

GOVERNMENT OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ZONING COMMISSION

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PUBLIC HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Special exception application for
campus plan

First stage planned unit
development & related zoning map
amendment

Case No.
06-11, 06-12

Monday, September 25, 2006

Hearing Room 220 South
441 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

The Public Hearing of cases no. 06-11 and
06-12 by the District of Columbia Zoning Commission
convened at 6:37 p.m. in the Office of Zoning Hearing
Room at 441 4th Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C.,
CAROL J. MITTEN, Chairperson, presiding.
ZONING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

CAROL J. MITTEN	Chair
ANTHONY J. HOOD	Vice-Chairperson
GREGORY JEFFRIES	Commissioner
MICHAEL TURNBULL	Commissioner (AOC)

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OFFICE OF ZONING STAFF PRESENT:

SHARON S. SCHELLIN	Secretary
ESTHER BUSHMAN	General Counsel
DONNA HANOUSEK	Zoning Specialist

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL STAFF PRESENT:

ALAN BERGSTEIN

OFFICE OF PLANNING STAFF PRESENT:

TRAVIS PARKER
JENNIFER STEINGASSER**NEAL R. GROSS**

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This transcript constitutes the minutes
from the public hearing held on September 25, 2006.

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

(6:58 p.m.)

CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. This is a public hearing of the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for Monday, September 25th, 2006.

My name is Carol Mitten. And joining me this evening are Vice-Chairman Anthony Hood and Commissioners Michael Turnbull and Greg Jeffries. Mr. Parsons isn't with us tonight, but he has said that he will read the record.

And this is a continuation of the hearing in Zoning Commission case number 06-11 and 06-12 for the George Washington University campus plan and PUD.

I'm not going to reread the whole opening statement again, but I would just first remind folks that we are being recorded by the court reporter and also being Webcast live. So we ask you to refrain from making any disruptive noises during the hearing.

And I would ask you to turn off all beepers and cell phones at this time for the same reason.

We have a lot of new faces here. So I want to make sure that everybody has been sworn in who plans to testify. So if there is anyone who is planning on testifying this evening who wasn't sworn

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1 at our first session, I would ask you to stand up
2 right now, raise your right hand, direct your
3 attention to Mrs. Schellin, and she will swear you in.

4 (Whereupon, all potential witnesses were
5 duly sworn.)

6 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you. And also
7 just to help us when it comes time to call people
8 forward, there's a witness list on the table by the
9 door. If you would sign up and indicate whether
10 you're a proponent or an opponent, that would help.

11 And also if you're going to testify, we
12 have witness cards. I need you to fill out two of
13 these witness cards and then when you come forward to
14 testify give those to the court reporter. It helps
15 him keep track of who is speaking.

16 Now, where we left off was
17 cross-examination of the ANC, correct? Okay. And we
18 have Commissioner Thomas back with us and Mr.
19 Hitchcock with him. So, Ms. Dwyer, whenever you are
20 ready. Whereupon, MICHAEL THOMAS, a
21 commissioner of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission,
22 was recalled as a witness and, having been duly sworn,
23 was further examined and testified further as follows:

24 MS. DWYER: For the record, Maureen Dwyer
25 with Pillsbury, Winthrop, Shaw, Pittman, another

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1 veteran of the 2000 campus plan. I have a few
2 questions that I hope will help clarify some of the
3 testimony you gave last week, Mr. Thomas.

4 CROSS-EXAMINATION

5 MS. DWYER: You stated in your testimony
6 that the Office of Planning and GW proceeded in early
7 2005 to draft this new campus plan without discussion
8 by the ANC. But during the Summer of 2005, didn't
9 your ANC cosponsor community meetings with the
10 university and the Office of Planning in order to
11 solicit the views of your community?

12 THE WITNESS: Thank you for the chance to
13 clarify that. What I was referring to was an early
14 effort to see if a framework for discussion would be
15 set up that was of manageable size and had manageable
16 procedures and might actually --

17 MS. DWYER: That's not my question. My
18 question is whether there were community meetings that
19 your ANC cosponsored with the university and the
20 Office of Planning during the Summer of 2005.

21 THE WITNESS: Which is not -- would not be
22 a clarification of my earlier testimony. My earlier
23 testimony dealt with efforts to set up negotiations.
24 What we ended up with was what the university wanted,
25 which was PowerPoint opportunities, which could be

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1 reduced to exhibits and put into the record.

2 MS. DWYER: I understand that. What I'm
3 trying to clarify is you said that the Office of
4 Planning and GW proceeded to draft this campus plan
5 without discussion with the ANC. So on the point of
6 whether the ANC was consulted, did your ANC sponsor
7 four community meetings in the Summer of 2005: on
8 June 22nd, July 6, July 26, and September 20th?

9 THE WITNESS: With my previous
10 clarification, my statement should be modified to
11 reflect that there were such meetings, yes.

12 MS. DWYER: And were those meetings
13 publicized?

14 THE WITNESS: I believe they were.

15 MS. DWYER: And did your ANC meet with the
16 Office of Planning and the university to discuss the
17 agendas and the materials for those meetings?

18 THE WITNESS: That I can't say of my
19 personal knowledge.

20 MS. DWYER: Do you know if the chair of
21 your ANC attended those meetings?

22 THE WITNESS: I believe he did.

23 MS. DWYER: All right. In addition to
24 those community meetings, did you or members of your
25 ANC use the campus plan Web site to identify issues or

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1 get answers to any of your questions?

2 THE WITNESS: We did do that. We also had
3 informal meetings and took various other means to try
4 to inform ourselves.

5 MS. DWYER: In November of 2005, your ANC
6 passed a resolution in opposition to the campus plan
7 and square 54. And that's been filed in the record.
8 Was the university invited to attend that ANC meeting
9 in order to make a presentation before you adopted
10 that resolution?

11 THE WITNESS: I was not on the ANC at that
12 time. And so, again, I cannot say of my personal
13 knowledge.

14 MS. DWYER: You did indicate in your
15 testimony, I believe, that you had a chance to consult
16 with your ANC since you're presenting your position on
17 this. So did you have any discussions with the chair
18 to find out whether the university was invited to make
19 a presentation at that November meeting?

20 THE WITNESS: No. In spite of extensive
21 discussion with my chair about a lot of these
22 subjects, I haven't. I didn't get a Q&A on that. I'm
23 sorry.

24 MS. DWYER: All right. That was in
25 November of 2005. Can you tell me, when was the

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1 university invited to come to the ANC to make a
2 presentation?

3 THE WITNESS: I believe -- well, there was
4 a working session, which I believe was in July, at
5 which there was a presentation made. And then there
6 was a presentation at a regularly scheduled ANC
7 meeting in August.

8 MS. DWYER: So approximately nine months
9 after you adopted a resolution opposing the campus
10 plan, you did invite the university to come to your
11 meeting and make its case as to why you should change
12 your position?

13 THE WITNESS: Well, first let me -- I
14 don't accept your characterization of the resolution
15 in November. What the resolution in November says, I
16 believe -- and it's before the Commission; so they can
17 determine for themselves -- is that an overhaul of the
18 campus plan shouldn't be undertaken or approved
19 without certain preconditions being met. So it was
20 not going through the proposal of the campus plan.

21 MS. DWYER: Well, I have the resolution in
22 front of me. And I think it says that no
23 consideration of any development on the campus without
24 a full EIS, no use of a PUD mechanism, and no further
25 development of the campus beyond its remaining 550,000

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1 square feet.

2 THE WITNESS: I don't have that in front
3 of me, but I accept that you're reading it.

4 MS. DWYER: All right. Also, in
5 preparation for today's hearing, did you go back and
6 look at what the ANC had specifically recommended
7 during the last campus plan case to see if any of
8 those issues are addressed in this plan?

9 THE WITNESS: I've read quite a bit of
10 that material again. Of course, I had read it at the
11 time in 2000 and 2001.

12 MS. DWYER: Are you aware that in 2000,
13 your ANC offered as a condition that the university
14 agree not to purchase any property in the residential
15 zones for university use? And are you aware that this
16 is now a condition of this plan?

17 THE WITNESS: Yes.

18 MS. DWYER: Turning to another issue in
19 your testimony last week, you spent a lot of time
20 talking about the process, section 210 versus the PUD.

21 And you state in your testimony that the Zoning
22 Commission is being asked to tear up the 2000 plan and
23 the limits in enforcement of that plan. But doesn't
24 this plan continue the same one for one housing
25 condition?

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1 THE WITNESS: Some of the conditions,
2 including that, are brought forward from the 2000
3 plan. That's correct.

4 MS. DWYER: And the same enrollment cap?

5 THE WITNESS: No. We have a disagreement
6 about whether it's the same enrollment cap until the
7 Zoning Commission --

8 MS. DWYER: You have a disagreement as --

9 THE WITNESS: -- clarifies what it means.

10 MS. DWYER: We have a disagreement as to
11 methodology, but does it not include the same
12 enrollment cap?

13 THE WITNESS: We will see whether it
14 includes the enrollment cap we thought we got the
15 benefit of in 2000.

16 MS. DWYER: Well, speaking of that
17 enrollment cap, you seemed in your testimony to
18 express surprise at the university's methodology of
19 not counting the Mount Vernon students in the Foggy
20 Bottom cap. But didn't you cross-examine the
21 university on this precise issue in 2000 when you
22 cross-examined Craig Linebow as to how they came up
23 with the Foggy Bottom cap? And didn't he testify that
24 Mount Vernon students were not counted?

25 THE WITNESS: I'm not sure on what you

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1 base your characterization that I was surprised. I
2 have learned not to be surprised by the university.
3 But, in any event, yes, I did cross-examine Dr.
4 Linebow. And yes, he did say that it was the
5 university's hope to get another 3,400 or so students
6 by limiting the enumeration to the Foggy Bottom
7 campus.

8 I think I also asked him a question that
9 was to the effect, "Well, you're not conditioning your
10 application here on there being some understanding
11 about whose accounts, accounting method, would be
12 adopted." And I think I got a somewhat conditional
13 agreement from him.

14 In any event, the Zoning Commission chose
15 language in the zoning -- I'm sorry. The BZA chose
16 the language. And as we read the language then, as we
17 read the language now, it did not give the carve-outs
18 that the university thought it wanted.

19 MS. DWYER: But you knew at that point in
20 time that the university was carving out the Mount
21 Vernon students?

22 THE WITNESS: I knew that that's what they
23 hoped to do.

24 MS. DWYER: And is there anything in that
25 BZA order that says the university is not permitted to

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1 carve out Mount Vernon students?

2 THE WITNESS: We believe there is if you
3 read the literal language fairly. That is, if the
4 head count means you count the heads of all persons
5 being educated, then that would carry with it the
6 inference that it isn't the heads less some list of
7 categories that the university comes up with later.

8 MS. DWYER: But if the BZA and the Zoning
9 Commission are required to put a condition in their
10 order that is based on the substantial evidence of
11 record and that evidence establishes that the
12 university does not count the Mount Vernon students in
13 the Foggy Bottom cap, if the BZA were to take a
14 different interpretation, wouldn't it have made it
15 very clear in its order?

16 MR. HITCHCOCK: Objection. Compound
17 question.

18 MR. THOMAS: And totally confusing. I
19 mean, it seems to me that it was clear what our
20 position was, too, which is that we wanted everybody
21 counted. And so one could make the argument exactly
22 on the flip, which is that we would expect them to
23 make it clear if they don't mean -- head count means
24 head count.

25 MS. DWYER: Then since the date of that

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1 plan, when the university has provided these biannual
2 reports, where it goes through its methodology, if you
3 believe that the Mount Vernon students should not have
4 been excluded, why would you not have challenged that?

5 THE WITNESS: I don't remember or I don't
6 maybe know of my own personal knowledge when the first
7 requests were made for formal determinations and
8 audits. I know that I was in a meeting in February of
9 this year where we were promised that we would have an
10 independent audit very shortly. And we had various
11 other promises made to us.

12 And, finally, we get an audit or a report
13 from the Zoning Administrator on the first day of
14 these hearings. So --

15 MS. DWYER: But at any point prior to that
16 time and the ANC gets biannual reports from the
17 university, at any point prior to that time or at any
18 hearing before the Zoning Commission where it was
19 considering further processing applications, did your
20 ANC come in and say, "Wait a minute. We have a huge
21 issue here because you are excluding Mount Vernon
22 students. And we do not believe that is what the
23 order intended"?

