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Zoning Commission for the District of Columbia
Suite 210
444 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Case No. 04-23 (George Washington University)

Dear Commissioners:

As I will be unable to attend the Hearing on this matter, please enter this letter in the record and consider it in rendering your decision.

It is my understanding that George Washington University seeks to continue to house freshman and sophomore students at its residence hall on Virginia Ave. located opposite 2700 Virginia Ave. Since I live at 2700 Virginia Ave., and have done so for more than 20 years, my views should be helpful.

In assessing my views, you should know that my apartment is located on the first and second floors facing the dormitory. I go to work at about 8:15 am five days a week and pass by the dormitory. Depending on my schedule, I return at either 8:00 pm or 10:00 pm each of those days. I also walk my dog Tara on the grass alongside the Parkway at approximately 7:00 am and 10:00 pm daily, thus requiring me to walk along the full frontage of the dormitory. During weekends, I am often out and about in the neighborhood. Thus my exposure to the denizens of the residence hall is substantial.

My observations have been so uneventful as to be boring. When students are seen, they appear to be on the other side of the street heading for the main campus. There are rarely groups. In the evening, all that can be seen through the windows is row upon row of glowing CRTs, presumably surfing the web, e-mailing, instant messaging or whatever young people do these days. I have seen no signs of drunkenness, yelling, boisterous behavior, or inappropriate lack of clothing (except to the extent that young people appear to be wearing less these days). As to inappropriate behavior, there was one suicide. In addition, one or two people manage to unlock their windows each Spring, although we always report them to the guard on duty and they are dealt with since under Watergate West's agreement with GWU the windows are sealed. In short, the students are essentially transparent. I see them personally at Safeway and CVS, and they seem to be perfectly normal and acceptable human being, although seemingly more wealthy than I am. I once found the

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passport of a student, returned it, and was rewarded with a box of dates and appropriate gratitude when she returned from her home country. All in all, the behavior of the students is of far less impact than that of guests of the Howard Johnson Hotel who frequented the balconies and whose buses required constant calls to the police (who ignored them).

It is unlikely in my view that there will be a discernable difference with juniors and seniors. They will likely dress the same and behave the same. Indeed, their behavior may be worse as they are accustomed to spending the $30,000 plus a year necessary to obtain a college education and will have more time to be out and about. The Commission should be careful in making discriminatory judgements, of course, as I am sure you will. Further, the Commission should seek to further its goals of having the GWU residence halls utilized in their most efficient fashion to localize the student population in these facilities rather than spread them throughout the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederic W. Schwartz, Jr.
Jill Nevius Schwartz