2725 Connecticut Ave., #203
Washington, DC 20008
May 10, 2003

Ms. Carol Mitten, Chair
Washington, DC Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

2003 MAY 12 P 2:57

Case No. 02-30, Georgetown University Boathouse

Dear Ms. Mitten:

I am writing to express my overwhelming support for the Georgetown University Boathouse. I do not intend to discuss the details of the new boathouse, as I am sure you are fully versed on the structure and its minimal impact on the riverfront environment. It is also a topic of which I am wholly unqualified to testify to. Instead, I hope to impart a unique perspective from a long time resident of this city who is intensely interested in its growth and development and as a former rower who still actively participates in the District's rowing community.

I have been a resident of the District for thirteen years, a property owner for four years, and a long-time supporter of the efforts by this city government to make life in the District more enjoyable for all. A critical aspect of living in the District is the Potomac River and the sense of community it fosters. Throughout the year, the Potomac riverfront around Georgetown is teeming with people taking in the sites and sharing in outdoor life. It is one of those important aspects of District living that makes this a truly 'livable' city.

I understand that Georgetown University and its supporters have been working tirelessly for years to construct a boathouse along the Potomac that would be minimally intrusive yet enhancing to the scenic beauty of the Potomac. I think this will be an extremely valuable addition to our community. This is exactly the sort of development the city should be promoting for the riverfront. While I believe the city's efforts to promote commercial development are important, these efforts must be balanced by the requirement to improve the quality of life for all residents. An aesthetically pleasing and interesting boathouse conjures images of a vibrant river and a sophisticated community that will draw people into our great city. Importantly, it seems to me that this project can easily co-exist with any other plans the city might have for riverfront development.

I rowed for Georgetown and rowed at Thompson's Boathouse for years. I understand how important the sport of crew is to developing young minds and to fostering a sense of responsibility at a critical age. A new boathouse will serve to enhance Georgetown's mission and produce mature adults who may one day decide to reside in our city. I believe that a simple

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structure, such as this proposed boathouse, can do more to enhance our city, its image, and our quality of life than many other projects that are presently under consideration.

I appreciate your consideration of these comments and look forward to your support. I am also looking forward to the zoning hearing before your committee for the Georgetown University Boathouse on May 19, 2003.

Sincerely,

David M. Don