24 THE WITNESS: I think you're asking me, am
25 I aware of the details of the records of Zoning

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1 Commission cases during years when I wasn't on the ANC
2 or present on the Foggy Bottom Association. I don't
3 feel I can answer that.

4 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: I think she is just
5 asking in general has the ANC ever taken the position
6 prior to this proceeding that the calculations that
7 the university has been making over these years of
8 reporting, that they shouldn't be excluding any of the
9 students that they're excluding.

10 MR. THOMAS: I am not personally aware of
11 anything before February of this year, although the
12 February meeting actually was a response to requests
13 prior to that. But, I mean, some time frame perhaps a
14 few months before February of this year is the first
15 that I personally am aware of it.

16 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay.

17 MS. DWYER: All right.

18 BY MR. DWYER:

19 MS. DWYER: Mr. Thomas, since you haven't
20 been active in the ANC over the last six years, are
21 you aware that since the date of the last campus plan,
22 the university has added 2,800 beds on campus?

23 THE WITNESS: I'm aware of some such
24 number. And I'm aware that what that means is that
25 there are over 3,700 students now in a phalanx of

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1 dormitories on the southern border of the campus
2 directly across the street from the few remaining
3 apartment buildings on the south side of that street.

4 So, I mean, yes.

5 MS. DWYER: In the last campus plan
6 hearing, when you represented the Foggy Bottom
7 Association, did you not ask the university to house
8 those students on campus?

9 THE WITNESS: We asked for the bulk of the
10 undergraduates to be pulled into campus housing, yes.

11 MS. DWYER: I want to go back to some of
12 the statements you made last week about the process
13 here. And specifically you felt that the Office of
14 Planning and the Zoning Commission and GW were
15 repealing section 210. And I just wanted to ask you,
16 on the contrary, don't we have two applications that
17 are before the Commission: one for a special
18 exception under 210 and one for a PUD?

19 THE WITNESS: If you're asking me do we
20 have two different avocations that have those
21 different kinds of titles, yes. That's not a very
22 helpful answer, though. What I was arguing there --
23 and I think the members of the Commission are fully
24 aware of this -- is that if the arguments of the
25 university are accepted, then the substantive

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1 provisions of section 210, the only section that does
2 try to make the policy balance between aggressive
3 growth by universities and residential neighborhoods
4 that are existing and need to be protected, that those
5 protections would not be operative and that that has
6 the effective result of repealing that section.

7 MS. DWYER: Isn't the requirement under
8 section 210 that the Zoning Commission look at
9 objectionable impacts?

10 THE WITNESS: Yes.

11 MS. DWYER: And did you read the Office of
12 Planning report on page 22, where it says that one of
13 the main purposes of the new campus plan is to try to
14 reduce the objectionable impacts and that the impacts
15 of the university do not result from the buildings
16 themselves but from students, staff, traffic, parking,
17 and the proposed new campus plan would allow the
18 university to build larger classes but no increase in
19 student or staff; therefore, no objectionable impact?

20 And are you still saying that the Office of Planning
21 did not address section 210?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes. I don't think that
23 that passage that you just read in any way comes to
24 grips with the objectionable uses. And let me tell
25 you why. You know, in 2000, the immediate imminent

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1 threat that was facing the residential community was
2 the practice that has been accelerating in the '90s of
3 the university to buy hotels and apartment houses and
4 convert them to residential.

5 MR. DWYER: Madam Chair, I would just
6 submit this was going beyond my question. I think my
7 question has been answered by the witness.

8 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay.

9 MR. HITCHCOCK: He has asked for an
10 opportunity to explain his answer.

11 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: I think that,
12 actually, what you could help me with because we had
13 this conversation, if I could just maybe cut off where
14 you are going and take you where I would like you to
15 go, is -- and Ms. Dwyer articulated it better than I
16 was doing last Thursday -- is what you seemed to be
17 suggesting when we were talking last week was that the
18 PUD process is being substituted for section 210.

19 And because we have these two cases, you
20 get the benefit. There's the benefit, the controls of
21 both processes. And I think where Ms. Dwyer was going
22 and what I was maybe missing, I wasn't articulating
23 well enough last week is, why do you think that 210 --
24 210 is before us, 210 is part of this. So what is it
25 that you think is missing, just our application of it

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1 thus far?

2 MR. THOMAS: Well, part of what we were
3 talking about was, is it something beyond a density
4 question in 3.5 and so forth. Well, I think 3.5 is a
5 very -- I mean, the limitation of 3.5 FAR is a very
6 important provision of 210, but it's a kind of a blunt
7 instrument.

8 I mean, it is saying it is our judgment
9 that on campuses collocated with residential
10 neighborhoods that you shouldn't have an overall
11 density greater than this and if you do, presumably
12 the reason the provision is there, you are likely to
13 start generating intensity of uses and impacts.

14 But that's not -- I mean, that's not the
15 soul of 210. Two ten is to tell you to measure
16 objectionable uses, the intensity of the uses, and the
17 impacts.

18 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Right. And I'm just
19 asking, why do you think that is missing from what is
20 before us, because it's part and parcel of what is
21 before us.

22 MR. THOMAS: If the Commission accepts
23 that it is limited by what 210 says you can do in
24 allowing a campus to grow within a residential
25 community, but if what you do is you say that impacts

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1 can be offset, which is the PUD process --

2 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: It's also special
3 exception process.

4 MR. THOMAS: Right. Well --

5 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Let me just take what
6 you're saying, what I think your point might be, which
7 is what I just gleaned from what you're saying is that
8 there's an inherent incompatibility between density in
9 excess of three and a half FAR and being able to
10 mitigate the adverse impacts described in 210. Is
11 that your position?

12 MR. THOMAS: I think that comes reasonably
13 close. I mean, here we're talking about -- I mean,
14 their applications taken in the aggregate are asking
15 for a 43 percent increase in their FAR over and above
16 the limit. They say they have 837,000 square feet
17 left under the current law as they describe. And
18 they're asking for essentially an even two million
19 square feet over and above that.

20 And so I guess part of what I'm saying is
21 it seems inconceivable that you can add that much
22 space, that much intensity of use, and not push
23 further over the tipping point.

24 And, by the way, I would also disagree
25 with the Director of Planning that we have stepped

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1 back from the tipping point. Remember --

2 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Now you're going --

3 MR. THOMAS: All right. Okay. But --

4 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: We're going to go
5 back to Ms. Dwyer. She's going to ask you questions.

6 MR. THOMAS: All right.

7 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you for the
8 digression.

9 MS. DWYER: Yes. There are a couple of
10 questions that came up.

11 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: It was helpful to me,
12 though.

13 MS. DWYER: Okay. I would like to ask Mr.
14 Thomas whether he had had a chance to review the
15 applicant's prehearing submission, which beginning on
16 page 15 and through page 20 goes through all the
17 requirements of section 210, and how this application
18 meets those requirements.

19 BY MR. DWYER:

20 MS. DWYER: Have you had a chance to
21 review that?

22 THE WITNESS: I have read it.

23 MS. DWYER: All right. And is it your
24 testimony that with the same number of students as in
25 the last campus plan, the same number of faculty and

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1 staff, the same parking requirement, and with an
2 additional 2,800 students now housed on campus, this
3 plan will have an objectionable impact?

4 THE WITNESS: My testimony is that there
5 are now substantially more students than there were in
6 1999, which was the base year that we were using in
7 the 2000 plan or in 2000 or in 2001 and that, in
8 addition, there are other intensified uses of a whole
9 myriad of kinds of the campus and that granting this
10 application can do nothing except add to that
11 intensity of use.

12 MS. DWYER: All right. A couple of more
13 questions under section 210. I think you stated in
14 your testimony that basically the university can do
15 everything it wants under section 210 with the
16 exception of the FAR limit without having to do a PUD.
17 And is it your testimony that the university could go
18 to a height of 110 feet along 22nd Street under just
19 section 210?

20 THE WITNESS: I haven't looked at that
21 specific question, but if we are under section 210,
22 you would be spreading around 800,000 square feet, not
23 2.8 million square feet. And so it might not arise.

24 MS. DWYER: But specifically do you
25 understand the height limitations, the 1910 Height

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1 Act? And are you saying that the university would be
2 able to go up to 110 feet under residential zoning on
3 22nd Street?

4 THE WITNESS: I have no opinion on that, I
5 guess.

6 MS. DWYER: All right. And do you
7 understand that the height on 22nd Street is a
8 trade-off for preserving the historic character of the
9 campus and two and three-story structures throughout
10 the balance of the campus?

11 THE WITNESS: I understand that it is a
12 trade-off that OP has required that you make that
13 follows on taking a number of other historic
14 structures, destroying them, and building ten-story
15 buildings where they were.

16 MS. DWYER: All right. I want to turn
17 right now. You made a couple of statements about noise
18 in your neighborhood, which you attributed to
19 students. And I think you said you had a lot of
20 conversations with people who live at 24th and M
21 Street about noise at 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning. Do
22 you have any proof that these were GW students?

23 THE WITNESS: I don't think that I said
24 what you just attributed to me. I said I talked to
25 the manager of the new apartment building at 2400 M,

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1 and he said he was getting a majority of students and
2 was, accordingly, making sure that his leases and
3 regulations were set up for that.

4 I said that there were also some incidents
5 of noise on 25th that had been reported to me and some
6 incidents within the new condo on 25th, I believe.

7 MS. DWYER: I think what you said is, "I
8 have had conversations with the people who live across
9 the street talking about a lot of noise in the street
10 at 2:00 and 3:00 o'clock in the morning."

11 And my question to you is, do you know
12 whether that noise is from GW students or could it be
13 from the four hotels that happen to be in your
14 neighborhood? Do you not have a Westin Park, Hyatt,
15 Fairmont, and Ritz-Carlton Hotel in your neighborhood?

16 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

17 MS. DWYER: And is it possible the noise
18 could be attributed to those activities?

19 THE WITNESS: On any particular occasion,
20 it certainly could.

21 MS. DWYER: All right. You also
22 specifically mentioned the Atlas Condominiums as
23 having 15 percent students, I think based on a
24 conversation you said you had with the owner of that
25 building. Would it surprise you to know that of the

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1 141 units, only 11 are rented by undergraduates?

2 THE WITNESS: I will accept your numbers.

3 I mean, I had the one conversation.

4 MS. DWYER: You also mentioned 2400 M
5 Street as having a large percentage of GW undergrads.

6 Would it surprise you to know that of the 396 units,
7 only 28 are occupied by undergraduates?

8 THE WITNESS: Yes, it would.

9 MS. DWYER: And are you aware that 3 other
10 buildings in your neighborhood, 2300 M Street, 1221
11 24th Street, and 2401 M Street, have no students in
12 those buildings?

13 THE WITNESS: I don't know.

14 MS. DWYER: Are you aware that of all of
15 these properties, the university has only received one
16 complaint regarding noise from a student and that went
17 through the hotline and the normal disciplinary
18 process?

19 THE WITNESS: Well, accepting that you are
20 now testifying, instead of me, I don't know what quite
21 to make of that question.

22 MS. DWYER: Have you ever called the
23 university's hotline to report an incident?

24 THE WITNESS: No. I have called the
25 police.

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1 MS. DWYER: Have you encouraged any of
2 your neighbors or your ANC members to use the hotline
3 and follow the process that was put in place in the
4 last campus plan?

5 THE WITNESS: You're asking whether I
6 encouraged my -- who is it I was -- you were asking
7 about my encouraging.

8 MS. DWYER: You serve on the ANC.

9 THE WITNESS: Right.

10 MS. DWYER: So I'm asking at any of the
11 ANC meetings if issues come up or in your
12 neighborhood, do you encourage your neighbors, your
13 ANC members, to use the university's hotline?

14 THE WITNESS: I have not personally done
15 that at an ANC meeting.

16 MS. DWYER: All right. I just have one
17 final line of questioning. You testified last
18 Thursday that the ANC has not participate in the
19 advisory committee. And you went on to say that it was
20 a decision made before you joined the ANC, which I
21 believe your term started in February of 2006. Is
22 that correct?

