

ZONING COMMISSION CASE No. 06-16
Gallaudet University

Draft Testimony of Paul Kelly

Good evening Madame Chair and Members of the Zoning Commission. My name is Paul Kelly. I serve as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Gallaudet University. I am pleased to appear before this Commission to present our application for an exciting new building on the Gallaudet Campus – The Sorenson Language and Communication Center.

I will begin with some background information. The Gallaudet University Facilities Master Plan 2002-2012 was unanimously approved by this Commission by bench decision and summary order on April 28, 2003. This approved Campus Plan is valid for a period of 10 years from the date of the Commission's Order, that is, until August 26, 2013.

The approved Campus Plan indicated that over the course of this next decade, Gallaudet intends to focus on the replacement of existing outmoded university facilities, involving a variety of demolition, renovation and new construction projects. To that end, we are excited to bring before this Commission our first further processing application – for the construction of a new language and communication center to be located at the core of the Campus' academic zone, and which will help frame the northeast corner of the campus' restored central green.

The Sorenson Language and Communication Center will house classrooms, research centers, and faculty and student offices for the following academic departments: Hearing, Speech and Language Services (HSLS); American Sign Language and Deaf Studies; Linguistics; Communications; Government/History/Sociology; and Media. As you can see, all of these departments are critical to Gallaudet's mission. In addition to providing a dramatically more vibrant and technologically advanced teaching environment, construction of the Sorenson Center will also allow for the relocation of these departments and uses from other, outdated campus buildings which were designated for renovation or demolition on the approved Campus Plan.

The Sorenson Center will consist of approximately 85,000 square feet of multi-purpose academic space in an inviting, dynamic and environmentally-conscious architectural design created by SmithGroup architects. Greg Mella of SmithGroup will take you through a more detailed description of the project.

ZONING COMMISSION
CASE No. 06-16
ZONING COMMISSION
EXHIBIT No. 28
North Carolina
CASE NO. 06-16
EXHIBIT NO. 28

In closing, I would like to note that this project enjoys widespread community support. As you will note from the letters that have been submitted to the Record, we have maintained exceptional relations with our neighbors through the Gallaudet Community Relations Council, which has submitted a letter in support of the project. We also met extensively with Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5B, which has also submitted a letter indicating support for the project. We have also communicated with ANC 6A, which borders the campus across Florida Avenue.

We are also gratified by the support we have received from the District's Office of Planning and Department of Transportation and thank them for their time and efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of this application. I welcome any questions you might have.

3799322_v1