Government of the District of C mbia
Commissioner Justin Wagner
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E
1419 36TH ST, NW - WASHINGTON, DC 20007
PHONE: 202-321-0783 EMAIL: WAGNERANC2E05@HOTMAIL.
CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE & TOWN-UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

December 5, 2002

Ms. Carol Mitten, Chair
Zoning Commission
Suite 220
441 Fourth Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Case No. 02-32, Georgetown University Performing Arts Center

Dear Madame Chair and Members of the Board:

As an elected Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in the single member district which represents both West Georgetown and a portion of Georgetown University, this testimony aims a) to offer ANC 2E's strong support of the Performing Arts Center, b) to speak to the progress in neighborhood conduct that has been achieved over the past years, and c) to address the current status of town-gown relations in our community.

A. Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E's Unanimously Support for Project

At the regular public meeting of ANC 2E on October 29, 2002, the Commission passed a unanimous resolution of strong support for the project which reads, "ANC 2E supports the proposal as presented for the Performing Arts Center at Georgetown University knowing that the new space will enhance the current performing arts programs at the University and open up for its students new opportunities" (Attachment A).

During the course of the discussion, a number of Commissioners commented on the positive nature of this project with regards to strengthening campus life at Georgetown- an important goal for our Commission. At no point was there opposition offered from any of the Commissioners or any members of the assembled community. Thus, I request that the Office of Planning grant ANC 2E the "great weight" it is entitled under law and approve Georgetown University's application for construction of the Performing Arts Center.

B. Improving Neighborhood Conduct

During the Campus Plan process, the Board of Zoning was very clear in its desire for all parties to work to achieve improved conduct in the neighborhood with regards to issues of noise, vandalism and trash. Having represented both longtime residents and students as an ANC Commissioner, I, along with the vast majority of my community, believe that the relationship between the University, students and the neighborhood has vastly improved over the past three years. While there will always remain work to be done, there has been tremendous progress in the conduct of students in our neighborhood.

Working together as students, residents and University officials, we have achieved real results in improving neighborhood conduct. I have heard testimonials from various Georgetown and Burleith residents about this progress; in fact, President of the Burleith Citizen's Association (BCA), Ed Solomon, even commented in his June newsletter that, "I have asked our community at numerous BCA meetings, and there is a consensus that student conduct is better this year than in the past." In part, this improvement is a result of increased cooperation and dialogue between

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-32
Exhibit 30

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-32
EXHIBIT NO.39

students and longtime residents through such forums as the Georgetown University Alliance for Local Living and the ANC.

As Chair of the Neighborhood Public Safety Committee, I also present empirical data to validate this widespread sentiment of an improvement in neighborhood behavior. An action plan developed by Lt. Brian Bray and various student and community members helped achieve a 15% reduction in unruly behavior complaints in the community. As a well-respected public servant in the Georgetown and Burleith communities, Lt. Bray was quoted as saying the following, "I am surprised with the dramatic decrease (of unruly behavior complaints) from October of last year to now" (April 5, 2002 edition of THE HOYA newspaper). In addition, during the 2001-2002 academic year, both noise complaints to the Georgetown University hotline and underage drinking arrests declined sharply. In fact, our local police leadership has perceived an overall improvement in neighborhood conduct over the past few years. For your review, I have attached a letter from Lt. Brian Bray speaking to the fact that, "student behavior has dramatically improved over the past four years".

Further, the University has voluntarily taken any number of steps to improve student conduct including the establishment of the Alliance for Local Living working group, the Student Neighborhood Assistance Program (SNAP) to respond to conduct complaints and a neighborhood complaint hotline which is staffed 24/7. The University's Department of Public Safety has responded to neighborhood complaints by expanding its coverage in the residential community of West Georgetown. Through numerous educational programs, the University has also taken steps to educate its students about standards of neighborhood conduct as well as District laws regarding trash and vehicle registration. In addition to these educational programs and constantly telling students with cars to make sure they are registered, the University also passes all complaints regarding unregistered cars to the MPD for proper enforcement action. <u>These actions represent a University which is constantly striving to improve its relationship, and that of its students, with the surrounding neighborhood.</u>