23 THE WITNESS: That's right.

24 MS. DWYER: Didn't the university ask the
25 ANC to establish the advisory committee in April of

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1 2006?

2 THE WITNESS: It may have been in April of
3 2006 that Mr. Katz wrote a letter to Chairman Macone,
4 yes.

5 MS. DWYER: So this was after you took
6 over as a member of the ANC?

7 THE WITNESS: That's right. And I think
8 that Chairman Macone wrote a letter back saying that
9 we're not opposed to doing that but that we would need
10 to reach some understandings about how we would go
11 forward. And we also said we would appreciate an
12 understanding -- I'm not quoting now but that we asked
13 that there not be use of this issue as simply a PR or
14 litigation issue.

15 MS. DWYER: I believe the response, which
16 I will file for the record, did not go quite that far
17 but basically said that the ANC was not interested in
18 participating on the advisory committee while there
19 were issues being addressed by the Zoning
20 Administrator.

21 But are you aware that every year the
22 university has requested that the ANC appoint a member
23 of the advisory committee and that every year the ANC
24 has declined?

25 THE WITNESS: I'm not personally aware of

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1 that, no.

2 MS. DWYER: Yet, you testified that you
3 believe, I think, that an advisory committee has
4 merit. Is that correct?

5 THE WITNESS: A properly constituted
6 advisory committee I think could be of value.

7 MS. DWYER: And I think you also testified
8 that on occasion you have served as a mediator. Is
9 that correct?

10 THE WITNESS: I have done that.

11 MS. DWYER: And doesn't mediation require
12 that the parties at least come together for a meeting
13 and sit down at the table to talk to each other?

14 THE WITNESS: Well, yes, it requires that.
15 It also -- but it also has other requirements. And
16 one of the requirements is that if you have a sponsor
17 of the process, such as was the case here, which was
18 OP, and if you reach agreements with them trying to
19 frame the discussions so that they might lead to
20 negotiations and if then the other party, in this case
21 the university, recasts those so that it seems --

22 MS. DWYER: We're not talking about the
23 advisory committee here. You're not discussing the
24 advisory committee. You're discussing a separate
25 process. Is that correct?

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1 MR. HITCHCOCK: He is answering the
2 question. Can he be allowed to finish his answer? He
3 is answering the question.

4 MS. DWYER: I am just clarifying that he
5 is talking not about the advisory committee but about
6 a facilitation process.

7 BY MR. DWYER:

8 MS. DWYER: Is that correct, Mr. Thomas?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes, if you want to make
10 that distinction. I mean, to me getting together to
11 talk, understandings that have a good chance of making
12 those talks fruitful, I don't care whether you call it
13 an advisory committee or mediation or something else
14 --

15 MS. DWYER: But the two are very
16 different. I mean, the advisory committee was put in
17 place by the BZA for a quarterly meeting process for
18 everybody in the neighborhood to come together.
19 Facilitation, which the Office of Planning tried to do
20 at the beginning of this process, is a very different
21 process. I'm talking about the advisory committee.

22 THE WITNESS: All right. And your
23 question is?

24 MS. DWYER: My question is that if the ANC
25 comes to these hearings and wants its testimony and

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1 opinion to be given great weight, don't you think that
2 also carries with it the responsibility to sit down
3 with an applicant, particularly when there is a
4 condition in a campus plan, and engage in that
5 constructive process?

6 THE WITNESS: I think there is such an
7 obligation on both sides. And I think what we are
8 dancing around here is the effort to frame a question
9 so that it seems like a responsibility for that
10 failing is all on the ANC or the community.

11 MS. DWYER: You talked a lot about
12 Georgetown in your testimony. Are you aware that
13 Georgetown University has a quarterly meeting process
14 that includes 14 community organizations that come
15 together on a quarterly basis to discuss campus plan
16 issues?

17 THE WITNESS: I have been -- not in those
18 specifics. I have been aware that Georgetown and its
19 surrounding communities have worked pretty hard at
20 talking.

21 MS. DWYER: And do you know at those
22 meetings they discuss issues such as noise from
23 students off campus, under-age drinking, better
24 parking enforcement? Are those the kinds of issues
25 that you think would be of value to a community to sit

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1 down with the university and discuss on a quarterly
2 basis?

3 THE WITNESS: Yes, those and compliance
4 and plans of the university for further development.
5 And there could be a range of things that might be
6 useful to talk about.

7 MS. DWYER: And are you aware that every
8 campus plan of the District of Columbia has a
9 quarterly meeting requirement; that is, that it's
10 precisely in response to Mr. Jeffries' question about
11 these town-gown issues? That is the mechanism that
12 was put in place, including the Mount Vernon campus.

13 Are you aware that GW does meet on a
14 regular basis with the residents surrounding its Mount
15 Vernon campus?

16 THE WITNESS: No. And, by the way, again,
17 I would have to go back and read the condition of the
18 current plan to get the specific language, but I don't
19 think you can fairly describe it as a quarterly
20 meeting requirement.

21 The parties were encouraged to try to put
22 together an advisory committee. That would have been
23 good had it been possible to do. It didn't happen.

24 MS. DWYER: If this plan is approved,
25 would your ANC agree to join the advisory committee?

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1 THE WITNESS: I am here with certain
2 authority. My authority -- I didn't ask ahead of time
3 on that question. If you want my personal answer, I
4 would urge that we attempt to reengage the university
5 if we can reach agreement on a framework that is not a
6 dog and pony show but is actual substantive
7 discussion.

8 MS. DWYER: One final question. You
9 testified that George Washington University should
10 develop a satellite campus in some other area of the
11 city. And I just wanted to ask you whether the
12 students and faculty at that campus would count
13 against the Foggy Bottom cap.

14 THE WITNESS: It would depend upon whether
15 they also took classes in Foggy Bottom or had other
16 rights which brought them to Foggy Bottom and,
17 therefore, they increased the impacts.

18 I mean, the Mount Vernon students, there's
19 a bus service that goes 24/7 bringing them to the
20 Foggy Bottom campus. And so, for example, not to
21 count the Mount Vernon students is willful blindness.

22 MS. DWYER: If the university were to open
23 a satellite campus and the students had the right to
24 visit the Foggy Bottom campus, use, let's say, the
25 health and wellness center, your statement is that

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1 they would be counted within the Foggy Bottom campus
2 cap?

3 THE WITNESS: I think the effort has to be
4 to measure all of the human activity that adds to the
5 intensity of use within the campus because that is
6 what generates the impact outside the campus.

7 MS. DWYER: Do you think that your
8 position would be a disincentive for a university to
9 establish a satellite campus if every time it did that
10 it had to either prohibit the students from visiting
11 its main campus or count them within its cap?

12 THE WITNESS: I think that if GW was
13 interested in a really sincere effort to have a
14 satellite campus, that I would certainly in good faith
15 try to address the issues so that we didn't discourage
16 students from having access to facilities, but if
17 you're asking whether under the current plan we
18 shouldn't count somebody who does have impacts on the
19 GW campus, given that we were at a tipping point six
20 years ago, then I would say we've got a problem.

21 MS. DWYER: And I would assume that
22 whatever rationale or policy you apply to this
23 satellite campus should also apply to Mount Vernon?

24 THE WITNESS: I think the language should
25 be such as to meaningfully measure the human traffic

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1 that causes impacts in Foggy Bottom. And so yes, it
2 ought to be consistent.

3 MS. DWYER: And one of the impacts in
4 Foggy Bottom that was of most concern the last time, I
5 think continues to be, is where those students are
6 housed. So would housing be one of the significant
7 impacts?

8 THE WITNESS: Certainly movement to and
9 from residential halls is -- can be a significant
10 impact. In 2000, it was a critical issue because near
11 office campus buildings were being converted to
12 dormitories.

13 MR. DWYER: All right. Thank you. That
14 concludes all my questions.

15 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

16 Ms. Kahlow, did you have cross-examination
17 questions for the ANC?

18 MS. KAHLOW: I do not, but thank you for
19 asking me.

20 MR. HITCHCOCK: Madam Chair, since I'm
21 here as a dual role, I was wondering. There was one
22 question that Commissioner Thomas started to answer,
23 and that was on the question of, have things improved
24 from the tipping point of six years ago? That's one
25 question I would like to ask perhaps if the Commission

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1 --

2 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: I am not sure that
3 that is an appropriate dual role for you to play
4 because it's really redirect to Mr. Thomas.

5 MR. HITCHCOCK: Okay. I would pose it. I
6 wasn't sure if the Commission would care to inquire on
7 its own. It's a question I would ask if I were not
8 here in a dual role.

9 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Why don't we have an
10 additional submission from the ANC on that subject if
11 you would like to make an additional submission? And
12 so we can carry on with our hearing tonight. All
13 right?

14 MR. HITCHCOCK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

15 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

16 MR. THOMAS: Thank you.

17 (Whereupon, the witness was excused.)

18 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: All right. Now we
19 are ready to move to organizations and persons in
20 support. And I have my list. So I will call panels
21 forward. And I'll call them forward in groups of four
22 if I'm successful and then just ask you to take a seat
23 at the table and then speak one at a time. Don't
24 forget to drop off your witness cards on the way up.
25 And then we'll ask questions of the panels after all

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1 four have spoken.

2 Dayle Barnhard, Monty. Oh, that's -- he's
3 in the wrong case.

4 (Laughter.)

5 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. Graham Long,
6 Catherine. It looks like it's G-u-e-c-i-c-h-e,
7 something like that, John Barnett, Catherine Long.
8 Okay. Just for everybody else, the cards go to the
9 court reporter. Written testimony goes to Mrs.
10 Schellin. And then she will pass it out, just for the
11 next round. Okay. Whereupon, GRAHAM LONG,
12 CATHERINE GUCCIONE, JOHN BARNETT, and
13 CATHERINE LONG were called as persons in support and,
14 having been previously duly sworn, were examined and
15 testified as follows:

16 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Since I don't know
17 who anyone is, we will just start with you. And we'll
18 go down the table. So turn on the microphone and
19 identify yourself for the record. And you will have
20 three minutes.

21 MS. GUCCIONE: Catherine Guccione. Good
22 evening, members of the community, university, and
23 esteemed members of the Commission. My name is
24 Catherine Guccione. And I'm a proud alumnus of the
25 George Washington University, a member of the Friends

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1 community organization, and a commuter to and from the
2 Foggy Bottom area as an employee of a company located
3 in the Watergate Building.

4 I'm here tonight to express my interest in
5 and excitement over the university's campus plan from
6 the perspective of a former student as well as a
7 commuter in the area.

8 I graduated from GW with a Bachelor's in
9 2005 and a Master's this past year, in 2006, and
10 during my time was quite active within university
11 activities as the Director of Programming for the
12 Residence Hall Association for 2 years and a Director
13 of Special Projects for the Student Association when
14 it was led by Chris Hart in 2003 and 2004. In both of
15 these capacities, I was able to interact with
16 university administrators and members of the
17 community.

18 In my junior year, I joined the
19 Neighborhood of Friends organization, was active in
20 planning the first annual block party, as well as
21 attending monthly meetings. My time with the Friends
22 organization has taught me the value of the
23 perspectives held by the community members and the
24 necessity of compromise for the benefit of the Foggy
25 Bottom neighborhood and the university.

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1 The plan set forth by the university
2 embodying the "grow up, not out" approach offers the
3 best of all possible options for the community and the
4 university without sacrificing the most important
5 needs for both parties.

6 When I graduated from GW, the university
7 promised me a firm commitment to maintain the prestige
8 and excellence of the institution which granted me two
9 degrees. So, as a former student, it is with pride
10 that I watch the university continue to grow as a
11 leading academic institution, attracting only the most
12 qualified faculty and students.

13 As a commuter to the neighborhood each day
14 and as a member of Friends, it is with excitement that
15 I watch the commitment to enhance the neighborhood as
16 a vibrant retail center, which pledges to embrace and
17 preserve its historic roots.

18 The campus plan under review tonight
19 demonstrates an enormous effort on behalf of the
20 university to consider the preferences of community
21 members while ensuring the flexibility for growth that
22 will ensure the university's position as a world-class
23 academic institution.

24 By developing plans to limit student
25 traffic through residential areas and maintain as well

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1 as improve green space around campus, such as Kogan
2 Plaza and the university yard, GW has heeded the
3 community's need to retain an attractive campus
4 environment and aesthetic.

