223 FIFTH STREET, SE
WASHINGTON, DC 20003

May 21, 2003

Reference Case # 02-30, Georgetown University Boathouse

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

D.C. ZONING COMMISSION
2003 MAY 21 PM 4:25

Dear Ms. Mitten:

I am writing this letter to support the proposal for a Georgetown boathouse to be situated on the Potomac River to the west of the Washington Canoe Club. This proposal has been approved by the local ANC, the Old Georgetown Board, the Commission of Fine Arts and the Georgetown Waterfront Commission.

I am a DC resident, as well as a Georgetown alumna (Class of 1999) and a crew coach. I come at this discussion from a variety of perspectives. I think the boathouse will be a wonderful addition to the shoreline and skyline, which are both so often pictured in postcards and posters of Washington, DC. As a DC resident, the beauty of the river, shoreline, and the city as a whole are very important to me. As a coach at Georgetown, access to improved facilities and space outside of the very cramped Thompson's boathouse are imperative to be competitive in our league.

The boathouse facilities are comprehensive: Shell storage, an indoor rowing tank, locker rooms, training facilities, small meeting rooms, and an office. The Georgetown crew team currently lacks many of these components, which other collegiate crew teams with whom Georgetown competes have taken for granted for years. The addition of these facilities will help to make the Georgetown crew team a more competitive program. As a novice coach, teaching rowing from scratch, access to a rowing tank would be an incredible addition. It will allow me to focus more on the rowers individually, and also protect our expensive equipment as we can use the tanks rather than going out in rowing shells as students first learn the stroke.

As all the various rowing clubs and rowing teams would agree, the DC rowing community needs additional facilities along the Potomac. The rowers are currently concentrated in two locations, Potomac Boat Club and Thompson's Boat Center. Thompson's boathouse is incredibly crowded, with lines for the dock often lasting 20 minutes at 6am. Several of the Georgetown squads need to share shells, particularly in the fall, so the number of rowers able to participate in races is strictly limited. When Georgetown leaves Thompson's Boat Center, the two shell storage bays occupied by Georgetown will be available for other users. Many rowing clubs currently store their shells in an outdoor storage compound, which will be lost once the construction of the proposed Swedish Embassy begins. In addition, the University will make the indoor rowing tank available to other users. This tank will be a great addition to the local rowing community.

Please consider these issues when weighing the zoning decision for the Georgetown University boathouse.

Thank you for your time.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 219

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.219

Regards,



Rebecca Besant
Georgetown '99

cc: Tony Johnson
Head Coach Georgetown University Crew Team
McDonough Gym
Washington, DC 20057

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FAX COVER SHEET

To: Carol Mitten
(202) 727-6072

Re: Georgetown University Boathouse Zoning Hearing
Case #02-30

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