C. Improving Town-Gown Relations in Georgetown and Burleith

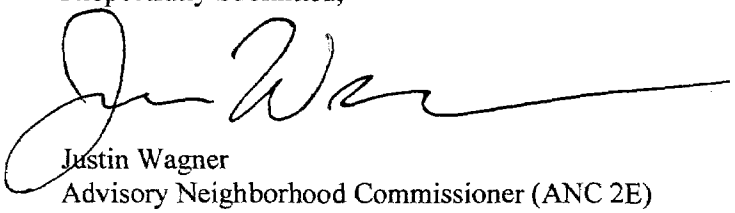
Where town-gown relations used to be dominated by confrontation and controversy, the community now works together on a wide-array of issues where students and residents can unite to improve our common community. Working with the MPD, together we have pressed for staffing increases, better street lighting and improved communication between the MPD and the neighborhood. With the help of the University, students and residents, we convinced the MPD to deploy two full time officers in West Georgetown to address shared concerns about safety and quality of life issues such as noise and vandalism. This cooperation is exemplified by the fact that these officers are equipped with cell phones provided by Georgetown University.

Serving on our local ANC, I can best attest to this improved cooperation by pointing to the September 2002 agreement between the neighborhood and the University to lease the Duke Ellington Track. In the past, such a proposal would have resulted in any number of fiery community meetings. However, by working cooperatively, concerned community members and University officials were able to come to our ANC with an agreement. The Georgetown Current, our neighborhood newspaper, commented, "the 6-1 vote and the mild reaction of the audience to the university's proposal for part-time use of the field showed how far the school and its neighbors have moved away from their earlier, predictable confrontations" (Georgetown Current, September 4, 2002).

Whether it be the ANC, the Alliance for Local Living, Prospect Street Partners or the BZA Quarterly meeting, there are now a number of forums where resident and student leaders can come to the table and discuss issues. To me, this represents the fundamental difference between the current status of the town-gown relationship and the extremely adversarial relationship of just years ago. Though there will always be issues where honest differences exist,

such forums are important to find reasonable solutions and facilitate the growing sentiment of common-respect and understanding. It is with this in mind that I submit to the board, as an active member of both the University and residential communities, the vast progress this neighborhood has made in improving the working relationship between students, the University and the residential community.

Respectfully Submitted,



Justin Wagner
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (ANC 2E)

Attachments

METROPOLITAN POLICE

Second Police District

3320 Idaho Avenue, Washington D.C., 20016 (202) 282-0042 FAX (202) 282-0196

December 4th, 2002

Office of Planning
District of Columbia

Honorable Members of the Board,

It has been brought to my attention that the members of the Office of Planning may have been misinformed about the current situation involving incidents of disorderly conduct around the Georgetown University. Specifically, I have been advised that the board was informed that incidents of disorderly conduct involving Georgetown University students are at a four (4) year high.

I am writing this letter to assure you that this in not the case. I am the Police Service Area Lieutenant for Police Service Area (P.S.A.) 205. P.S.A. 205 encompasses the Georgetown University, a section of Georgetown, Burleith, Glover Park, Massachusetts Heights, and Cathedral Heights. I have been serving as the P.S.A. Lieutenant in Georgetown for the past two (2) years. In this time, I believe that great strides have been made to reduce disorderly behavior in the west Georgetown and Burleith neighborhoods. Through a cooperative effort involving the police, the community, and the Georgetown University, we created an action plan to address disorderly conduct issues. This action plan was implemented in the year 2001. At the end of the year, a statistical analysis was conducted. This analysis showed that the action plan was a success. Due to the combined efforts of all concerned stakeholders, calls for service involving disorderly conduct (in the Georgetown & Burleith areas) were reduced 15% in the year 2001 as compared with the year 2000.

A further comparison showed that calls for service involving disorderly conduct were 22% lower in the year 2001 as compared with the year 1999. Year to date for 2002, disorderly calls for service are slightly higher (approximately 3%) than last year. However, calls for service are still 12% lower than they were in the year 2000.

I believe that it is the perception of several community members that this year has been a "bad" year for disorderly behavior and student misconduct. I attribute this perception to the fact that my officers have been more vigilant and less tolerant about disorderly behavior than last they were last year. I have directed my officers to adopt a "zero tolerance" approach to quality of life offenses and noise violations. This approach has resulted in a considerable increase in enforcement activities (arrests, criminal citations, fines) in the year 2002. Due to the fact that I report all enforcement actions taken against Georgetown students to the Georgetown University and to several community groups, I believe these groups have taken the increased enforcement numbers to equate to increased student misbehavior. As I have previously stated, I do not believe that this is the case.

