



LeDroit Park Civic Association

December 5, 2011

Testimony to the Zoning Commission in the matter of cases 11-15 and 11-15A, Howard University Campus Plan and Further Processing

Good evening. I am Eric Fidler, the Secretary of the LeDroit Park Civic Association, and was appointed to represent the association tonight.

At our regular meeting on September 27, 2011, the LeDroit Park Civic Association voted to support the Howard University Campus Plan **with the condition that Howard University be prohibited from leaving Slowe or Carver Halls vacant for more than one year.**

The university has made great strides in reducing its portfolio of vacant and blighted properties in LeDroit Park. However, the civic association worries that as the university shifts students out of Slowe and Carver Halls per the university's campus plan, the university might leave the buildings vacant for unreasonable lengths of time. Vacant buildings attract crime and lower the quality of life for all residents.

Campus plans and legally binding Zoning Commission orders are the best means LeDroit Park residents have to protect themselves from potential blight and vacancy.

The LeDroit Park Civic Association is a member of the university's Community Advisory Committee and was represented on its Community Campus Master Plan Task Force at almost every meeting.

We wish to commend Mrs. Maybelle Bennett, a Howard University official who has dutifully updated the association at several of our regular meetings over the past two years. Mrs. Bennett's consultations with the neighborhood in these and other fora have helped guide a campus plan process that was inclusive, informative, respectful, and collaborative.

Thank you.

Eric Fidler
Secretary
LeDroit Park Civic Association

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 11-15
EXHIBIT NO. 1111