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RECEIVED
D.C. ZONING COMMISSION
2003 JUN 2 AM 8:19

June 2

Ms. Carol Mitten, Chairperson
D.C. Zoning Commission
441 Fourth Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairperson Mitten:

I attended the lengthy May 19th hearing on Case 02-30 and 02-31 at which I was hoping to testify since I was the first proponent listed to testify that night. As I have had a long involvement in the planning of the national park on the Georgetown waterfront, I am extremely disappointed that a longstanding out-of-town commitment will prevent me from testifying on June 5th. Therefore, I am sending you my testimony.

Sincerely,

Ann Satterthwaite

Ann Sastterthwaite, AICP

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 240

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.240

Testimony for the DC Zoning Commission

Case 02-31 May 19, 2003

I am Ann Satterthwaite, AICP and I live at 1615-34th Street NW.

I am here to support the W1 zoning and the proposed amendments for the Georgetown University boathouse on the Potomac waterfront in Georgetown..

I am a professional city planner, who has had decades of experience in recreation and environmental planning. I worked on the country's first national recreational study, the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, the first federal open space grant program, served on a National Academy of Sciences committee on waterfront planning, received a National Endowment for the Arts grant on urban waterfronts, undertook case studies on environmental protection at the Conservation Foundation and have worked in cities throughout the country. Maximizing public recreational use, especially water-dependent activities, on neglected, once-industrialized waterfronts like the Georgetown waterfront has been a national recreational priority since the 1960s.

Hence, it is not surprising that since the mid 1970s I have been involved in efforts to create a park with water-dependent activities on the Georgetown waterfront. The Committee for Washington's Riverfront Parks was established in the mid 1970s with 26 national environmental and social equity organizations as well as civic organizations from throughout the city to stimulate interest in creating waterfront parks on both the Potomac River in Georgetown and along the Anacostia River. In Georgetown, although we were unable to block the construction of Washington Harbour, we helped obtain an easement for a public right-of-way along the river in front of Washington Harbour, helped get a $1 million gift from the developer for a park on the land immediately adjacent to Washington Harbour, and encouraged the development of the 1987 National Park Service's plan for the Georgetown Waterfront Park. That plan, which included a zone for boathouses from 34th Street to 1100 feet west of Key Bridge, received approval of all the necessary public review agencies.

In 1996, the Georgetown Waterfront Park Commission was established. I am here today representing the Georgetown Waterfront Commission, which is a public/private partnership between the National Park Service and citizens interested in developing a national park on the Georgetown waterfront. This commission, chaired by Senator Charles Percy, has played a pivotal role in the planning for the waterfront park. And it is important to note that the planning for this park on the Georgetown waterfront has been a remarkably open, orderly, and public process. We have had over 50 public meetings and many subcommittee meetings, which have all publicly announced, all open to the public, and all reported in the local newspapers. People from throughout the District of Columbia as well as the region have attended the Commission meetings and have been members of the Commission's various committees. In the fall of 2002 and early winter of 2003, the world-renowned design firm of Wallace, Roberts, and Todd of Philadelphia refined the 1987 waterfront plan with continuous participation of the Commission and its design committee. That plan was approved this spring by the Georgetown Waterfront

Commission and by ANC2E. Thus, in view of this long, open, public planning process, it is surprising that last-minute opposition to the plan has arisen. Where were these people all the years when every aspect of this plan was discussed at Commission meeting after Commission meeting?

In the decades of work on the planning for the Georgetown waterfront park, one of the most exciting aspects of this project has been the new and encouraging interest in non-motorized boating, especially rowing. The stretch of the Potomac River in Georgetown is now used by over 800 public and private high school rowers, hundreds of independent rowers and several university rowing programs. This has provided a new focus for the park and much welcomed activity on the river, whether daily practices or regattas. Early on the Commission recognized that Thompson's boathouse could not accommodate the growing number of shells and boats, so in 1997 the Commission established a Boating Committee to investigate the boating needs. That Committee, focussing on space and design considerations, has had many public meetings, attended by a wide range of people, and the Committee has reported back frequently to the full Commission. In 2001, the Commission approved the plans for the Georgetown University boathouse, and soon thereafter those plans were approved by all necessary public agencies, including the Old Georgetown Board and the Commission of Fine Arts, and ANC2E. The Georgetown Waterfront Commission strongly supports the location and design of the Georgetown University boathouse.

I would like to emphasize an aspect of the boathouse issue which serves attention. This is a boathouse for collegial crew training. It is not just a place to store boats. Most major universities and colleges today have boathouses equipped with tanks and other facilities needed for crew training. To compete effectively with first class university crews, it is necessary to have a first class training facility and that is what Georgetown University is proposing.

The Georgetown Waterfront Commission supports the W1 zoning and the four proposed amendments for the Potomac waterfront:1/ motorized launches for coaches are needed for crew training (199), 2/ street frontage is not needed in the case of the Georgetown boathouse where it abuts the river and parkland (3202.3), 3/ boathouses limited to use by institutions and public schools for recreational and competitive purposes should be considered a matter of right use (901.1), and 4/ parking need not be required as the rowers and staff will reach the site by foot or bicycle (2101.1)

The W1 Zoning and the proposed amendments will provide not only important public benefits to the Potomac waterfront in Georgetown, but also to the impressive rejuvenation being undertaken on Anacostia waterfront. These waterfront parks will fill in missing links in this region's spectacular waterfront park system, also protect and enhance the environment of the rivers' edges, and offer new and needed recreational opportunities for the residents of the District of Columbia, the region, and the many visitors to the Nation's Capital.

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DATE: 1 June 2003

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ADDITIONAL MESSAGE:

Testimony for Georgetown University boathouse cases 02-30 and 02-31

Very disappointed that I can't be there in person.

Ann Satterthwaite