



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

September 30, 2019

Mr. Anthony Hood
Chairman
Zoning Commission
441 4th Street NW, Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001
zcsubmissions@dc.gov

RE: Zoning Commission Applications for a Campus Plan Modification of Significance, a Campus Plan Further Processing, a First-Stage Planned Unit Development Modification of Significance, and a Modification of Significance to a Planned Unit Development as Part of GW’s Proposed Thurston Hall Renovation Project at 1900 F Street NW (ZC # #06-11Q, #06-12Q, and #01-17E)

Dear Chairman Hood,

At its regular meeting on September 18, 2019, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With six of seven commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously (6-0-0), after a motion made by Commissioner Kennedy and seconded by Commissioner Harnett, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The George Washington University (GW) is a private research institution located in the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, GW has announced a strategic initiative that will shrink its neighborhood footprint by reducing undergraduate enrollment by approximately twenty percent over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, as part of a complementary strategic initiative to enhance the undergraduate student experience, GW has sought the support of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (ANC 2A) in its application for temporary relief from Condition C6; Condition P-8 and Condition 8 of the 1959 E Street PUD so as to provide temporary housing for students displaced by the renovation of Thurston Hall, a 91-year-old building that is a major component of the first-year student's campus residential experience; and

WHEREAS this request for temporary relief was made in the context of GW's largest dorm and one whose current conditions mark it as long overdue for renovation and refurbishment; and

WHEREAS, in discussions both GW and ANC 2A have characterized the Thurston Hall renovation as extraordinary and singular in nature; and



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

WHEREAS the ANC remains fully committed to maintaining the boundaries of the current campus plan and preventing the use of GW properties outside the boundaries of the campus plan as temporary "swing space" for future renovations; and

WHEREAS, as a result of extended negotiations, GW, the ANC 2A and the Foggy Bottom Association (FBA) have entered into a Voluntary Neighborhood Agreement (VNA) that facilitates the renovation and re-visioning of Thurston Hall by supporting temporary relief for GW from the Foggy Bottom Campus Plan for a period not to exceed 24 consecutive months and specifies the management plan and penalties that would accompany any such relief; and

WHEREAS, after the end of the waiver period permitting the Temporary Housing Plan, the University intends to return the properties to their existing use; and

WHEREAS the Parties have agreed to certain conditions that will minimize objectionable impacts on the neighborhood to the greatest extent possible; and

WHEREAS throughout discussions and negotiations on this issue GW personnel have made themselves fully available to the public and their conduct has been marked by professionalism, courtesy, and responsiveness to community concerns.

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the above and in accordance with the conditions set forth in the Voluntary Neighborhood Agreement, ANC 2A supports a proposed "Temporary Housing Plan" for GW granting relief from:

- (1) Condition C6 of the Foggy Bottom Campus Plan, to permit the University to temporarily reduce the number of on-campus beds for full-time Foggy Bottom undergraduates, provided that the number of on-campus beds is within 99 bed of the requirement set forth in Condition C6; and
- (2) Condition P-8 of the related campus-wide First-Stage PUD in order to temporarily provide no more that 220 beds for undergraduate students at The Aston and no more than 330 beds at One Washington Circle; and
- (3) Condition 8 of the 1959 E Street PUD to temporarily provide beds for second-year students in the 1959 E Street residence hall while Thurston Hall is under renovation. (together the "Temporary Housing Plan").

It is the ANC's understanding that the properties in question shall be managed in accordance with the terms of the VNA and the total period of relief under the Temporary Housing Plan shall not exceed 24 months without incurring the penalties set forth the Voluntary Neighborhood Agreement.



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

Commissioners William Kennedy Smith (2A04@anc.dc.gov) and Patrick Kennedy (2A01@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kennedy
Vice Chairperson

CC: David Avitabile, Counsel for the Applicant
Alicia Knight, Senior Associate Vice President for Operations, GW
Susi Cora, Director of Campus Planning, GW
Kevin Days, Director of Community Relations, GW