5 Similarly, by designing a retail corridor
6 throughout Eye Street, the university is able to
7 augment economic development throughout Foggy Bottom
8 and offer the community additional amenities that are
9 currently not available at the university's center.

10 Since 2001, when I first became a student
11 at GW, student housing was a major concern for
12 students, parents, administrators, and the community.

13 With the proposed campus plan, however, GW will be
14 able to accommodate all of its housing needs without
15 the purchase of additional off-campus housing
16 facilities.

17 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: I need your closing
18 thought because you're about out of time.

19 MS. GUCCIONE: With this plan, the
20 university will benefit being able to make
21 improvements necessary to remain topnotch and allow
22 the community the growth necessary. So I support this
23 plan.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you. And we

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1 will read the rest of your written testimony. But I
2 am going to ask people to stick to their time limits
3 because we have a lot of people who would like to
4 testify, and we want to give everybody a chance.

5 Sir?

6 MR. LONG: Hi. My name is Graham Long.
7 And I am a former ANC commissioner for 2A and also a
8 GW alumnus. I studied urban planning and design at
9 school and was recently hired to work for the Nassau
10 County Planning Commission in New York State, where I
11 have since moved since living here.

12 I feel that -- I was on the ANC when we
13 first started doing work with the university about the
14 new campus plan, which I think has improved a lot from
15 the previous one, addresses the main concerns of smart
16 growth and community-based development that are things
17 that I practice as well and have learned as a student
18 from the university.

19 The things I really like about this plan
20 are, in particular, since the previous one is the
21 preservation of open space, the proposed historic
22 district plan and saving historic structures, and the
23 confinement of the university development within the
24 campus boundaries that I think this addresses.

25 In addition, the transit-oriented and

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1 mixed-use proposed development for square 54, the
2 reconcentration of student housing with the campus
3 boundaries, as well as the open and inclusive process
4 of formulating this campus plan are also things that
5 are highly regarded and admirable in the field of
6 thoughtful and common sense urban planning, quite
7 frankly.

8 Basically while I think the most important
9 aspect of this plan is going to be its implementation
10 and that it should follow the smart growth and
11 community-based planning initiatives that they have
12 set forth finally in this campus plan and this is a
13 step in the right direction, basically the concerns I
14 found to be very real when I was on the ANC and when I
15 was a student there seemed to be the same ones as
16 today, the outgrowing development, the off campus
17 student residents, and the destruction of the
18 neighborhood atmosphere and community and ambiance.
19 And this is exactly what this campus plan is dealing
20 with.

21 So if we want to argue specific issues
22 from here on out, I think it's very important to do
23 that, but this is a good starting point. And this
24 really needs to be approved from my perspective in
25 order to move on in this discussion and debate, et al.

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1 So thank you very much.

2 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you, Mr. Long.

3 Ma'am?

4 MS. LONG: My name is Catherine Long. I
5 am a long-time resident of Watergate East. I support
6 the George Washington University Foggy Bottom campus
7 plan 2006-2025. Why?

8 Reviewing history, I recall a photograph
9 of pre-university Foggy Bottom in 1912. Pictured were
10 Fury Stables, coal yards, the Washington Gas Light
11 Company, and a famous saloon. Today we have a
12 beautiful international university and hospital in the
13 nation's capital. Also picture vibrant Dupont Circle
14 with Washington Circle now and how it will be after
15 our plan and square 54.

16 Progress requires change. Women were
17 first admitted to the university in 1988. The Gelman
18 Library relegated its card catalog to its archives in
19 1900. And in 1946, the Lisner Auditorium, 1946, Lisner
20 Auditorium, was still segregated. So on and on we go
21 but never without controversy. All the planning
22 sessions -- and there have been many -- have been open
23 for education and comment. And there will be more.

24 I want to share a few personal
25 observations. I am very indebted to GW Friends for

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1 introducing me to Lisner programs, including those
2 marvelous concert operas, media events, health
3 lectures and screening, senior membership advantages,
4 water aerobics, computer lessons, and excellent
5 student productions.

6 The September calendar listed everything
7 from mayoral candidates to tango festivals, something
8 for everyone. So unless we stop, women stop, having
9 babies, educational institutions will continue to
10 grow, whether in or out, up or down. Knowledgeable
11 experts responsible for the 20-year plan will in good
12 faith continue to improve George Washington University
13 for its students, faculty, and Foggy Bottom residents.

14 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you, Ms. Long.

15 You must be Mr. Barnett.

16 MR. BARNETT: I am John Barnett. I live
17 at Potomac Plaza, a block from what I have come to
18 call the imaginal line. When I first lived in Foggy
19 Bottom from 1966 until 1977, all seemed well in the
20 area as far as I can remember. I don't recall any
21 serious town-gown issues.

22 In 1999, I moved back here to my old
23 address into a war of words between the residents'
24 associations, on one side, and the university, on the
25 other. For six or seven years now, the war of words

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1 has continued. And some progress has made, primarily,
2 I believe, in the matter of increased members of
3 units, numbers of units, on the campus suiting
4 housing. Goals have not been entirely met on
5 schedule, but neither have they been ignored. And the
6 war of words continues.

7 Now comes the university with a grand plan
8 aimed at building up and not out, which makes a lot of
9 sense to me. School or campus boundaries will be
10 maintained. Attractive landscaping has been offered.
11 And even greater access to university facilities will
12 be and are now being offered to local residents.

13 Construction of student housing will
14 continue until set goals are met, all of this without
15 the need to turn square 54 into a dormitory. That in
16 my opinion would represent a horrible waste of
17 extraordinarily valuable revenue-producing property.

18 It's time for the war of words to cease.
19 It's time for the citizens' association, the
20 regulatory bodies, and university representatives to
21 sit down and, with reasonable speed, using the good
22 old give and take method, agree to allow the
23 university to proceed with its work. Otherwise, the
24 war of words continues and with no end in sight.

25 Forget about the past and some of the

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1 folks associated with it. Agree on a plan. And enjoy
2 the future.

3 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you, Mr.
4 Barnett.

5 MR. BARNETT: You're welcome.

6 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: I would like to ask
7 of the two folks, Ms. Long and Mr. Barnett, who are
8 residents, what has your experience been with some of
9 the adverse impacts that we have heard described in
10 terms of noise and student behavior and traffic? If
11 you could share your personal view on that with us?

12 MS. LONG: Well, I think that the
13 university and Friends has done a very good job of
14 listening to those complaints. The hotline has been
15 very, very effective.

16 I don't have occasion to be walking
17 through the campus at all hours of the day and night.

18 So I don't -- I personally have never heard, for
19 example, of any objections whatsoever to the dormitory
20 that was across from Watergate West. Although it was
21 very controversial at the time, those students were
22 just absolutely wonderful and added to our community.

23 So I think that we have done a very good
24 job of listening to and trying to improve. We are
25 trying to improve the campus, not destroy it.

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1 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

2 Mr. Barnett, did you have any
3 observations?

4 MR. BARNETT: I agree. My big
5 disappointment was at the number of people off campus
6 housing-wise. And that is being worked on, and I am
7 very pleased with that.

8 As far as the noise is concerned, I was a
9 kid once. And it was awful.

10 (Laughter.)

11 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: You mean for everyone
12 else?

13 MR. BARNETT: Yes. My brother would tell
14 you it still is. But, anyway, as long as I have a
15 fairly sound-tight apartment, I have no problem
16 whatever with that.

17 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. Thank you.
18 Any questions from the Commission? Mr. Hood?

19 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: Thank you, Madam
20 Chair.

21 Former Commissioner Long, what year were
22 you on the ANC, ANC 2A?

23 MR. LONG: That would be until the
24 beginning of 2004, not the entirety of it, but I
25 believe it was eight or nine months.

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1 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: You served for
2 eight or nine months?

3 MR. LONG: Right. I served out a previous
4 term that was vacant.

5 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: Okay. During that
6 time, were there any discussions about this advisory
7 committee from an ANC standpoint? And what is your
8 perspective on how the ANC dealt with this advisory --

9 MR. LONG: About creating the advisory
10 committee or --

11 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: In general.

12 MR. LONG: In general?

13 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: I mean --

14 MR. LONG: I don't remember that much
15 discussion about creating the advisory committee. I
16 remember there was a lot of talk about the potential
17 for some kind of committee to come up to mitigate the
18 problems and the differences here, but it hadn't
19 gotten that specific at that point, at least not to
20 the best of my knowledge.

21 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: Did you have any
22 input? Were you encouraging the ANC Commission to get
23 on board, "Let's do this," "Let's go to the table"?

24 MR. LONG: Absolutely. I mean, the one --
25 the reason I decided to fill out the remainder of that

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1 terms was almost solely for that reason, to foster
2 some discussion between the university and the
3 community for exactly that kind of thing, creating an
4 advisory committee, creating the things like the
5 hotline and ways to mitigate the problems and the
6 concerns that residents in the neighborhood have and
7 that, quite frankly, the students at the university
8 have because while I was there, I didn't necessarily
9 agree with everything that the university wanted to
10 do, especially not at the time.

11 So I really wanted it to work both ways.
12 So I was encouraging people to listen to each other
13 and try to mitigate the problems on both sides.

14 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: Okay.

15 MR. LONG: But, like I said, it hadn't
16 gotten that specific yet.

17 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: Okay. Thank you.
18 Thank you, Madam Chair.

19 MR. LONG: You're welcome.

20 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Anyone else?

21 COMMISSIONER JEFFRIES: A quick question
22 for Mr. Barnett. So you moved to the Foggy Bottom
23 area in 1966?

24 MR. BARNETT: Right.

25 COMMISSIONER JEFFRIES: Okay. So, I mean,

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1 I'm just trying to get a sense of expectations. I
2 mean, moving into an area that's adjacent to a
3 university, what were your expectations of how life
4 would be?

5 MR. BARNETT: At that time I never gave it
6 a thought. I had come down here from New York and had
7 gotten to know Washington a year or two before 1966
8 through some business I had down here. I just wanted
9 to live in the place.

10 And I don't remember how I happened to
11 pick the Foggy Bottom area, but I think it probably
12 was for convenience. And it's a nice place to look at
13 it. And it was near Georgetown and one thing and
14 another. And I never really gave the university a
15 thought or anything.

16 COMMISSIONER JEFFRIES: Okay. Thank you.

17 MR. BARNETT: You're welcome.

18 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Anyone else?
19 Commissioner Turnbull?

20 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: I just have a
21 couple of questions for Ms. Long. You seem to have
22 taken advantage of a lot of the programs that the
23 university has to offer. Do a lot of your neighbors
24 and friends do the same, do you feel? Are there quite
25 a few that do what you're doing or --

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1 MS. LONG: Unfortunately, for me, I didn't
2 get involved in any of this until finally someone
3 persuaded me I should belong to Friends. And since
4 then I have had all these wonderful experiences which
5 I am proud to broadcast to anyone who will listen to
6 me. And I put up notices and put the schedule on our
7 desks and things like that.

8 But I don't know. We're right next to the
9 Kennedy Center. So all of these other places have a
10 little competition. But I know I always see my
11 neighbors when I go to these things.

12 And I am particularly grateful for this
13 new course that I am able to take through the
14 university for free in computer science because I
15 certainly need help in that.

16 (Laughter.)

17 MS. LONG: But, all in all, I'm just so
18 proud to live near -- even when I didn't do all these
19 things, I loved being in a university setting and am
20 very proud of that. And I think we should all be
21 proud of that.

22 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Mr. Hood?

24 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: Ms. Guccione, you
25 mentioned in your testimony that you commute to the

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1 neighborhood. Not making it personal, but how do you
2 commute?

3 MS. GUCCIONE: Via Metro.

4 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: Metro. Good
5 answer.

6 (Laughter.)

7 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Ms. Dwyer, any
8 cross-examination?

9 MS. DWYER: I have none. Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Mr. Hitchcock?

11 MR. HITCHCOCK: I have no questions.

12 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Ms. Kahlow?

13 MS. KAHLOW: I only have questions for the
14 lady whose name is Catherine G. And I didn't get the
15 last name.

16 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Guccione.

17 MS. KAHLOW: Thank you, Ms. Guccione.

18 CROSS-EXAMINATION

19 MS. KAHLOW: Following up on Mr. Hood's
20 question because that is ours about impact, do you
21 ever drive to the campus?

