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June 10, 2014

Anthony Hood, Chairperson
D C Zoning Commission
Office of Zoning
441 4th Street NW, Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20001
zcsubmissions@dc.gov

**Re: Z.C. Case No. 06-11L: Hillel at the George Washington University
Letter of Support**

Dear Chairperson Hood and Members of the Commission

My name is Miriam Smallman, and I am a rising junior at George Washington University. I am writing to you to express my strong support for Hillel's new building project. The new building will be more than a physical presence on campus—it will represent how Jewish life on campus *does* have a home and is stronger than ever before.

GW Hillel means a lot to me—it was one of the first buildings I found as a prospective student at GW, and upon enrolling I took a work-study job at Hillel as well. As a result, I have spent a lot of time in Hillel, watching as it expanded Jewish outreach on campus and worked to provide a home for Jewish students across all spheres of campus life. I also attend Shabbat dinner every Friday night, and look forward to it as a way to come together with friends to celebrate the end of the week.

To this end, spending so much time in Hillel has allowed me to see the building's physical limitations. The building is literally falling apart on the inside (ceiling tiles missing over the space where we eat Shabbat dinner) and its layout does not always serve Hillel's purpose—be it from a mission standpoint (lack of adequate, separate study spaces for students) or a programmatic perspective (outdated kitchen facilities used in Challah for Hunger, for instance).

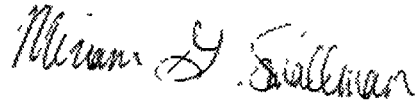
GW Hillel serves a Jewish community on campus of around 3,000 students, and a new building would help Hillel continue its current Jewish programming while allowing Hillel to expand and engage more students in better ways. GW students—of all faiths—have lobbied the university for more “student space” (for studying, meeting, hosting events, etc.), and GW's Hillel serves not only as space for Jewish students but serves as a point

of connection to help us interact with the larger GW community. This is one of the reasons why Hillel needs GW's partnership to afford the construction of the new building

I am so grateful I found Hillel as a freshman—I have developed professional skills through employment with Hillel as well as grown culturally through engaging in student programming. Hillel is a vital part of campus life, and I ask that the Commission approve the relief required to construct the new building.

Thank you for your time and sincerely yours,

Miriam Smallman

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Miriam G. Smallman".

cc: Patrick Kennedy, ANC 2A (2A01@anc dc gov)
Graham Galka, ANC 2A (2A05@anc.dc gov)