

October 8, 2019

Chairperson Anthony Hood  
D.C. Zoning Commission  
Office of Zoning  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 200S  
Washington, DC 20001

**Re: Z.C. Case No. 06-11Q / 06-12 Q: The George Washington University  
Thurston Hall Renovation and Related Temporary Housing Plan  
Request for Waiver of Subtitle Z, Section 402.4 (Posting Requirements)**

Dear Chairperson Hood and Members of the Commission:

On behalf of The George Washington University, we hereby request that the Commission consider a waiver of the posting requirements set forth in Subtitle Z, Section 402.4. Language from the 1958 Zoning Regulations regarding posting of campus plans was omitted from the 2016 Zoning Regulations, and Section 402.4 imposes a strict posting burden on campus plans. The Commission previously approved a waiver from this requirement for the 2017 Georgetown University Campus Plan back in Fall 2016.

As the Commission may recall, Section 3113.17 of the old 1958 Zoning Regulations stated that in the case of campus plan applications, notice needed to be posted only on “all frontages of the property included within that plan that face any property not owned by the college or university.” This provision does not appear in the 2016 Zoning Regulations, and we assume it was an inadvertent omission. Without this provision, universities will be required to post “at each street frontage and on the front of each existing building” under Subtitle Z, Section 402.4 (emphasis added), which is an extraordinarily burdensome exercise that results in over 150 signs being posted, many on buildings that are internal to the campus.

A request to address this issue was submitted a couple of years ago when the issue was first identified. More recently, counsel reached out to staff to request inclusion of this correction in Z.C. Case No. 19-05, which proposes revisions to the BZA and Zoning Commission procedural regulations. To date, however, the correction has not yet been made. Unfortunately, until the language is corrected, the University would need to comply with the letter of the current 2016 Regulations to post notice of the December 2 hearing date (which would require

establishing over 150 signs as opposed to the typical 40 or so signs for the Foggy Bottom campus).

We therefore request that the Commission waive the requirements of Subtitle Z, Section 402.4 and instead require that the University post all frontages of the campus that face any property not owned by the university, consistent with the old Section 3113.17. Given the consensus surrounding this proposal (the ANC has already submitted its resolution in support following multiple public meetings regarding the proposed applications), we think the waiver is appropriate here.

Please feel free to contact me at (202) 721-1137 if you have any questions regarding the above. We look forward to presenting the Thurston Hall renovations and related amendments to the Campus Plan/PUD for the Temporary Housing Plan to the Zoning Commission at the December 2, 2019 public hearing.

Sincerely,



David M. Avitabile

DMA/dma

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that copies of the foregoing document will be sent by electronic mail, first-class mail, or hand delivery to the following addresses on October 8, 2019.

### Office of Planning

Jennifer Steingasser  
1100 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Suite E650  
Washington, DC 20024  
[jennifer.steingasser@dc.gov](mailto:jennifer.steingasser@dc.gov)

With a copy to:

Matthew Jesick, OP  
[matthew.jesick@dc.gov](mailto:matthew.jesick@dc.gov)

### District Department of Transportation

Anna Chamberlin  
55 M Street SE, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20003  
[anna.chamberlin@dc.gov](mailto:anna.chamberlin@dc.gov)

With a copy to:

Kelsey Bridges, DDOT  
[kelsey.bridges@dc.gov](mailto:kelsey.bridges@dc.gov)

### ANC 2A

c/o West End Library  
2301 L Street NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
[2A@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2A@anc.dc.gov)

### ANC 2A01

Patrick Kennedy  
532 20th Street NW #312  
Washington, DC 20006  
[2A01@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2A01@anc.dc.gov)

### ANC 2A06

Jeri Epstein  
1111 23rd Street NW Apt. PH1F  
Washington, DC 20037  
[2A06@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2A06@anc.dc.gov)

### West End Citizens Association

c/o Barbara Kahlow  
800 25<sup>th</sup> Street, NW #704  
Washington, DC 20037

### President, Foggy Bottom Association

c/o Marina Streznewski  
904 New Hampshire Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20037

*David M. Avitabile*

David M. Avitabile