I have polled my officers and sergeants about this issue. The consensus is that Georgetown University student behavior has dramatically improved over the past four (4) years. The majority of my officers feel that student behavior has been better this year than it was last year, even with the 3% increase in calls for service in the area. The remainder of my officers indicated that student behavior seems no better or no worse than last year. Almost all of my officers agree that student conduct is much better than it was four (4) or five (5) years ago. Since many of these officers have been dealing with these issues on a continual basis for several years, I will put my trust in their experience and judgment.

In closing, I would like the Board to know that the police, the community, and the Georgetown University have been working hard to reduce incidents of student misconduct in the Georgetown area. I know these efforts have not been futile. I am confident that the mechanisms we have put in place will continue to have a positive impact on this issue. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (202) 996-6568 (pager) or (202) 282-0032 (office). I appreciate your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

Brian S. Bray
Lieutenant
Second District

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Foxhall-MacArthur, Georgetown and Hillandale

3265 S Street, NW • Washington, DC 20007

(202) 338-7427 • FAX (202) 338-0279 • anc2e@erols.com

ATTACHMENT A

November 22, 2002

Ms. Carol Mitten, Chair
Zoning Commission
Suite 220
441 Fourth Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Case No. 02-32, Georgetown University Performing Arts Center

Dear Madame Chair and Members of the Board:

At the regular public meeting of ANC 2E on October 29, 2002, which was duly noticed and attended by all eight commissioners, the above-referenced item was discussed after a brief presentation by the University architect Alan Brangman. After the discussion, ANC 2E unanimously passed the following motion:

> ANC 2E supports the proposal as presented for the Performing Arts Center at Georgetown University knowing that the new space will enhance the current performing arts programs at the University and open up for its students new opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter Pulsifer
Chair, ANC 2E

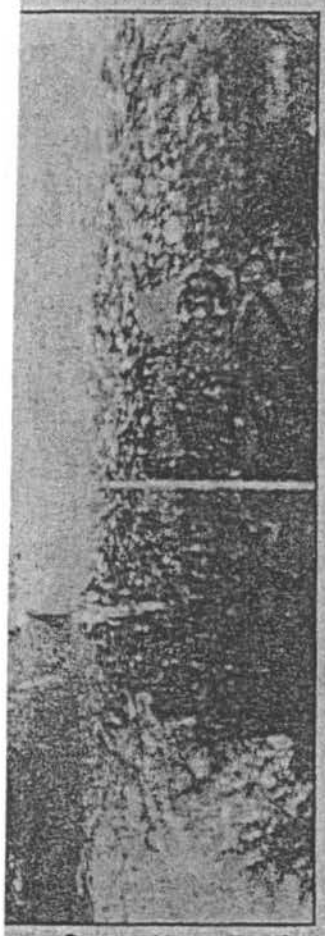
COMMISSIONERS:

Scott Polk, District 1 Len Levine, District 2 Peter Pulsifer, District 3 Justin Kopa, District 4
Justin Wagner, District 5 Bill Starrels, District 6 Tom Birch, District 7 Mark Ryan, District 8

f Record Since 1920

02 ©2002 THE HOYA, Vol. 83, No. 45

ATTACHMENT B



CHARLES NAILEN/THE HOYA

Quad on Thursday.

ored by DeGioia, who hon-
r helping to build community.
ng the fountain with Schneider,
d the eventual closing of an
not be forgotten.
s year, but we at George-
ber the caring and compas-
on our campus like the
yard," DeGioia said. "We
lepend on each other, that
unity."

Resident Complaints Decreased, MPD Says

Students, ANC, University To Credit for Improvements, According To Wagner

BY SEAN WEST
SPECIAL TO THE HOYA

The last 12 months have seen a dramatic decrease in unruly behavior complaints and underage drinking arrests in the Georgetown and Burleith neighborhoods, according to the Advisory Neighborhood Commission and the Metropolitan Police Department. Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Justin Wagner (COL '03) said heightened consciousness by students, actions by the ANC, university administration policies and stronger police enforcement have contributed to the decrease.

"We've seen a significant reduction in complaints of disorderly conduct and rowdiness in Burleith and areas surrounding the Georgetown campus," Lieutenant Brian Bray of MPD said. Bray was commended earlier this year by the ANC for his contributions to the 15 percent reduction in unruly behavior complaints within his Georgetown neighborhood patrol area.

"I am surprised with the dramatic decrease from October of last year to now," Bray said. "Before we were getting 10 to 12 calls [from residents] a weekend, now we get about one."

