provides an aesthetically pleasing view for residents and tourists alike. The site for the Georgetown boathouse complies with the Park Service's plan for pollution-free boating on the Potomac. Georgetown has made enormous contributions over the years to the citizens of the District -- including sponsoring and providing tutoring services to District schoolchildren and has promoted volunteer efforts by Georgetown students at many public service and charitable agencies in the District. The availability of rowing facilities owned by Georgetown will present another opportunity for Georgetown to share its resources and facilities with the citizens of the District.

I wholeheartedly endorse this project and ask for your support.

Very truly yours,



Sean P. Murphy

SPM:maj