Graham E. Long
Commissioner, ANC 2A06

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December 2, 2004

Testimony before the Zoning Commission
Re: The George Washington University Hall on Virginia Avenue

My testimony, both in this written statement and before the commission in person, is my personal expressed opinion, and is not to be construed in any way as reflecting the opinion or decisions of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A.

The request of The George Washington University to allow the Hall on Virginia Avenue (HOVA) to be considered (for the purpose of meeting the goal of housing more of its students within stipulated campus boundaries) as on-campus housing is one I believe the Zoning Commission should grant.

The HOVA building is one that can only be used to house freshmen students. It has been used to house freshmen for a number of years, and there have been few problems associated with such use. It is not a suitable building for housing upper classmen, and will not be selected by upper classmen for housing. The university has already attempted to offer the building to upper classmen, and instead of selecting the building, more students opted out of on-campus housing entirely, to move into other residential buildings within the Foggy Bottom vicinity.

It would be counter-productive to the goal of the university housing more of its students within university owned property, to close the building to freshmen, and thereby leave it virtually vacant and unusable. Freshmen would be forced into current upper classmen dormitories, and displaced upper classmen would most surely move off campus into non-university owned properties. Though the idea of one day removing the HOVA building from housing use may be a worthy goal, the university does not have an adequate number of rooms within campus boundaries to house displaced students from the closing of this building. Furthermore, HOVA is a building that does not directly abut any other residential property, and is therefore a good place to house freshmen until the university has accommodations for them within the boundaries of the campus.

The HOVA building has little impact on the neighboring residential community, is necessary to the goal of housing more students in university owned property, and should therefore continue to be used as a freshmen dormitory.

Sincerely,

Graham E. Long
Commissioner, ANC 2A06

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 04-23
Exhibit 30

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.04-23
EXHIBIT NO.30