According to a report by the Georgetown Off Campus Student Life Hotline there have been four weeks during spring semester with zero confirmed incidents reported.

"Maybe students are going the extra step to be respectful to their neighbors," Bray said. He also credited Wagner's attempts at getting the word out to students.

"[Wagner] put a lot of info out there — informing students about the laws," he said.

Ed Emes, a property owner on Prospect Street and in Burleith agreed.

"It's been my experience that both ANC commissioners have helped give students a feeling of responsibility," he said. "My personal experience is that the situation has gotten better."

Wagner said "this sharp decrease in incidents and arrests reflects a new behavior in Georgetown where students and residents have become more respectful of each other in the community." As chair of the public safety committee Wagner has played a key role in ANC policies aimed at fostering dialogue between the community and students. "Improving the relationship between students and residents has been the number one priority of my term on the ANC," he said. He added, however that the credit really goes "to the Georgetown University student body".

SEE STUDENT CONDUCT, P. 5

Lauinger Stuck in Media Debate

ATTACHMENT C

Burleith Newsletter June, 2002

President's Message- By Ed Solomon

Since this is the final issue of our Burleith newsletter for the 2001–2002 year, I felt it would be appropriate to summarize the BCA activities of the past year and lay out the issues facing our community for 2002–2003.

Membership. The BCA showed an increase this year over last year. Although it was not dramatic, we had good representation from all areas of our community. However, we can do better. Your participation and input at our monthly meetings is extremely important. Why read about an issue in the *Current* if you can hear all the details at the BCA meeting and affect the outcome? I know you are busy (aren't we all!), but I do believe you could make at least one or two meetings per year. There needs to be input from an true cross section of our community prior to a final decision on an issue that will affect the quality of our lives. Charles Mallet has done an outstanding job as chair of the Membership Committee.

Georgetown University. Most of our neighbors are extremely concerned about student behavior in our community. **I have asked our community at numerous BCA meetings, and there is a consensus that student behavior has improved compared to previous years.** I know, I know, there was a rowdy party next to your home which kept you up all night; you called the police and no one came. As we found out this year, there are faults with the system. We are attempting to fix them. Your BCA representatives will be meeting with school officials this summer to evaluate the past year and attempt to build a closer working relationship for the coming year.

ATTACHMENT D

Georgetown Current, Sept. 4, ANC backs GU lease of Ellington's track
By CHARLES BERMPOHL ,Current Staff Writer

Georgetown's advisory neighborhood commission last night gave the green light to Georgetown University's five-year lease of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts running track.

The 6-1 vote and the mild reaction of the audience to the university's proposal for part-time use of the field showed how far the school and its neighbors have moved away from their earlier, predictable confrontations.

In March 1998, more than 100 people rallied at the field, and the track that surrounds it, to protest the school board's move to lease the athletic facility to either the university or one of nine other bidders.

The school board, which had already scrapped an earlier plan to sell the field -- which Georgetown University was eager to buy -- backed away from the leasing plan as well, announcing two months after the rally that the field would remain available to the public and the various athletic teams that had been using it for years.

When representatives of the university appeared before a school board committee this past July and proposed leasing the track and putting up $250,000 to renovate it, some past grumblings about the school's land grab resurfaced.

Advisory neighborhood commission chair Peter Pulsifer complained about the possibility that the university chose midsummer "to slip something past people with everyone on vacation."

Ed Solomon, president of the Burleith Citizens Association, showed up at the school board committee meeting just to let the university officials know that he wanted them "to come before the association."

But the greatest concern at last night's meeting seemed to come from dog owners who wanted to be assured that Fido and Spot would still be allowed to use the 4.6-acre field for their regular exercises.

One benefit of the university's proposal, said one Foxhall Village woman who came to the meeting, "is that it keeps the field open to the dogs. That's terrifically important." Others voiced the same sentiments.

Linda Greenan, the university's assistant vice president for external relations, said the school is proposing to use the track between noon and 3 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

For that, the university will spend up to $250,000 renovating the track. At the school board presentation in July, a written summary of the proposal said Georgetown University would replace the current cinder surface with a "high-quality rubber/polyurethane surface."

The university has also offered to create a 350-foot sprinting track in front of the grandstands.

It was Pulsifer who authored the resolution in support of the university's proposal. He said it was important that the university carry through on its plans to improve the track -- "We look forward to that," he said -- but that it not reconfigure it or use it for intercollegiate competition.

The only commissioner to vote against the resolution was Mark Ryan.