TESTIMONY OF

Rita V. Champagne
2400 Virginia Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20037

Before the Zoning Commission
Thursday, December 2, 2004

Good Evening,

My name is Rita V. Champagne, and for the last 28 years, I have lived at 2400 Virginia Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. I am here to testify in support of George Washington University's request to continue the use of the Hall of Virginia Avenue (HOVA) for freshmen housing.

I am a member of the Foggy Bottom Association and a former Foggy Bottom Association Board member. However, I must respectfully disagree with its position on this issue.

I believe that the ANC and the Foggy Bottom Association have failed to see the larger picture and this is a perfect case of "cutting off your nose to spite your face".

If the HOVA building cannot be used for freshman, hundreds of students will then move into the neighborhood. Yet, if some Foggy Bottom residents feel that the students are a problem at HOVA, then let us address that problem, and not move it elsewhere. The George Washington University has an extremely effective and well-published community concern policy. I am attaching to this statement, an information sheet put out by the university on this subject. I have had personal experience with this policy. I have called 994-6110, stating the problem, and giving my name/address and telephone number. Within a few minutes, the noise had stopped. The next day I received a call from GW saying that they had received a copy of my complaint and that the matter had been taken care of. It makes sense to me that if your house is on fire, you call the Fire Department, not write a letter to your ANC Commissioner! Likewise in this case: if the students are the problem at HOVA, let's work with GW and the students to correct this. I have had good rapport with students and I gladly offer my help in this regard.

I honestly don't believe that there are problems serious enough to discontinue the use of HOVA for freshmen housing. In my opinion, closing this facility to freshman would only create more problems. Thus, I support GW's application.

Thank you.

Attachment: As stated

Rita V. Champagne

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 04-23
Exhibit 31

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.04-23
EXHIBIT NO.31

Information for neighbors of GW

If you have a GW related concern regarding violations of the law and or city ordinances, you may contact:

Metropolitan Police at # 311 *

or

University Police Department

 # 202/994-6110

 # 202/994-TIPS (for anonymous calls)

When contacted, the University Police Department (UPD) will respond to the concern, investigate, and attempt to resolve the problem. UPD will document its actions and forward a report to the appropriate campus departments.

The University will follow up with the community member regarding the complaint when contact information is provided.

When appropriate, GW does adjudicate cases involving student behavior on and off campus.

Additionally, the Community Living and Learning Center provides a booklet to students moving off campus on being good neighbors. The booklet "The George Washington University in the Community: GW Guide to Living Off Campus" is mailed to students who decide not to continue residing in campus housing. The guide can be found on-line at: http://gwired.gwu.edu/cllc/misc/living_off_campus.pdf

* UPD's jurisdiction does not extend to off-campus private property. If the concern regards behavior in a private apartment building or residence, please contact building management or the Metropolitan Police Department. Agreements with building management allow for adjudication of off-campus student behavior when appropriate.

March 2004