

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: William Clarkson <wclarksonv@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2024 4:00 PM
To: DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: SVNA Comments re: ZC Case 24-09

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Dear Commissioners,

Chairman Hood and Commissioners, my name is William Clarkson, and I am the Co-President 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 the Association has been an active participant in the Seminary’s Community Liaison Committee (“CLC”). SVNA has also had the privilege of participating as a party in support in the previous cases regarding this proposed project, and we appreciate the opportunity to take part in this important proceeding.

We believe the Seminary has continued to make a concerted, good faith effort to proactively engage with community stakeholders regarding this proposal and to address concerns raised by potentially affected individual neighbors. We believe our elected ANC 3D representatives, particularly Tricia Duncan and Chuck Elkins, should also 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.

SVNA supports the proposed text amendment, and we believe it is the best path forward for Wesley as it seeks to remain on its campus. The proposed text amendment and accompanying filings and reports are the result of numerous meetings and discussions involving the CLC, ANC 3D and 3E, multiple neighborhood organizations, and individual neighbors.

Moving forward, the Seminary must continue to work with its nearby neighbors, ANC 3D and 3E, and other affected community stakeholders to ensure that it follows through on its commitments to mitigate any adverse impacts from the proposed campus plan. We are encouraged by Wesley's ongoing engagement with American University, and we believe meaningful and substantive communication and coordinationbetween Wesley, American University, and community stakeholders is essential.

All of us are here today because we care deeply about our community and recognize the importance of participating in this process and working together in good faith. We look forward to continuing the open and collaborative process that has been followed by the Seminary, ANC 3D and 3E, and surrounding community organizations. We appreciate the Commission’s consideration of this submission.

Sincerely,
William Clarkson