United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L30 (NCR-LRP)

AUG 2 2004

Honorable Carol J. Mitten, MAI, Chairperson
District of Columbia Zoning Commission
District of Columbia Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairperson Mitten:

I would like to clarify the National Park Service's position with respect to Zoning Commission Case Number 02-31, and request that this clarification letter be placed in the public file for this proceeding.

During the May 9, 2003, hearing, our representative, Ms. Sally Blumenthal, may have inadvertently misrepresented the position of the C&O Canal National Historical Park Advisory Commission (Advisory Commission) regarding this proposal. At Pages 158-159 of the transcript, Mr. Mopsick was cross-examining Mr. Brangman, University Architect for Georgetown University. Mr. Mopsick was trying to determine the position of the Advisory Commission on this proposal. At that point Ms. Blumenthal was asked by the Chair as to whether the Advisory Commission had approved this project, to which Ms. Blumenthal responded "Yes." The response was based on the knowledge that the Advisory Commission had been aware of the boathouse proposal for ten years, and had supported the land use for a boathouse within the park at this location since 1987. Further, they had reviewed the design of the boathouse at their March 22, 2002, meeting, and had only expressed concern over the impact on the Capital Crescent Trail. Based on this review we submitted the project to the Zoning Commission on August 6, 2002. What Ms. Blumenthal could not report was that the Advisory Commission expressed concern five weeks later at their June 22, 2003, meeting, over the size and height of the proposed boathouse because it would partially block the views of the river from the towpath of the Canal. In response to this concern, the National Park Service required the University to lower the roofline by three feet to eliminate the obstruction. Due to scheduling difficulties, this lowered design was not presented to the Advisory Commission, but was submitted as rebuttal to the Zoning Commission on July 18, 2003.

We understand that Ms. Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld, Chair of the Advisory Commission, has written to you and we trust that her letter will be placed in the public file as well.

We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Terry R. Carlstrom

Regional Director, National Capital Region

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 02-31
EXHIBIT NO. 116

NOT PART OF THE RECORD

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-31
EXHIBIT NO.116

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02-31

Please deliver the following pages

To:

Name: ALBERTA BOSTICK

Phone:

From:

Name: John Parsons

Phone:

Date & Time: 8/2/2004

Number of pages to *follow*: ONE

Message:

ALBERTA THANKS FOR YOUR HELP ON THIS!