22 MS. GUCCIONE: Not since my car died a
23 year and a half ago.

24 (Laughter.)

25 MS. KAHLOW: In the meetings you go do, do

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1 your colleagues go? Do your colleagues drive? Does
2 anyone else drive that you know of?

3 MS. GUCCIONE: The meetings? The Friends
4 meetings or whom I work with? My colleagues at work?
5 Many of them live out --

6 MS. KAHLOW: The reason why you come to
7 campus, the events for which you --

8 MS. GUCCIONE: Many of my colleagues at
9 the organization I work for live outside the District.
10 And they do drive to the District.

11 MS. KAHLOW: And the question is, do you
12 know where they park?

13 MS. GUCCIONE: They park at the Watergate
14 parking building, the parking at the Watergate
15 Building.

16 MS. KAHLOW: Very good. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. Thanks,
18 everybody.

19 (Whereupon, the panel of witnesses was
20 excused.)

21 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: The next panel,
22 Donald Lincoln; Jay Gu, G-u; Toni Boyer; James Morris.
23 Whereupon, DONALD D. LINCOLN, JAY GU, TONI BOYER,
24 and JAMES MORRIS were called as
25 persons in support and, having been previously duly

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1 sworn, were examined and testified as follows:

2 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Mr. Lincoln, why
3 don't you go ahead?

4 MR. LINCOLN: Good evening.

5 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: I need you to turn
6 the mike on first. There you go.

7 MR. LINCOLN: Okay. Good evening. My
8 name is Donald D. Lincoln. I reside at 2500 Virginia
9 Avenue, Northwest in Foggy Bottom. I have lived at
10 this Watergate East address for approximately seven
11 years.

12 I am here this evening to voice my support
13 for the George Washington University Foggy Bottom
14 campus plan for 2006 through 2025. I have reviewed
15 this proposed plan and have attended a number of
16 briefings on it, the last one held at Saint Stephen
17 Martyr Church on August 2nd of this year.

18 That last briefing turned out to be
19 somewhat contentious, more due to alleged failures of
20 the university to comply in good faith with the
21 existing plan than with the details of the proposed
22 plan. The seriousness of the university's commitment
23 to the proposed plan came under attack.

24 I believe that this well-thought-out
25 campus plan has great merit. And based on my personal

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1 involvement with the George Washington University's
2 Office of District of Columbia and Foggy Bottom-West
3 End Affairs, I have no reason to doubt that if
4 approved, the university will abide by it. Not to do
5 so would result in a public relations disaster.

6 The plan's key features, such as building
7 upward at the central core of the campus, rather than
8 outward, returning freshmen and undergraduates from
9 neighboring apartment buildings to on-campus housing,
10 promoting retail activity on Eye Street, Northwest,
11 and emphasizing historic preservation, should all
12 prove beneficial to both the George Washington
13 University and the Foggy Bottom and West End
14 communities.

15 I strongly recommend your approval of this
16 proposed campus plan and thank you for the opportunity
17 to speak this evening.

18 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you. Mr. Gu?

19 MR. GU: Thank you, zoning commissioners,
20 for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the GWU
21 20-year campus plan. My name is Jay Gu. And I own
22 the market at the Columbia Plaza. And I live in
23 Columbia Plaza in Foggy Bottom. I have lived in Foggy
24 Bottom for two years.

25 GW has reached out to the community for

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1 over two years concerning this campus plan. I
2 attended the first community meeting for the plan and
3 was asked to offer suggestions on what the new campus
4 plan should look like.

5 Since the first meeting, I attended
6 several other community meetings with many other
7 residents of Foggy Bottom. The residents, including
8 myself, offer many commendations to GW for new campus
9 plan. Most importantly, we wanted retail space in the
10 building site of old hospital, known as square 54. We
11 want a grocery store. And we want to keep the old
12 hospital site on the city's tax roll. In addition, we
13 want more student housing on the campus pawprint so
14 that the university will build more on its campus and
15 not in the community.

16 I like the unvaried's concept of the
17 building up and not out. I think that the Zoning
18 Commission should give the university more density on
19 the campus so that it does not need to expand into the
20 Foggy Bottom.

21 However, as a business owner in Foggy
22 Bottom, I like the GW students, faculty, and staff of
23 GWU. They are good and responsible people. The
24 university has been working with -- working very hard
25 in the community to solve the problems between the

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1 university and its neighbors.

2 I have attended many Friends meetings to
3 solve the problem between the university and the
4 community. Unfortunately, a few Foggy Bottom residents
5 do not want to talk with the university, but the
6 university continues to reach out to all the residents
7 of Foggy Bottom, which include the business owners;
8 churches; students; and senior citizens, such as those
9 in St. Mary's Court.

10 As a resident of the community, I believe
11 this new campus plan is a good plan. I hope you, too,
12 will support the plan. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you very much.

14 Ms. Boyer? Would you pull that mike over
15 a little bit more for you? There you go.

16 MS. BOYER: My name is Toni Boyer. I have
17 lived in Foggy Bottom for 14 years, in the District a
18 total of 17.

19 I support the campus plan and ask you to
20 do the same. While there are many parts of this plan,
21 the ones that mean the most to me are, one, parking.
22 GW has made a commitment to put much of its
23 above-ground parking underground. Further, it has
24 committed to spreading its underground parking around
25 campus, instead of placing it all in one spot. This

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1 will help to prevent traffic jams that would be caused
2 by all the cars trying to get to one location.

3 Two, retail. This area does not have
4 enough retail. The development of a retail strip along
5 Eye Street, including the old GW Hospital site, will
6 be a very welcome addition to this neighborhood. I
7 cannot emphasize this enough. Everyone I talk to is
8 excited about having additional neighborhood retails
9 options nearby.

10 And, three, housing. GW has committed to
11 putting more student housing on its campus. This will
12 be a good thing for both the students and the
13 neighbors.

14 GW is an important part of this community.
15 I encourage you to support the campus plan.

16 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you, Ms. Boyer.
17 Commissioner Morris?

18 MR. MORRIS: Good evening. My name is
19 James Morris. I have lived in Foggy Bottom for 15
20 years at the intersection of H Street and New
21 Hampshire Avenue, one block from the western boundary
22 of the George Washington University campus.

23 The Foggy Bottom I know and walk daily
24 bears no resemblance to the crowded, airless, overrun
25 place described by opponents of the university. Along

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1 with many, many other residents of Foggy Bottom, I
2 believe that the university is an asset of immense
3 value to the community, not just for the intellectual
4 and cultural opportunities it offers but for the
5 long-term stability it assures the neighborhood. The
6 university is an amenity to be embraced, not a
7 presence to be deplored. It's a reason to move to
8 Foggy Bottom.

9 Before coming to Washington, I was for 16
10 years a Director of the Higher Education Program of
11 the Andrew Mellon Foundation in New York, which was at
12 the time the nation's largest private foundation
13 program for higher education. In that capacity, I
14 evaluated thousands of proposals from universities
15 wanting grant money for projects of every description.

16 Reading the new campus plan against that
17 experience, I can't help but commend its ambition in
18 detail. Let's not forget that the plan's fundamental
19 purpose, so little discussed in these hearings,
20 perhaps necessarily, is to ensure that the academic
21 mission of the university will be enhanced in the
22 coming decades, have a base of sound financial
23 support, and keep faith with the community.

24 That admirable goal runs up against the
25 astonishingly narrow "gotcha" mentality of critics who

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1 appear indifferent to the contribution a major
2 university could make to a neighborhood, a city, or
3 even a nation but are energized by the prospect of
4 counting excess cars and students.

5 The contentious issues in the plan should
6 have triggered a process of frank discussion and
7 negotiation between the university and the community.
8 The university's representatives were open to that
9 process. Those who profess to speak for the community
10 were not.

11 As a member of ANC 2A since January 2005
12 and the Commission's current secretary, I dissociate
13 myself from the course of protest here taken by the
14 group.

15 Our ANC consists of six commissioners.
16 Three oppose the university's plan. Two favor it.
17 And the last has concerns but finds in the plan more
18 merit than not. So the ANC is much closer to an even
19 split than to a stance of solid opposition.

20 Moreover, from 2005 until August 2006, a
21 period of 9 months, the full membership of the ANC was
22 never given an opportunity to debate in public or in
23 private the university's plans. Nor was a vote taken
24 on them. During that nine-month period, no university
25 development issue was allowed on our public agenda.

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1 When the university was finally permitted
2 to present its plans at a public meeting of the ANC in
3 August 2006, the letter protesting them had already
4 been written. The university deserved better. And so
5 especially did the community.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you,
8 Commissioner Morris.

9 Questions from the Commission for the
10 panel? I'll just pose the same general question that
11 I had posed to the folks who were residents in the
12 prior panel, which is do you have any comments as it
13 relates to your personal experience with the adverse
14 impacts that we have heard described regarding noise,
15 traffic, student behavior, things like that, anything
16 that you would want to share with the Commission? Mr.
17 Morris?

18 MR. MORRIS: I think there are traffic
19 problems in the neighborhood, but I think they are
20 largely a result of its being a commuter route,
21 several of the main streets being a commuter route.
22 So that in the morning and in the evening, there are
23 problems.

24 During the day, such as today, we are four
25 weeks into, five weeks into a new term. I walked

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1 around the campus, walked 20 blocks of the campus in
2 the middle of the day. Yes, there are people on the
3 sidewalks. There is no difficulty in getting anywhere
4 on the campus or in crossing any street on the campus.

5 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Anyone else want to
6 share experiences? Mr. Lincoln?

7 MR. LINCOLN: I would just like to say in
8 the seven years I have lived at Watergate East and
9 Foggy Bottom, I have never experienced student
10 misbehavior of any sort, including noise.

11 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. Anyone else?

12 MS. BOYER: I know for myself, I have had
13 more help in getting my groceries carried home by the
14 GW students than I ever had before in my life.

15 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. Mr. Hood?

16 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: Madam Chair,
17 Commissioner Morris, again, I'm harping on this
18 advisory panel, whatever it was called. From your
19 experience, what has been the sentiment of sitting
20 around the table? Because I believe that's where a lot
21 of work actually is hashed out.

22 From your experience being on ANC
23 Commission 2A, what has been sentiment of sitting down
24 at the table and trying to negotiate some of these
25 issues before coming down in front of the Zoning

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1 Commission or any board?

2 MR. MORRIS: I think there has been -- my
3 sense is that there has been resistance to that. Back
4 in November 2005, the Commission approved what seemed
5 to me an astonishingly foolish resolution, the first
6 part of which said that we opposed consideration of
7 any further development of the campus until initially
8 an independent audit had been completed. There were a
9 number of other resolutions.

10 At the time I asked whether opposing
11 consideration of development issues wouldn't hobble
12 the ANC. Are we still able to consider these things
13 ourselves?

14 I voted against the resolution. I had no
15 satisfactory answer at that time. And, as I say, it
16 appeared that for nine months, that resolution
17 governed what appeared on the public agendas of the
18 ANC.

19 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: Thank you. Thank
20 you, Madam Chair.

21 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Anyone else,
22 questions?

23 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Madam Chair?

24 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Mr. Turnbull?

25 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: I just had a

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1 question for Commissioner Morris. Has the ANC been
2 split like this for a period of time? Has it been
3 close or has it been changing?

4 MR. MORRIS: Well, I have only been since,
5 as I say, January 2005. And I think it's been split,
6 yes.

7 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Is the split --

8 MR. MORRIS: I don't want to --

9 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Is the split so
10 far apart that you don't see yourself coming together?
11 Is it --

12 MR. MORRIS: Well, I'm all in favor of
13 discussion, negotiation, and doing it in public so
14 that the community can participate in the process.
15 That has not been what has gone on at the commission.
16 Part of the reason may be that there was a fear that
17 there would be heated disagreement in public,
18 precisely because of the contending views of the
19 commissioners.

20 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Thank you. Thank
21 you.

22 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Ms. Dwyer, any
23 questions?

24 MR. DWYER: No questions.

25 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Mr. Hitchcock?

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1 MR. HITCHCOCK: No questions.

2 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Ms. Kahlow?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. Thank you,
5 everyone.

6 (Whereupon, the panel of witnesses was
7 excused.)

