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September 20, 2011

Ms. Sharon Schellin
D.C. Office of Zoning
441 Fourth Street, N.W. Second Floor Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Howard University Campus Master Plan

Dear Ms. Schellin:

At its regularly-scheduled meeting of September 19, 2011, the Bloomingdale Civic Association (BCA) voted to support the Howard University Campus Master Plan.

The University's plan to: build residence halls to house its students closer to the central campus; maintain a steady enrollment that would not exceed 12,000 students; and initiate transportation measures that encourage alternate modes of transportation to and from the campus, are among the features of the plan that the BCA found most favorable to the well-being of our residents.

Representatives from Howard attended BCA meetings to discuss the campus master plan: on April 18th, where the overall plan was described; on May 16th with a presentation about the underclassman dormitories; on June 20th to describe proposed zoning changes, alley closures and the boundary expansion; and on September 19th to describe ongoing discussions between the University and the city regarding alternative east-west connecting streets in the block west of Georgia Avenue between Barry Place, V Street, Sherman and Florida Avenues.

In addition, the University is responding to the concerns of Bloomingdale residents who want to encourage respectful relationships between themselves and Howard students who live in the off-campus housing in this neighborhood. Based on the discussion that took place at the Community Campus Master Plan Task Force meeting of June 27th, the University's Student Affairs officials described actions they were undertaking at that time and plans they had to create an infrastructure that would support such relationships. This would include:

1. the development of an off-campus housing policy that would be published in the student handbook;

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2. the creation of an inventory of off-campus housing so that students who live off-campus can be readily identified by address;
3. regular convening of students who live off-campus to orient them to the community's history and heritage, introduce them to community leaders, provide them with tips for safety and adjustment to community living and remind them of off-campus housing policies, their rights and responsibilities;
4. working with community groups to organize welcoming events for students;
5. establishing a website that:
 - a. provides valuable information to students and community members such as contact information for University staff, MPD, DCRA and community leadership in the event issues arise or complaints need to be filed;
 - b. contains a complaint form that can be filled out on line by any complainant who needs to alert the University of a concern they may have;
 - c. sets forth instructions regarding the procedures that students and community members should follow to have complaints addressed most efficiently and effectively;
 - d. assigns a University staff member to be responsible for monitoring complaints filed and directing them to the appropriate persons to resolve the issues raised;
 - e. identifies issues that should be addressed by the University, MPD, the Landlord Tenant Division of DCRA or others; and
 - f. identifies landlords' and tenants' rights and responsibilities as they relate to off-campus housing in which students reside, such as safety hazards on the property; overflowing trash problems; overcrowding; rodent and/or insect infestation, etc.

The Bloomingdale Civic Association requests that the Zoning Commission approve the Howard University campus master plan with the condition that the off-campus student housing provisions listed above be implemented.

Sincerely,



Teri Janine Quinn
President, Bloomingdale Civic Association