

Testimony of Dr. Hassan Minor
Howard University Central Campus Master Plan
5 December 2011

Before the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia

Good evening, Chairman Hood and members of the Commission, I am Hassan Minor. I have been on the staff of the University for more than 21 years, serving the past four Presidents. I am the Senior Vice President with responsibility for Strategic Planning, Operations and External Affairs.

As you may know, the United States Congress chartered Howard University in 1867; we have been able to preserve that special relationship with the Congress for 144 years by providing leadership for America and the global community. Howard is The National Research University that is considered the flagship of the 105 Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The Plan we are presenting tonight provides a framework that will guide the University's physical development over the next decade. It has two principal antecedents: The Self-Study conducted for the University's successful reaccreditation by The Middle States Commission on Higher Education in 2010 and the University's year-long Commission on Academic Renewal.

The Campus Plan builds on these reports and provides the University an opportunity to strengthen itself to remain competitive in today's post-secondary educational marketplace. Our charge is to more effectively and efficiently delivers an outstanding educational experience that meets the needs of today's students. In an era where our students have many choices from which to receive such an experience, the need to upgrade, enhance and

expand our academic programming, student life facilities and campus and community amenities is imperative.

As a result, you will hear this evening how the central campus master Plan calls for the development of new research facilities that will allow our scholars to reach the highest tier of research institutions in the nation. You will see plans for new student housing, athletic, wellness and recreational facilities, student activities settings and retail offerings as well.

As you know, the University is set within a larger community context that has been poised for many years to receive much-needed economic development and revitalization. The DUKE Plan provides an outline for some of this development, and the Howard Town Center and the proposed upper classman community west of Georgia Avenue will fulfill many of the objectives outlined in the Plan.

Finally, in fulfillment of development objectives established by the City, the Plan would be accomplished in a sustainable manner with provisions for the construction of LEED certified buildings, the improvement of landscaping and storm water management, and the implementation of transportation demand management measures.

It should be noted that the Plan has the support of the communities adjacent to the central campus. That support is not the result of my charm. It is because we take the relationship with our community seriously and we work at it year-round. Mindful of your time, I will not layout the principal reasons that contributed to this approach. Suffice it to say that the Plan we have submitted would have been substantively different if that community relationship was not authentic and well grounded.

The credit goes to Maybelle Bennett who (with Michael Harris) led the University's Planning efforts.

We look forward to your approval of this Plan.