Ms. Carol Mitten, Chair
District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

Re: George Washington University
Case No. 04-23

Dear Ms. Mitten and Members of the Commission:

This letter is written in support of the Application of George Washington University to amend Condition No. 10 of the Campus Plan Order in order to permit the continued use of the Hall on Virginia Avenue (HOVA) as a freshman dormitory.

Presently, I reside at 1255 New Hampshire Ave. NW Apt 204, Washington DC, 20036 and I am a graduate student at George Washington University. I was previously an undergraduate student, and am also a former ANC Commissioner for the Foggy Bottom ANC. This letter is written based on my experience both as an undergraduate student at GW and as an ANC Commissioner.

HOVA was purchased and renovated by the University for use as a freshman dormitory. The configuration of the interior spaces of the former Howard Johnson hotel make it ideally suitable for a freshman dormitory, which consists primarily of small bedroom units with bathroom facilities. Based on my own experience, I know that upper classmen would not consider HOVA suitable housing, since most upper classmen expect larger residential spaces, including apartment-style units or suites that include a living room area, as well as kitchen facilities. Were the University forced to discontinue use of HOVA for freshmen in order to place those students on campus, it would not be possible to simply substitute upper classmen for the freshmen at HOVA. Rather, what would undoubtedly happen would be that the upper classmen would elect out of the University's housing lottery and choose instead to live off campus. This would have the opposite effect of what was intended in the most recent Campus Plan, namely, to remove students from the surrounding residential community.

During my years as an undergraduate student at GW and during my years as an ANC Commissioner, I was not aware of any complaints about student activity at HOVA. The building is largely isolated from surrounding residential neighbors and is a secure and well-managed facility. I am not aware of any neighbor complaints about activities at the building, nor am I aware of any history of loud parties or Campus or Metro Police Department complaints associated with HOVA.

In my opinion, the HOVA facility should be permitted to continue to be used as a freshman dormitory. It houses approximately 450 freshmen, and solves a pressing need of the University for beds within University-controlled facilities. It allows the students to live in a secure and controlled environment with no impact on the surrounding neighborhood, and it frees up other on-campus housing for upper classmen to reduce the

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 04-23
Exhibit 26

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.04-23
EXHIBIT NO.26

number of students living within the larger community. I see no purpose to be served by requiring the University to shut down this facility for freshmen or to spend huge amounts of money to reconfigure it for upper classmen housing. In my opinion, that money is better spent on constructing additional new on-campus housing and allowing this facility to continue its use indefinitely.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my opinions. I urge you to approve the application and to do so quickly so that the University has this information when it begins its housing lottery process in January.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Singer

Joshua A. Singer