8 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Next up, David
9 Lehrman, Philip Robinson, Omar Woodard, Harold Belmar.
10 Whereupon, DAVID LEHRMAN; PHILIP M. ROBINSON,
11 JR.; OMAR WOODARD, and HAROLD BELMAR were
12 called as persons in support and, having been
13 previously duly sworn, were examined and testified as
14 follows:

15 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: We'll start on this
16 end and move our way down the table. I knew some of
17 the folks from the last panel. I don't on this one.
18 Sir, if you would identify yourself and begin?

19 Turn on the mike for us when you start.
20 Push the button. The light goes on. Very good.
21 Thank you.

22 MR. LEHRMAN: You can hear me okay?

23 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Yes.

24 MR. LEHRMAN: Madam Chair, Mr. Vice-Chair,
25 and distinguished members of the Commission, my name

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1 is David Lehrman, and I am the Advisory Neighborhood
2 Commissioner for 2A-01. I have lived in Foggy Bottom
3 for 14 years and have been an ANC commissioner for 4.

4 I served our government as an attorney for
5 the U.S. Department of Transportation. And I continue
6 to write about the United States Supreme Court for a
7 prominent legal newspaper. I am running for my third
8 term. I hope I will be privileged to serve. I live
9 at 2020 F Street, among 95 percent of a building which
10 is occupied by students at the university.

11 One personal aside, which is that,
12 unfortunately, I have been away on an around-the-world
13 trip that had some advantages, some disadvantages.
14 Some things I won't know about that took place within
15 the last few months. But I would point out that in my
16 most recent trip to South Africa, I visited Nelson
17 Mandela at home and saw the impact that a leader can
18 make in healing a country and the divisive political
19 issues, their own ANC, admittedly a different acronym
20 --

21 (Laughter.)

22 MR. LEHRMAN: -- but one associated with
23 the assertion of human rights, dignity of all people,
24 and genuine debates among differing viewpoints. My
25 question is, where is the Nelson Mandela of our

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1 community?

2 Too often I have attended meetings in
3 which the most negative or cynical view of the
4 university whips up a feeding frenzy, lacking any
5 sense of proportion. Simply put, the university
6 enables bright people to study at the seat of power.

7 The library is for the local residents.
8 The courses can be audited. And if you become ill,
9 the hospital might even save your life. How bad is
10 that?

11 In fact, when students leave the area at
12 break time, I find myself rerouting my walking routes
13 at night because I don't feel as safe without the
14 collective numbers of large numbers of energetic
15 people on the streets.

16 When I was in Johannesburg recently, I
17 asked a young woman from Soweto, symbol of the fall of
18 apartheid, about Nelson Mandela. And I think it's
19 relevant to our stories about the ANC here in
20 Washington. "He's not Christian, is he?" I asked.

21 And she said, "No."

22 "And he doesn't pray, does he?" I asked.

23 And she said, "No."

24 "And how," I said, "did he invite his
25 jailer to his inauguration," an act of such

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1 reconciliation that our own ANC in Washington seems to
2 be unable to achieve?

3 "He doesn't have to believe in God" was
4 her answer, "We South Africans revere him. So we
5 cannot help but conclude he has to have been sent by
6 God."

7 Now, believe me, as I approach Rosh
8 Hashanah and the Jewish high noon holidays, I am not
9 here to endorse theological views, especially ones
10 that I am not even that informed about, but I do ask
11 some selfless, ethical, genuine leader of the group of
12 those who oppose the university's positions to show
13 the courage of a Mandela and start a genuine debate on
14 the role that GW can play in growing the community.
15 But it starts with leadership among homeowners and
16 mature long-time residents.

17 I sometimes say that when you go to an ANC
18 meeting, it's more like a Rorschach test of your own
19 views on not just GW but on youth. You can decide
20 that it's a bunch of people making trouble or you can
21 decide that you're going to be inspired by the
22 vitality of youth.

23 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Commissioner --

24 MR. LEHRMAN: In conclusion, if I may ask
25 a --

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1 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. There you go.
2 Closing thought. Very good.

3 MR. LEHRMAN: In conclusion, perhaps the
4 Nelson Mandelas of the world are simply too few. And
5 it's a bit much to ask for a Foggy Bottom equivalent.
6 Maybe that's a little over the top on my part. But
7 it's not too much to credit broad-minded individuals
8 who passionately seek a balance between the role of
9 the university and how it can continue to add to the
10 quality of life here, yet have a dialogue of
11 intellectual honesty, genuine critical thinking about
12 where the university can improve his additions. And
13 that's what I seek.

14 Thank you for the privilege of testifying
15 before this august Commission. I remain ready for any
16 questions you ask me.

17 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you. And we
18 will read the full testimony that you submitted for
19 the record.

20 MR. LEHRMAN: Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Sir?

22 MR. ROBINSON: Good evening, Chairwoman
23 Mitten, Vice-Chair Hood, Commissioners Turnbull and
24 Jeffries. My name is Philip M. Robinson, Jr. I went
25 to GW from 1999 to 2003. While there, I worked at the

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1 Multi-cultural Student Services Center, which
2 interacted with students at the School Without Walls,
3 among other places, and local charities. I also had
4 the privilege to be the President for the Black
5 Student Union, which also worked with residents of the
6 Foggy Bottom community. And, finally, as Student
7 Association President my senior year, I represented
8 over 23,000 undergraduate and graduate students
9 working in various projects throughout the community.

10 What I have seen in this whole entire
11 process is the ability to start programs, whether it's
12 registering students to vote and become residents of
13 the District of Columbia, D.C. statehood, as well as,
14 again, with the neighborhood project works to help
15 beautify the community.

16 I believe in all of these things I've just
17 listed, it gives me a unique perspective as both a
18 resident for a while in the summer in Foggy Bottom
19 during my college years as well as the one who
20 attended there. I see three distinguishing reasons why
21 you should support this program.

22 One, I believe that students of the George
23 Washington University are students who have helped
24 inevitably bring positive actions to the community as
25 well as working with the community. I believe that

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1 the majority of the residents there would feel the
2 same way about the students there.

3 Second, I believe that having the majority
4 of students on campus is a way for them to connect to
5 their campus and also to the residents who are there.
6 And I believe the campus plan does that by providing
7 for up to 1,000 beds maximum for them to stay.

8 And, finally, I think it's somewhere in
9 which a lot of these students, having known many of
10 them personally, end up becoming tax-paying students,
11 who now they bring money as revenue to the Foggy
12 Bottom community but as well in becoming residents of
13 the Foggy Bottom community.

14 Finally, I would like to close with a
15 story that I read in the Washington Post not that long
16 ago. It was entitled "Way Out of the Norm Dorms."
17 And it was a story written by Christine Kinsey, I
18 believe, in which she stated a story about, I believe,
19 in Hyattsville, Maryland, where there is a place
20 called the town's University Center, in which various
21 schools from the surrounding area, Maryland, American,
22 Catholic, GW, many of those students, graduate and
23 undergraduate, are now staying at that tower center,
24 far out away from the community and away from the
25 students and the residents.

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1 And although there was a lot of glitz and
2 glamour, pools, movie theatres, the like, all beyond
3 that glitz and glamour, there was one section that
4 really struck me in which they asked Ms. Lisa Evans,
5 who was a freshman at the University of Maryland and
6 another freshman at George Washington University was
7 also interviewed. And they asked them what you
8 thought of the place. And they said, "Although we
9 love the amenities, the one thing I wonder is why we
10 disconnected from the campus."

11 And she followed up by saying that "I
12 believe the core part of being in college was: one,
13 being able to live in the dorms; and, two, being able
14 to be a part of the community."

15 I really think that story summarizes what
16 we're here for today and really what we're trying to
17 -- I believe that it is not mutually exclusive of the
18 goals of the George Washington University and the
19 Foggy Bottom community, having worked there with them.

20 I believe that both sides, the majority
21 want to work together. And I would just encourage you
22 to support this plan and to disregard maybe the
23 minority views of a few who may not be in support of
24 the plan.

25 Thank you.

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1 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

2 Sir?

3 MR. BELMAR: Good evening, everyone. My
4 name is Harold Belmar. I work in Washington and live
5 in the Foggy Bottom area of the city. I am here
6 tonight to speak in favor of and voice my support for
7 the Foggy Bottom campus plan 2006 to 2025.
8 Specifically I would like to mention the GW campus
9 plan cases 06-211, 06-212, and 06-219.

10 The "grow up, not out" approach allows GW
11 to build the modern facilities necessary to maintain
12 its status as a world-class university while
13 preserving open spaces and important campus historic
14 resources.

15 For over two years leading up to the
16 September 2006 Zoning Commission hearings, GW has
17 engaged in conversations with its neighbors about the
18 future of the Foggy Bottom campus, reaching out to
19 hundreds of community members.

20 Further, the campus plan proposes
21 strengthening the network of campus pathways to create
22 better connections between open spaces and various
23 university uses. Active open spaces in travel
24 corridors create not only a more pedestrian-friendly
25 campus environment but can also enhance campus safety,

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1 promoting positive surveillance and reducing places
2 where undue activities occur.

3 I strongly and enthusiastically endorse
4 the Foggy Bottom campus plan 2006-2025. Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you, Mr.
6 Belmar.

7 And so you must be Mr. Woodard.

8 MR. WOODARD: Yes, ma'am. Madam Chair,
9 Vice-Chair Hood, and distinguished members of the
10 Zoning Commission, my name is Omar Woodard. It is
11 great pleasure that I provide testimony in support of
12 the George Washington University's campus plan.

13 My standing in the GW community has run
14 the gamut. I've served as a former Student Body
15 President, currently serve as a simple graduate
16 student. I took part in the deliberations of the
17 campus plan as an undergraduate. So I'm intimately
18 familiar with the campus plan.

19 What led me to GW almost six years ago, I
20 must admit, was not GW per se. Growing up in
21 Philadelphia, enjoying politics, indeed, I wanted to
22 desperately be in Washington, D.C. But I heard that
23 the District of Columbia was too dangerous and that
24 the nation's capital wasn't safe enough for me. And
25 that was before 9/11.

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1 Now, as most tragedies do, 9/11 indeed
2 brought us all together and made us realize once again
3 that we're all interconnected, that our destinies are
4 intertwined. As such, it is clear that the success of
5 this city and any great American city, for that
6 matter, is dependent upon the result of its citizens
7 and its institutions. George Washington is one such
8 institution.

9 The more we invest in our institutions,
10 the better off we are. And GW recognizes that the
11 more we invest in the city and its citizens, the
12 better off we all are.

13 From providing full scholarships, to
14 graduating seniors to partnerships with School Without
15 Walls, to providing a new robust tax revenue stream
16 for the city in square 54, GW will continue to invest
17 in this city.

18 Now, GW does all of this because it
19 recognizes we are all in this together. It seems to
20 me, then, that this campus plan is about an investment
21 in both this city and in GW, but it's also about
22 growth. No amount of legalisms and technicalities can
23 hide the fact that growth when done right benefits
24 everyone.

25 The process GW has embarked upon is

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1 getting it done right. When the opposing arguments
2 are reduced to legal technicalities and ad hominem
3 attacks, it shows that GW's strategy of community and
4 university partnerships is working.

5 Advancing the tried and true notion that
6 our successes inevitably intertwine is showing
7 results. It is not a coincidence that as this city
8 continues to grow in density and prestige, so, too,
9 does GW.

10 With respect to the campus plan process,
11 it is a reflecting of competing interests, yes, but on
12 its face, it is also a reflection of a positive vision
13 for the future and shared values of GW and the
14 community.

15 There is collaboration, which we have seen
16 in the community outreach. We have seen
17 accountability, competence, and transparency, as noted
18 in the student enrollment audit. And GW's enduring
19 commitment to reinvest in this city and its people is
20 simply good for everyone.

21 The bottom line is this. The campus plan
22 represents the future of higher education and the very
23 heart of the nation's capital. Emerging from the
24 dimly lit shadows of regional mediocrity to the
25 illuminating glow of international prominence, this

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1 city deserves no less than excellence from its
2 institutions. And with your approval, GW will
3 continue to do just that and will move from strength
4 to strength with this campus plan.

5 And I think you.

6 (Laughter.)

7 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you. Right on
8 the bell.

