

**TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM CLARKSON
SPRING VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BEFORE
THE ZONING COMMISSION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN
Z.C. CASE NO. 23-08(1)**

MAY 12, 2025

Chairman Hood and Commissioners, my name is William Clarkson, and I am testifying on behalf of the Spring Valley Neighborhood Association (“SVNA” or the “Association”). SVNA is composed of residents of Spring Valley, the neighborhood bordering Wesley Theological Seminary (“Wesley” or the “Seminary”), and I live two blocks from the Wesley campus. SVNA has been an active participant in the Seminary’s Community Liaison Committee (“CLC”), and as party in this case, we appreciate the opportunity to testify again in support of Wesley’s proposed Campus Plan.

We believe the Seminary has continued to make a concerted, good faith effort to proactively engage with community stakeholders regarding this campus plan proposal and to address concerns raised by potentially affected individual neighbors. We are particularly pleased that the proposed Campus Plan provides for the construction of a community playground and sidewalk along University Avenue. We also believe that our elected ANC 3D and ANC 3E representatives should be commended for their tireless efforts to keep neighborhood residents informed and for working to foster meaningful dialogue among the various stakeholders and community interests.

The proposed Campus Plan is the result of numerous meetings and discussions involving the CLC, ANC 3D and 3E, multiple neighborhood organizations, and individual neighbors, and we believe it will allow our neighbor, Wesley Seminary, the best opportunity to thrive in place.

We look forward to working with the Seminary and other community stakeholders, and we hope that American University, Wesley’s immediate neighbor, will become more involved as this process moves forward (See Exhibit 63). We are encouraged by Wesley’s ongoing engagement with American University, and we believe meaningful and substantive communication and coordination between Wesley, American University, and community stakeholders is essential.

All of us are here today because we care deeply about our community, and I would hope that all participants recognize the importance of raising genuine, fact-based concerns, and working to address those concerns in good faith. We welcome the open and collaborative process that has been followed to date, and we appreciate the Commission’s consideration of this testimony.