John J. Forster
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May 10, 20003

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2003 MAY 12 PM 2:57

District of Columbia Zoning Commission
Carol Mitten, Chairwoman
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Case # 02-30 Georgetown University Boathouse

Dear Ms. Mitten:

I first moved to Washington, DC from Philadelphia, PA in 1964 when I became a freshman at Georgetown University. As a rower and resident over the following decades I have experienced the vitality and variety of these two phenomenal cities that are intimately tied to major waterways.

Boathouse Row in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park setting is unique in the USA. Washington, DC has the opportunity to provide a more perfect waterfront experience that would include healthy exercise, friendship, and support for the overwhelming desire by primary, secondary, and college rowing teams of DC. In addition, large numbers of adults and seniors are clamoring for opportunities to use the Potomac in non-motorized sport and relaxation. It is unprecedented and growing every day. Unfortunately, so many are frustrated because of the lack of protected space and training facilities on the river.

Approving Georgetown University's application and addition of a boathouse will provide a significant attraction to the Potomac for its citizens. Certainly, Georgetown University's rowing teams will be able to be more competitive by having an improved facility. But, water sports in general would be multiplied by utilizing the vacant space of Thompson's Boathouse that Georgetown would release to some of the other DC teams. Until now they have had to expose their equipment to the elements and limit their training because there was no indoor space available. DC also benefits by attracting more competitors and visitors to its hotels, restaurants and stores.

Even now, a recent approval for building the Swedish embassy where teams are keeping their boats threatens the legitimate use of the Potomac by its citizens. Continued indecision and delays for use of the land between Key Bridge and Washington Harbor has confused the hopes of many for a park containing additional boathouses for team and individual citizen recreation and competition.

For years, Georgetown University has cooperated with the Federal and DC governments to find the least obstructive site that simultaneously meets every legitimate requirement proposed. I look forward to your vote for the betterment of the District of Columbia by having the zoning board approve the Georgetown University Boathouse on May 19th without further delay. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John J Forster

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 196

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.196