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Washington DC Zoning Commission
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ZONING COMMISSION
D.C.

May 17, 2003

Dear Chairman and Members of the Board:

I am writing in support of the proposed Georgetown University Boathouse, in case #02-30. I want to encourage the board to approve the proposal and allow the project to proceed.

I was on the Georgetown Crew from 1980 through 1984. Even at that time, the leased facility at Thompson Boat House was overcrowded. The team made the best of the situation and took care of the boat house to the best of our ability, but it was clear that the Thompson facility could not support the team indefinitely. Since then, the increases in construction and congestion in that part of the city have made things even more difficult. The Georgetown proposal will alleviate a considerable burden from the city, and make things easier for both business and recreation in the area around the Thompson facility.

The university's proposals and plans have always taken all legal considerations into account, and the process has always been fully open to public comment and participation. I am not an official representative of the university or the athletic department. However, simply as an alumnus and a long-time resident of the DC area, I can tell you that all the plans and considerations have been open to formal and informal feedback at every step. The land swap in particular has been public information for at least ten years, if not fifteen or more.

The sport of rowing is inherently friendly to the environment. In my years on the team, the spring thaw routinely brought tons (literally) of debris down the river. We removed the clutter that built up around the Thompson center, both to protect the facility and to make "our" part of town a better place. You will not find a more environmentally conscious group of college athletes than the rowing crews.

I encourage you to approve the proposal. Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Martin

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 176

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.176