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The D.C. Zoning Commission
441 Fourth Street, N.W.
Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

In re: Case No. 02-30

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my deeply felt opposition to the proposed re-zoning of a parcel of National Park land in the Georgetown area (Case no. 02-30) to make way for a massive new boat house that would be imposed on the community by Georgetown University.

Not only would the construction of this mega-structure by G.U. create serious new traffic, parking and accessibility problems for the general population; it would also jeopardize the normal functioning of long-established local institutions, commercial and social.

I am particularly concerned about the future of the Washington Canoe Club. This historic structure, which will soon celebrate its 100th anniversary, houses one of the world's most vital centers for the encouragement of the Olympic sport of kayaking. Besides having a number of Olympic medalists to its credit, it generously offers time and talent for training less gifted young people in our community in the safe paddling skills.

The imposition of a mammoth university-owned boat house would work a serious hardship on the Canoe Club (and the neighboring Potomac Boat Club) not only in terms of parking and land-side accessibility, but by blocking traditional training lanes on the water. The lengthy heavy construction work required to erect Georgetown University's proposed boat house could also endanger the structural safety of the historic Canoe Club building, a treasured local landmark, which would be subjected to prolonged and massive vibration and shock from the necessary excavation work in its immediate vicinity.

In sum, then, as a concerned, life-long resident of the District, I urge the Commission to reject this application for re-zoning which, while it may be in the selfish interest of an already overgrown Georgetown University, would create nothing but problems for everyone else – tourists, merchants, sportsmen and women, and ordinary local residents – in our community.

Yours sincerely,

Aram Bakshian, Jr.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-31
Exhibit 97

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-31
EXHIBIT NO.97