



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

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November 18, 2025

Members of the District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 Fourth Street, NW Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Case Number: 23-08A
Campus Plan Further Processing, New University Housing, 4500 Massachusetts Ave. NW
(Sq. 1600, Lots 6-9) - Ward 3

Dear Members of the Zoning Commission:

American University (AU) appreciates the opportunity to provide an update to the Commission regarding ongoing discussions with Wesley Theological Seminary and Landmark Development related to Wesley's proposed New University Housing. While AU is not a party in this proceeding or involved in Wesley's proposed development, we remain committed to open communication and collaboration with our institutional neighbor.

As reflected in their filings for this proceeding, AU, Wesley, and Landmark have been engaged in constructive dialogue to address a variety of operational topics related to this proposal, such as potential access to AU's shuttle transportation network, the possibility of pedestrian gate access along a shared fence line, public safety, and construction management. AU values its longstanding relationship with Wesley and has endeavored to provide helpful responses to questions raised by Wesley and share other relevant information. Should this project move forward, AU will continue engaging with Wesley, Landmark, and neighborhood stakeholders to advance these productive discussions.

This project, as it has been since its inception, remains exclusively under Wesley's control and responsibility. AU has no ownership, financial, operational, or programmatic interest in the proposed New University Housing. AU retains full discretion over its shuttle service and all its student housing policies, including on-campus housing requirements, consistent with its 2021 Campus Plan (ZC #20-31).

As AU has shared in previous related proceedings, we remain focused on implementing the vision set forth in our 2021 Campus Plan: creating a vibrant, high-quality on-campus experience for our students that promotes access to academic opportunities, community building, student retention, and progress to graduation. This approach currently includes a two-year on-campus housing requirement for undergraduates that was implemented in 2025 and reflects over \$100 million in



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investments in the student experience through our new Student Thriving Complex, which includes the nearly complete Meltzer Center for Athletic Performance and Sports Center Annex, as well as the proposed renovations to our Sports Center to add student recreation, wellbeing, clinical office spaces, and a student health center. Together with updates to our residence halls and the Mary Graydon Student Center, these efforts are strengthening and invigorating the on-campus student-centered living and learning experience at AU.

Additionally, AU maintains a shuttle service program for the AU community to mitigate the traffic and parking impacts our campus may have on the community. AU conducts quarterly Transportation Operations reviews of ridership to review ridership trends and take appropriate measures to alleviate overcrowding. Although AU's shuttle service is currently available to the community, AU retains discretion over routes, hours, community access, and ridership policies.

American University appreciates the Commission's thoughtful consideration of this application and the opportunity to provide this update. We remain committed to continued collaboration and effective engagement with our institutional and community partners.

Sincerely,

Matthew Bennett
Vice President and Chief Communications Officer