9 Any questions from the Commission for this
10 panel?

11 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: I just wanted to
12 ask -- and anybody might respond. If you can just
13 give me a sound byte answer? I know you're down here
14 in support, but why should I -- help me to understand
15 why should I go along with this 25-year plan when
16 there is a 10-year plan which my BZA colleagues and my
17 Chairperson, I think, worked very hard on.

18 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: I did.

19 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: Tell me, why
20 should I even deal with this? Why should I not wait
21 until 2010, when possibly I will be off the Commission
22 --

23 (Laughter.)

24 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: That's just a
25 joke, but why should I even consider this 25-year plan

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1 when I know that GW, the community, BZA, my BZA
2 colleagues, and my Chairperson worked very hard on
3 this? Tell me, why should we even consider it? Why
4 should I even deal with a 25-year when we've got a
5 10-year in place? Just because GW proposed it?

6 MR. WOODARD: Not just because GW proposed
7 it, but I think just simply because GW proposed a
8 forward-thinking, innovative plan. And, of course,
9 that's something that always merits consideration.

10 In this case, it's something that merits
11 strong consideration because it's in, GW is in, and of
12 the city. It's in and of the community. There have
13 been committed university and neighborhood
14 partnerships to move this kind of initiative forward.

15 This plan represents community needs.
16 This isn't simply about ambition to grow. And if we
17 are talking about growth, we're talking about growing
18 up and not out. And so if we're growing up, I guess
19 that's an appropriate phrase because GW is maturing.
20 It's a maturing institution approaching its 200-year
21 anniversary.

22 Why not in 20 years? Why not look forward
23 20-25 years and see how good can this university be?
24 How great can this university be? And there's no time
25 like the present to make that happen.

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1 If there's any time to take hold of this
2 institution, it's now. It's now.

3 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: Okay. Anybody
4 else want to respond quickly?

5 MR. LEHRMAN: Mr. Vice-Chair, just that do
6 we really want to be accused of not being visionaries
7 25 years from now? After all, isn't that what city
8 planners are always saying, that when you start
9 growing ad hoc in the city, the next thing you know,
10 you will just have bits and pieces all over a city?
11 And, really, the lack of vision and structural
12 integrity is what was lacking.

13 So now when you have somebody willing to
14 look a quarter of a century into the future and plan
15 ahead, you really do -- maybe you won't be on the
16 Commission, but why not take the credit later on,
17 having been on --

18 (Laughter.)

19 MR. LEHRMAN: -- for being one of the
20 visionaries that supported the plan?

21 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: There have been
22 some things out there I do not want the credit on.

23 (Laughter.)

24 MR. LEHRMAN: We tried.

25 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Any other

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1 commissioners have questions? Ms. Dwyer?

2 MR. DWYER: No questions.

3 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Mr. Hitchcock?

4 MR. HITCHCOCK: One or two for Mr.
5 Lehrman. CROSS-EXAMINATION

6 MR. HITCHCOCK: Mr. Lehrman, I heard you
7 say you have been on an around-the-world trip. Did I
8 understand you have not been involved in ANC
9 deliberations for the last four months or so?

10 MR. LEHRMAN: Essentially since July the
11 3rd of this year, I was around the world on a trip in
12 which I was communicating about once every ten days
13 with at least one of the commissioners on the ANC just
14 to get some sense of what the evolution was.

15 And I did check my e-mail. So I did see
16 what the ongoing evolution of documents was. I just
17 don't want to say that I'm as informed as when I see
18 the hard copy version arriving in your mailbox every
19 day.

20 MR. HITCHCOCK: Okay. Thank you.

21 During your tenure on the ANC, is there a
22 time you can recall when a GW-related item has been
23 proposed for the agenda but not put on the agenda?

24 MR. LEHRMAN: Yes. Actually, I'm certain
25 that there have been times when GW really aggressively

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1 tried to get itself on the agenda on some occasions
2 and was not able to. I'm trying to recall under these
3 circumstances that there was something a few months
4 ago or I remember speaking to some of the GW people
5 who were trying to get an issue on one of the agendas
6 and finding that they were not successful at that
7 effort, yes.

8 MR. HITCHCOCK: But you don't remember the
9 details?

10 MR. LEHRMAN: I do not, no.

11 MR. HITCHCOCK: And do you remember as
12 commissioner being unable to raise an issue?

13 MR. LEHRMAN: As a commissioner, I felt I
14 always was able to raise an issue.

15 MR. HITCHCOCK: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. LEHRMAN: You invoked Nelson Mandela's
17 name. And that's certainly a very good name to invoke.
18 I guess about the need for leadership, have you
19 thought of stepping forward?

20 MR. LEHRMAN: Well, I certainly have.
21 First of all, I have been very happy with our
22 leadership. I mean, we have been very, very lucky
23 with our leadership. And I think we have a very, very
24 strong ANC.

25 I mean, one of the things that I hate to

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1 reluctantly give credit to is that we have a lot of
2 brilliant people in ANC who disagree with me
3 sometimes. And they come up with the most wonderful
4 arguments on viewpoints that I disagree with.

5 So I am not going to try and claim that
6 you don't get people who came from the World Bank and
7 the International Monetary Fund, the State Department,
8 the Congress. These are people who came here often at
9 considerable financial sacrifice because they wanted
10 to make the world a better place.

11 So if you ask me, what do I think of the
12 kind of people that you get in the community, I have
13 the highest regard for even those people who disagree
14 with me.

15 MR. HITCHCOCK: Well, that wasn't my
16 question, but that's a good way to end. Thank you
17 very much.

18 MR. LEHRMAN: Thank you for the
19 opportunity to answer.

20 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

21 Ms. Kahlow, questions?

22 MS. KAHLOW: I have questions for two of
23 the witnesses. CROSS-EXAMINATION

24 MS. KAHLOW: Mr. Woodard, where do you
25 live?

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1 MR. WOODARD: I live in Ward Two.

2 MS. KAHLOW: Where?

3 MR. WOODARD: Tenth and M Streets
4 currently.

5 MS. KAHLOW: What section of town is that?

6 MR. WOODARD: We call that Shaw.

7 MS. KAHLOW: Thank you. And do you have a
8 car?

9 MR. WOODARD: I do not.

10 MS. KAHLOW: How do you get to campus?

11 MR. WOODARD: Metro and my feet.

12 MS. KAHLOW: Okay. Thank you.

13 (Laughter.)

14 MS. KAHLOW: And, Mr. Robinson, where do
15 you live?

16 MR. ROBINSON: I live in Arlington,
17 Virginia. And I commute to downtown D.C. every day.
18 And I have a car, and I take the Metro, preferably the
19 Metro, but I do have a car as well.

20 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Wait for her to ask
21 you questions.

22 (Laughter.)

23 MS. KAHLOW: Do you come to GW campus
24 ever?

25 MR. ROBINSON: Yes, I do. I was there

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1 just recently, maybe two, two and a half weeks ago,
2 actually.

3 MS. KAHLOW: And do you come by your car
4 or Metro?

5 MR. ROBINSON: Both. It depends.

6 MS. KAHLOW: When you come by your car,
7 where do you park?

8 MR. ROBINSON: Either -- most of the time
9 on the street somewhere, on the curb, on the street
10 parking.

11 MS. KAHLOW: Do you have Virginia tags?

12 MR. ROBINSON: Yes, I do.

13 MS. KAHLOW: Where do you pay taxes?

14 MR. ROBINSON: Virginia.

15 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. You are
16 getting a little bit far afield of the --

17 MS. KAHLOW: I am trying to understand for
18 impact. And we're going to be discussing impact.

19 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: How does where he
20 pays taxes impact?

21 MS. KAHLOW: Because I'm going to ask
22 about --

23 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: We don't need to have
24 --

25 MS. KAHLOW: I'm going to ask if he has a

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1 Ward Two sticker, but that's okay. Thank you. It's
2 not critical if you don't want it.

3 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thanks. Okay.
4 Thanks to the panel.

5 (Whereupon, the panel of witnesses was
6 excused.)

7 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Now we have another
8 veteran of the campus plan. Sheila Cross-Reid is here
9 to testify, Sheila Harris, Jan Simco, Josh Lasky.
10 Whereupon, SHEILA CROSS-REID, SHEILA MILLS HARRIS,
11 JAN SIMCO, and JOSH LASKY were
12 called as persons in support and, having been
13 previously duly sworn, were examined and testified as
14 follows:

15 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Ms. Cross-Reid, it's
16 good to see you. All the veterans were claiming their
17 status earlier. So I thought I would call that out.
18 And we're getting t-shirts made, just so you know.

19 (Laughter.)

20 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: If you wouldn't mind
21 turning on the mike and introducing yourself for the
22 record? And please begin.

23 MS. CROSS-REID: Good evening, Chairperson
24 Mitten, Vice-Chair Hood, and members of the Zoning
25 Commission. My name is Sheila Cross-Reid, former Chair

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1 of the BZA that approved GW's 2000 campus plan. Today
2 I am testifying as a private citizen who supports the
3 current proposal.

4 In GW's 2000 campus plan, one of the
5 primary concerns was the lack of sufficient university
6 housing on campus for GW's full-time undergraduate
7 population. In 2000, GW housed approximately only 50
8 percent of its full-time undergraduates.

9 The BZA imposed stringent conditions to
10 require GW to increase its on-campus housing capacity.

11 We imposed a 70 percent-plus housing requirement. GW
12 was to provide housing for 70 percent of its full-time
13 undergraduates, up to 8,000, and an additional bed for
14 every student over 8,000. All beds had to be on
15 campus. GW was not permitted to count beds in its
16 off-campus residence halls.

17 In the interim, GW has made great strides
18 in meeting the housing requirements set forth in the
19 2000 plan. According to GW reports, the university's
20 added approximately 2,800 beds since 2000.

21 The university has met the 70 percent-plus
22 housing this fall with more than 6,300 beds all
23 located on campus. Thus, GW has achieved the housing
24 goal the BZA set out in the 2000 campus plan.

25 Use of the campus dormitories. I

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1 understand that GW proposed to discontinue the use of
2 each of its off-campus dormitories for undergraduate
3 housing by a set time table. Use of such off-campus
4 housing for undergraduates was a key issue of concern
5 in the 2000 plan.

6 Expansion of new university uses in
7 residential zones off campus. GW proposes to agree
8 not to purchase additional residentially zoned
9 properties in the Foggy Bottom-West End for university
10 use for the next 20 years. This agreement to forego
11 its right to engage in such matter-of-right purchases
12 and use is a major step by GW to address a significant
13 area of concern in the 2000 plan.

14 Use of the old hospital site, square 54,
15 GW proposes a mixed-use town center that would include
16 offices, apartments, and retail uses that would return
17 this property to the tax rows. While this project is
18 the subject of a certain Zoning Commission
19 application, such a concept is appropriate for a major
20 development area in Washington Circle and consistent
21 with other GW-owned commercial uses on Pennsylvania
22 Avenue.

23 Historic preservation district for a large
24 part of the campus. GW has agreed to complete
25 discussions with HPRB for historic district for the

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1 southern part of the campus, which would preserve the
2 historic character of this area in perpetuity.

3 Given the progress that GW has made in
4 meeting its own campus housing requirements and the
5 commitment the university is willing to make to
6 address longstanding issues of community concern, I
7 would highly recommend that the Commission should
8 grant the university request to substantially increase
9 the density at the core of the campus for university
10 uses: a) increase density through zoning the parts of
11 the interior of the campus along 20th Street is the
12 appropriate place for expanded academic and student
13 housing uses away from the community; b) rezoning
14 parts of the campus to commercial zones is consistent
15 with the higher density in the surrounding area.

16 Conclusion, I distinctly recall how the
17 BZA struggled to find the right balance between the
18 interests of the university and the surrounding
19 community in 2000. I firmly believe that the
20 far-reaching plan that GW has now put forth will build
21 on the progress made under the 2000 plan and
22 significantly advance not only the interests of GW but
23 the surrounding community and the city as a whole.

24 This plan continues the key conditions we
25 put into place in the 2000 plan while addressing many

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1 issues where there were not tools available to reach
2 five years ago, including issues of off-campus
3 expansion.

4 Finally, I feel this plan successfully
5 lays the groundwork for hopefully resolving
6 longstanding sources of friction between GW and the
7 surrounding community.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

10 See, I couldn't cut off the former Chair
11 of the BZA. I just couldn't do it.

12 (Laughter.)

