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May 15, 2003

RECEIVED
2003 MAY 16 PM 3:19
ZONING COMMISSION

District of Columbia Zoning Commission
Carol Mitten, Chair
Suite 210
441 - 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: **Case 02-30, Georgetown University Boat House**

Dear Ms. Mitten:

I am writing to express my support of the Georgetown University Boathouse and to urge the Zoning Commission to grant the appropriate zoning for the construction of the boathouse.

The building of this boathouse will be a significant asset to the District of Columbia. It will provide a facility for an environmentally sound, non-polluting recreational activity on the Potomac River. Rowing is a sport which is enjoyed not only by its participants, but also by residents and tourists who watch the rowers from the shore.

In addition to providing a home base for the men's and women's rowing programs at Georgetown University, the building of this boathouse will benefit the many District of Columbia high school rowing programs housed at Thompson's Boat Center. Georgetown's move to its new building will allow much needed space to be freed up at Thompson's Boat Center. Thompson's Boat Center is filled beyond capacity. Many District of Columbia high school rowing programs are forced to wait long periods of time while other high school crews launch their shells from the limited dock space. This situation will be made significantly worse once construction commences on the new Swedish Embassy building proposed to be added to the Washington Harbour complex because many high school crews currently store their boats on the lot to be occupied by that building.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 167

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.167

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The placement of a boathouse on the proposed stretch of the Potomac River, upstream from Key Bridge, is consistent with the long-term plans of the National Park Service. Historically, boathouses have been located in this area for more than 130 years. During this time, and particularly over the past 40 years, this portion of the Potomac River has been the training area for hundreds of Olympic and U.S. National team members. Washington, D.C. is unique in that it can provide training facilities within the city for bright, young rowers who want to further their education or work in the federal or D.C. government, or in the many organizations that interact with the Government.

For all these reasons, I urge you to grant the necessary zoning permits to allow Georgetown University to build its boathouse.

Very truly yours,

K. B. Bedell

Kevin B. Bedell