Cooper & Kirk
Lawyers
A Professional Limited Liability Company
Suite 200
1500 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Hamish P. M. Hume
(202) 220-9638
hhume@cooperkirk.com

(202) 220-9600
Fax (202) 220-9601

June 2, 2003

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

Fax: (202) 727-6072

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 243

Re: Case # 02-30, Georgetown University Boathouse

Dear Ms. Mitten:

I write in support of the proposed construction of a new Georgetown Boathouse along the banks of the Potomac. My family has lived in the Washington D.C. area since I was 1 year of age, in 1969. Except for three years overseas, my parents have throughout that time had their principal residence in the District of Columbia. While I currently live in Alexandria, I work in Washington at the law firm of Cooper & Kirk, PLLC, which is located at 1500 K Street, NW.

There are a number of reasons why I support the proposed boathouse, but none more compelling than this: a new Boathouse situated alongside the Potomac Boat Club and the Washington Canoe Club will be an enormous asset to Washington D.C. In other major cities that boast rivers as large and majestic as the Potomac, there are invariably numerous places where people can go to enjoy the river as an aesthetic, cultural, and natural treasure. In Washington, we have far too few such places. Many times, visiting friends or family of mine have commented that D.C. seems not to take full advantage of the river as an opportunity for creating cultural landmarks and places of beauty or recreation. The proposed Georgetown Boathouse would be just such a landmark, and would enrich the landscape of the city in a way that everyone would enjoy and appreciate.

A second reason for my support relates to the sport of rowing. I did not learn to row until I went to Yale University, where I rowed under Tony Johnson, currently the Head Coach of Men's Rowing at Georgetown. During the six years I spent rowing competitively at Yale and afterwards at Oxford University in England, I experienced first

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hand the ways in which the sport can enrich the lives of those who participate in it, as well as the social life of communities that support it. A new Georgetown Boathouse would be an enormous improvement for the life of all rowers in the D.C. area, and for all students at Georgetown, who would benefit from the existence of a new, distinctive landmark, and from a much-improved infrastructure for one of its oldest and proudest athletic traditions.

As I understand it, the only objection to the proposed boathouse is "environmental." But the existence of a boathouse causes only minimal impact, and has the countervailing benefit of introducing many more people to the beauties of nature than would otherwise be the case. Like the boathouses and rowers who are already located along the river, the new Georgetown boathouse would only enhance the city's overall appreciation and care for the Potomac. Thus, I truly believe the environment *benefits* from a new boathouse.

In short, as a former resident of Washington D.C. and as a professional who works in D.C., I emphatically request that you please approve the Georgetown Boathouse plan.

Regards,



Hamish P.M. Hume

cc: Tony Johnson

Cooper & Kirk

Lawyers

A Professional Limited Liability Company

Suite 200

1500 K Street

Washington, D.C. 20005

(202) 220-9600

FAX (202) 220-9601

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Name	Company	Fax No.
Carol Mitten	Washington, D.C. Zoning Commission	202-727-6072
Tony Johnson		202-687-3981

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From: Hamish P.M. Hume

Date: June 2, 2003 Client No.: 950-0

Comments: