May 30, 2003

District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 4th Street NW
Suite 210S
Washington, D.C. 20001

D.C. ZONING COMMISSION
2003 JUN -3 AM 11:16

Case 02-30 Georgetown University and the National Park Service

Dear Sirs and Mesdames,

I lived in Washington for 37 years and was a frequent user of the C & O Canal Towpath. I am shocked to learn that Georgetown University wants to build a multi-story boat house on the banks of the Potomac right where it will obstruct the view of the river, Key Bridge, and the shore line. A boat house for the use of the students is one thing, but a large structure clearly planned for additional uses like parties and receptions is another.

We have so many foreign (military and diplomatic) residents in Washington who use the towpath, and they have spoken to me of the view of Key Bridge as they return from their walking, saying that view, to them, **is** "Washington"! And it is to so many others. A low profile boat house could be acceptable, but a multi-story edifice is too much.

If, in fact, receptions are held there, how on earth will the parking be handled? The National Park Service is not facing reality if it allows for parking along the towpath, or the Capitol Crescent Trail. We must keep development along our beautiful Potomac to a minimum!

Sincerely,

Mary E. Woodward

Mary E. Woodward
1393 Steamboat Run Road
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 249

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.249

Mr. & Mrs. Ross F. Mark
3601 Connecticut Ave., NW # 703
Washington, DC 20008

DC ZONING
2003 JUN -3 AM 11:15

May 29, 2003

Carol Mitten, Chair
DC Zoning Commission
441 4th St., NW Suite 210
Washington, DC 2000[illegible]

Dear Chair Mitten:

This letter is to let the DC Zoning Commission know that we are opposed to plans to allow Georgetown University to build a boathouse next to the Capital Crescent Trail. We are members of the Washington Canoe Club and attended the first hearing. At that hearing, we did not think Georgetown University addressed the problems the new boathouse will cause. Our first thought is that while Georgetown says the boathouse will be for the public and the public is welcome to watch the regattas and other activities, this is an invite full of thin air. Surely the University would not allow the public near the crew, its training equipment or in any other way in the near proximity to the event. This is a ridiculous claim by the school. The need for insurance and other protections from the general public would be prohibitive.

Additionally, we question why there was no environmental impact assessment and the overall confusion that this facility will add to the entire K Street corridor.

Generally this does not appear to be a well-thought out plan. The new boathouse will adversely affect the Canoe Club and we admit to a vested interest. But it seems very unfair that this proposed boathouse could be allowed to proceed when it will harm so many interests --- from the canoe club to the users of the Capital Crescent Trail to the Georgetown neighborhood. Please take another look at the Georgetown request.

Sincerely,

Ross and Charmayne Mark

Ross & Charmayne Mark

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 03-30
Exhibit 250

ALLISON BENEDETTI

May 29, 2003

2003 JUN -3 AM 11:15
ZONING

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

Dear Ms. Milton:

I am writing in support of Georgetown University's proposal to build a boathouse on the bank of the Potomac River north of the Canoe Club. As a former captain of Georgetown Women's Crew, I think that the construction of a boathouse is vital for the continued success of this program and will be a valuable addition to the Potomac waterfront. It will make the waterfront more accessible to students participating in both rowing and sailing.

The design has been praised by numerous local groups, including the Historic Preservation Review Board and the Commission of Fine Arts, the Old Georgetown Board, the Georgetown Waterfront Commission, the Georgetown ANC and the C&O Canal National Historic Park Advisory Commission. The boathouse design was modeled after other historic boathouses on the East Coast and incorporates traditional materials. The design is environmentally friendly and has been approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It should help to beautify the area, as well as vitalize that section of the waterfront.

The proposal was developed with community input and consultation over the course of several years. Georgetown University has participated in numerous public hearings and taken community viewpoints into account throughout the design and approval process. Other area rowers – such as those at local high schools – have also been very supportive of the proposal, as it will free up practice and recreational space at Thompson's Boathouse, which currently is home to more than a dozen crew teams from the Washington area.

This agreement will be good for the University, which has long sought a suitable location to build a boathouse for its crew teams. The National Park Service will benefit as well, as ownership of the Palisades land will allow them to continue their beautification efforts in that area.

I sincerely hope that you will approve this proposal. It will be an asset to this community.

Sincerely,

Allison Benedetti

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 251

4031 Connecticut Avenue NW • Washington, DC 20008 • (202) 363-6637

ST. ALBANS SCHOOL

Mount St. Alban, Washington, D.C. 20016-5095

5/29/03

ZONING
2003 JUN -3 AM 11:15

Washington D.C. Zoning Commission,
Carol Mitten, Chair
441 4th Street N.W.
Suite 210 South
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Case No. 02-30

Dear Zoning Commission:

I am the head coach for the St. Albans and National Cathedral Schools rowing team. I am also an alumnus of Georgetown University where I rowed from 1986 to 1990. Rowing on the Potomac used to be a sport I did in college, now it is a way of life for me. I grew up in Buffalo, NY, and one of the main reasons I have relocated to the DC area is the Potomac River.

Georgetown now has the opportunity to build a boathouse that will help them compete at the highest level. They are currently racing against teams like Princeton and Harvard that have elite facilities. Thompson Boat Center does not fit their needs. My St. Albans team rows out of Thompson also. We are competitive with some of the best high schools in the country. Last year our Varsity 8 was 2nd at the Scholastic Nationals to St. Joseph's Prep in Philadelphia. It is crucial for the survival of high school rowing on the Potomac that Georgetown build a boathouse. Our shells are now in the outside "compound", which will soon be gone as the Swedish Embassy is built. Allowing Georgetown to build a boathouse will allow that program to improve its standing at the national level, and it will save the many high school programs that row out of Thompson's. The high school programs will benefit from the space they vacate.

The sport of rowing has improved the life of many high school kids in DC. I see it on my team, but also on teams from Wilson High School, Yorktown, Sidwell, Georgetown Visitation, and many others. The kids that row for these teams are physically fit, they get good grades, and they are learning skills that will be with them forever. I know from personal experience that rowing can change a life.

Thank you,

Ted Haley

Ted Haley
Head Coach
St. Albans and National
Cathedral Crew

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 252