GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Student Association

RECEIVED
D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2003 JAN 23 PM 2:12

January 22, 2003

The Hon. Carol J. Mitten, Chairwoman
Zoning Commission
District of Columbia Office of Zoning
441 Fourth Street, Northwest
Suite 210 South
Washington, D.C. 20001

In re: Case No. 02-32

Dear Chairwoman Mitten and Members of the Zoning Commission:

As president of the Georgetown University Student Association, I write in support of Georgetown University's petition for construction approval in Case 02-32. My fellow students and I are enthusiastic about the pending construction of the MBNA Performing Arts Center, the completion of which will mark an unprecedented improvement in the state of Georgetown's arts facilities. Georgetown University is one of the only major, elite universities without a academic theatre space. Nevertheless, Georgetown students work endlessly to put on professional quality student theatre. This new center will bring students back on campus and improve the quality of life for all members of the Georgetown community.

I am aware that concerns about the university's compliance with a Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) Order entered on August 6, 2001, may delay the Zoning Commission's approval of plans to construct the proposed center, but I am convinced that Georgetown University has thoroughly fulfilled each of the BZA requirements in dispute.

In August 2002, each Georgetown undergraduate living off-campus was required to attend an orientation session organized by the Office of Off-Campus Student Life. These orientations featured presentations from community members, landlords, Metropolitan Police Department officers, student leaders, and university officials. They also included a moment at which students were notified of the District of Columbia's motor vehicle registration law and received documents on which to provide license and domicile information to the university. Students who subsequently failed to register their motor vehicles received follow-up electronic messages from the Office of Off-Campus Student Life, and after consultations between the university and the District's Department of Motor Vehicles, all undergraduate and graduate students received a final reminder, a copy of which is attached.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 02-32
EXHIBIT NO. 44

1608 Leavey Box 571064 Washington DC 20057
(202) 687-3476 fax (202) 687-0888

The August 6, 2001, BZA Order concerning Application 16566A requires that "the Applicant, through its Office of the Registrar, shall maintain an accurate record of the license plate numbers of motor vehicles kept by all University students. The Applicant shall direct its students to register their vehicles in the District of Columbia, or obtain a reciprocity sticker if eligible to do so, and shall consult with the D.C. Department of Motor Vehicles to determine whether such registration is completed or such stickers are obtained" (§14). Though many Georgetown students continue to believe that the District's current motor vehicle registration laws discriminate on the basis of matriculation, I cannot but affirm that the university has complied with these provisions.

Likewise, I also commend the university's efforts at encouraging its students to behave as responsible members of the residential communities in which they live. Under the direction of Associate Dean of Students Jeanne F. Lord, the Office of Off-Campus Student Life has proven to be a stern and effective tool in the processes of educating and disciplining off-campus students. The office's orientation sessions, for instance, not only inform students about motor-vehicle-registration laws but also provide a host of data about such topics as trash, maintenance, and the responsibilities of landlords and tenants. At the same time, students, professors, and administrators also participate in the meetings of the Alliance for Local Living, a group that meets monthly with neighborhood residents, campus police officers, and Metropolitan Police Department representatives. As a result of these and other initiatives, I am happy to report, student behavior continues to improve.

From the perspective of its undergraduate student body, then, Georgetown University has admirably fulfilled the requirements of the BZA Order. It would be both unfair and unfortunate for exaggerated concerns about the university's compliance to delay the construction of a much needed facility.

I ask that this letter be entered as part of the public record in Zoning Commission Case 02-32, and I hope that the Commission will not hesitate to contact me should it have any questions. I can be reached either at kjb7@georgetown.edu or at (202) 687-3647.

Yours truly,

Kaydee J. Bridges
President

cc: Jeanne F. Lord, R.N., J.D., Associate Dean of Students
Encl.