

12/2/19 Testimony of Sara Maddux
on Zoning Commission Cases Nos. 06-12Q, 06-11Q, 06-11R, & 01-17E
GWU Thurston – Modifications of Significance, Campus Plan Amendment, Further Processing

I, Sara Maddux, live at 522-21st Street, N.W., which is close to the George Washington University's (GWU) Thurston dormitory located at 1900 F Street. I am testifying on behalf of the West End Citizens Association (WECA) for which I serve as President. The WECA is the oldest citizens organization in the Foggy Bottom-West End area. One of the WECA's goals is maintaining the quality of life for the residential community in Foggy Bottom-West End.

On October 14, 2019, the WECA requested "Party" status **in support** of all four applications: ZC Nos. 06-12Q, 06-11Q, 06-11R, and 01-17E. On August 20, 2019, the WECA Board voted unanimously to support these contested cases and the WECA did so without requesting a quid pro quo from GWU, including any GWU penalty for not meeting its expected 2-year construction deadline and 2-year Temporary Housing Plan. Frankly, we were stunned by the \$1 million per semester penalty requested by ANC-2A and the Foggy Bottom Association (see ZC No. 06-11Q, Exhibit 4, p. 4 & ZC No. 06-12Q, Exhibit 10, p. 4).

The WECA supports the requested Special Exception relief for lot occupancy, penthouse height, and penthouse setback requirements. The WECA is pleased that GWU is trying to improve the campus experience for its students by its extensive renovation plan of the Thurston Hall dormitory for freshmen. Introducing a new indoor canopied courtyard will allow many students to remain in Thurston for meals and socializing. The WECA is also pleased that "no outdoor occupiable space is proposed for the roof, which will ensure no noise impacts from the proposed penthouse addition" (8/19/19 GW Application, p. 18).

The WECA is optimistic that GWU will complete its construction on-time, thereby not asking for any extension of its 2-year Temporary Housing Plan. The WECA is also pleased with GWU's plan to minimize any adverse effects on the West End residential community who live near One Washington Circle and the Aston. The WECA expects that GWU will not request any further Temporary Housing Plans outside of the campus plan boundaries for any future dormitories that may be extensively renovated.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.