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Friday, May 9, 2025

Mr. Anthony J. Hood, Chairman
D.C. Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW, 2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Zoning Commission Case No 23-08(1)-Wesley Theological Seminary
Updated Campus Plan (2015-2035)

Dear Chairman Hood and Members of the Commission:

I am Josie Scholz, a Wesley University Avenue neighbor for over 40 years. Of course I want Wesley to survive and thrive in our neighborhood, but I became concerned when some years ago I learned that Wesley is hoping to thrive by building a very large commercial structure to house and draw income from its neighboring AU students, whose housing money is needed to balance AU's own budget.

I have written and testified to the ZC twice in hearings over the last few years, and I continue today to support the arguments of the SVWHCA, NLC, and ANC3E in opposition to aspects of this project.

After many hearings and a number of proposals, as of now, you, the ZC, have provided a way for the project to be built, by recently accepting Wesley's text amendments, while conceding that the proposal is a commercial venture.

If the ZC now accepts Wesley's updated Campus Plan, in spite of the fact that Wesley

1. has not shared data supporting their financial need for the income from the project,
2. has not found another way to raise money than to ask the ZC for an exception to the regulations,
3. has not yet coordinated with AU about campus safety and other issues, and
4. could adversely affect its own existing graduate academic community by adding AU undergraduate residents,

it is very important, and I hope, that before giving approval for the updated Campus Plan and before further processing, the ZC will require Wesley to contribute funds above the minimum for IZ, in order to share with those less financially fortunate in Ward 3 some of the benefit the ZC is affording Wesley by giving them the green light to build this project.

Thank you for your time.
Josie Scholz