13 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Ms. Harris?

14 MS. MILLS HARRIS: Yes. Good evening,
15 members of the Zoning Commission. I am Sheila Mills
16 Harris. And I served as the principal of School
17 Without Walls Senior High School until my retirement
18 in June of 2006.

19 The School Without Walls is located on
20 DCPS property in the heart of GW's Foggy Bottom
21 campus. And I am here to testify in support of GW's
22 2006-2025 Foggy Bottom campus plan.

23 During my tenure as principal of SWW, I
24 had an opportunity to work closely with GW officials
25 on a variety of collaborations regarding academic

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1 programs as well as the sharing of facilities. GW and
2 SWW have had a long history of working together for
3 the mutual benefit of both institutions.

4 Next month this Commission is scheduled to
5 hear an application filed jointly by GW and the D.C.
6 Public School System involving the renovation and
7 addition to the School Without Walls and a new
8 residence hall for GW.

9 I continue to work closely with the
10 educational task force, which is a key component of
11 that joint effort, in order to enhance the
12 programmatic collaboration among the partners.

13 GW has been a good partner for the School
14 Without Walls and its students. As part of a mutual
15 sharing of facilities, GW has provided access to
16 various on-campus buildings, including the athletic
17 facilities on campus.

18 Since SWW lacks a gymnasium, GW has
19 allowed the school to use both the Smith Center and
20 the Lerner Health and Wellness Center to conduct
21 physical education classes. I understand that this
22 Commission approved the use of the Health and Wellness
23 Center for SWW students. And for that, we were most
24 grateful.

25 The collaboration between the GW and SWW,

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1 however, goes beyond athletic facilities. Every year
2 students at SWW are permitted to take courses at GW
3 with no charge for tuition. And this courtesy has
4 been extended to the faculty as well. In addition,
5 the university has provided tutors for our students,
6 internships. And the faculty and staff of SWW take
7 full advantage of the various food venues in and
8 around campus since SWW does not have its own
9 cafeteria.

10 As a school without walls, our students
11 are constantly in and part of the community. And GW
12 has always opened its arms to us as part of that
13 community.

14 The GW campus plan would enable the
15 university to improve its facilities by adding more
16 buildable space to the campus. This "grow up, not
17 out" approach is good for the community.

18 For the SWW, in particular, the campus
19 plan would provide the following potential benefits.

20 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: I am going to need
21 you to summarize because you only have a few seconds
22 left. All right?

23 MS. MILLS HARRIS: I will. Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

25 MS. MILLS HARRIS: As GW improves and

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1 increases this academic space, adding a new science
2 center, engineering building, and other buildings, SWW
3 will reap the benefits of these buildings.

4 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you, Ms.
5 Harris.

6 MS. MILLS HARRIS: Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Mr. Simco, I need you
8 to turn the mike on before you start. There you go.

9 MR. SIMCO: Ladies and gentlemen, I am an
10 immigrant from the former Czechoslovakia. I came to
11 America in 1967 but moved to Foggy Bottom 4 years ago.
12 So I have lived here for four years, and I know
13 something about the area.

14 As grammacy is sort of weak, so I will try
15 to be brief and under three minutes, as you asked me
16 to be.

17 Why am I here? I am not an architect. I
18 am not an urban planner. I am not a financier. I am
19 not an economist. But I am an academic of large
20 experience with universities all over the world. So I
21 have something to say about the plan of the
22 university.

23 But I have to tell you I have not been
24 influenced by them. What I have to say is, as he
25 said, era and studio. That means I am not biased this

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1 way or that way.

2 The function of the university is to
3 instruct and to do scholastic research, not to sell
4 groceries to the public, as some of the plans have
5 tried to imply. Nevertheless, George Washington
6 University has given the community a great gift, which
7 is the hospital.

8 The hospital serves not just the
9 employees, not the students but the whole community.
10 And in this respect, the university deserves support
11 of the whole community, not just Foggy Bottom but I
12 think all of Washington, D.C.

13 I can testify for myself that my life has
14 been saved here in this hospital several times over
15 and -- I am not quite sure -- maybe even the Vice
16 president. And definitely we know the former
17 President Ronald Reagan was also saved here in 1981.
18 So that's a consideration for which this university
19 should be supported in their endeavors.

20 But my suggestion -- I'm not sure whether
21 it's in the plan -- is that I have seen universities
22 all over the world and universities even here in
23 Washington, let's say -- you can identify it by some
24 buildings which identify the university.

25 George Washington University is scattered

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1 over 40 million people. Where is George Washington
2 University? You can't say it's here or there. And my
3 suggestion is George Washington University needs your
4 support to build a structure which would coordinate
5 all of these disparate offices which are scattered
6 miles apart in one would-be architecturally impressive
7 to symbolize this rising important institutions, which
8 would not be little.

9 That's my message.

10 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you very much.

11 And you are Mr. Lasky?

12 MR. LASKY: Yes. Chairperson Mitten and
13 distinguished members of the Zoning Commission, my
14 name is Josh Lasky. And I come to you as the
15 Executive Vice President of the Student Association at
16 GW. I am also in my third year of employment with GW
17 Housing Programs. And I currently serve as a house
18 scholar, resident adviser in 2109 F Street.

19 I have put together a series of points to
20 express my strong support for GW's Foggy Bottom campus
21 plan, 2006 through 2025. GW has a dynamic campus that
22 must adjust to the needs of an ever-changing student
23 population in a quickly evolving city. It is a modern
24 campus with a reputation for great facilities,
25 including classrooms, community space, and residents'

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1 houses.

2 In order to adjust for the needs of future
3 students, the campus plan must be approved in its
4 entirety. The process of building the future of GW
5 has helped to reaffirm the university's commitment to
6 this city and its neighbors in Foggy Bottom.

7 With over two years of open discussion
8 regarding the development of our campus, the community
9 and the university have collaborated to construct a
10 vision that is fair and beneficial for all.

11 GW has made a commitment to staying within
12 its existing boundaries and concentrating development
13 at the core of campus, rather than at the edges.

14 This concept is at the very heart of the
15 university's development plans and is evidence of the
16 community involvement that has existed on this project
17 since the very start.

18 Benefits offered to the community by GW
19 are greater now than ever and will continue to expand
20 in the future. Local community members have the
21 opportunity to audit classes at a fraction of the
22 price that students pay. Programming, like the Foggy
23 Bottom-West End neighborhood block party, which takes
24 place on October 1st, and the Fresh Farms farmers'
25 markets bring a great sense of community to the area.

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1 Not only does the campus offer great
2 facilities in the form of open space, such as Kogan
3 Plaza and University Yard, but also serves the
4 community with functional space, like the Annette and
5 Theodore Lerner Family Health and Wellness Center and
6 Gelman Library.

7 As a future alumni, I am aware of the fact
8 that I will bring a piece of GW wherever I go and
9 whatever I do. I want the best possible future for
10 GW. And a campus plan is a guarantee that over the
11 next 20 years, the university will continue to serve
12 students and its neighbors in the best possible way.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

15 Questions from the Commission for the
16 panel? Any questions? Mr. Hood?

17 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: Ms. Reid, it's
18 good to see you. We've had many days up here on the
19 dias with you as Chairperson of the BZA. I learned a
20 lot when I sat on the BZA from you. So I want to
21 publicly thank you for that.

22 MS. CROSS-REID: Thank you.

23 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: And then I want to
24 ask you a question. Since I have you up here, I want
25 to deliberate with you.

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1 (Laughter.)

2 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: A lot of times GW
3 is asking for 25-year plan -- is it 20? Where did I
4 get 25? Maybe I want them to do 25. No. They asked
5 for a 20-year plan. Do you think that that -- from
6 your expert being around, being up here, do you think
7 that is too long for us, another review process?
8 Would you suggest maybe we cut it back to 15?

9 I know you are down here in support of
10 exactly what is here, but kind of put your other hat
11 back on. What would you suggest?

12 MS. CROSS-REID: I heard you ask the
13 previous panel a question similar to that. I thought
14 about the fact that, you know, as testimony here has
15 expressed, the city and the conditions regarding
16 education and the development surrounding the
17 university is ever changing.

18 And, as such, I felt that given the fact
19 that now there is a new hospital and then there is a
20 parcel that is vacant, that there was an opportunity
21 that GW saw to be able to utilize, to more efficiently
22 utilize, higher and best use, that space, and to
23 improve upon the existing plan to replace what would
24 happen; in other words, put in -- to replace what is
25 there now and to put into place something that would

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1 be better and more efficient and that would be more
2 serviceable to the community, to the university, and
3 to the students, and to the city at large because
4 right now you have a situation where you have space
5 that's under-utilized, there's tax revenue that's
6 missing, as well as the university certainly would be
7 able to generate additional income from developing the
8 space that's there on square 54 as well as some of the
9 other proffers that they're making to improve the
10 existing campus plan that is now on the table.

11 And I think this is the reason why they
12 decided to come early and to offer to the Commission
13 an opportunity perhaps to be able to improve on what
14 is already there and to give the city a much better
15 product in the long run. And the question as to why
16 20 years, I think that historically campus plans are
17 over a period of time.

18 And, as such, it requires putting it into
19 operation to kind of, you know, forecast and have
20 vision as to how it could possibly work for the future
21 benefit of everyone concerned.

22 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: Thank you for your
23 answer. It is always good to see you.

24 Thank you, Madam Chair.

25 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you, Mr. Hood.

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1 Mr. Turnbull? You didn't get your mike on
2 there.

3 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Ms. Reid, it
4 sounded from the tone of your testimony that you feel
5 that GW has made a sincere attempt to meet the
6 requirements that the BZA had set up. You mentioned a
7 lot of -- 70 percent of the housing requirement. You
8 mentioned beds. Do you feel that it's your feeling
9 that GW has been sincere in its attempt to meet those
10 guidelines?

11 MS. CROSS-REID: Not only do I think that
12 they are sincere. I, quite frankly, was a little
13 hesitant about their being able to do so because I was
14 one of the ones that felt that the requirements were
15 being, conditions were a little too stringent. And I
16 wanted them to be modified.

17 However, surprising to me, they have been
18 able to meet them. They even exceed them in some
19 instances.

20 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: One of the things
21 that keeps coming up is FTEs and head count. What is
22 your take on where we're going with this?

23 MS. CROSS-REID: To be quite honest with
24 you, I'm not really sure because there was always an
25 issue. It was a matter of who was counting. You

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1 know, in my opinion, it was one count was one number
2 and another count was another number. And we couldn't
3 ever really get our arms around exactly what the head
4 count was.

5 I don't know if that has improved through
6 the years, but that was always an issue around those,
7 the actual numbers.

8 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Okay. I mean, I
9 guess in one part we talk about sincerity. I sort of
10 have a feeling that I'm hearing from the ANC that
11 there is an insincerity from the university to be
12 totally above board on where the numbers are. And we
13 talk about impact into the area.

14 MS. CROSS-REID: I couldn't really speak
15 to the sincerity of the university. I think that the
16 thing we would have to look at is what has actually
17 manifested itself over the years.

18 And I don't think that I would be the one
19 to be able to make that kind of assessment as to
20 whether or not the university if they're accused of
21 not being sincere -- I can't say if they were ever or
22 were not, but in my opinion I felt like they had made
23 the greatest effort to comply with what they promised
24 to do and with the condition that was set forth in the
25 existing plan for 2000.

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1 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Well, that's the
2 way I'm kind of taking them.

3 MS. CROSS-REID: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: I mean, you have
5 been very familiar with them over the years and what
6 they have tried to do. And it's your feeling that
7 there is a sincere attempt that the numbers that
8 they're getting are trying to reach --

9 MS. CROSS-REID: Oh, I do believe that.

10 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Yes.

11 MS. CROSS-REID: I do believe that.

12 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Okay. Thank you.

13 MS. CROSS-REID: Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Any questions? I
15 just wanted to -- since Ms. Reid did some, I just have
16 to say, you know, we were up here. And there was some
17 serious discussion. I just think that the compromise
18 that was struck by the BZA -- and it was hard work.
19 It was really hard work. But I think that we should
20 all, the five of us should, be very proud that the
21 university -- first of all, that we put the agreement
22 in place and it withstood many legal challenges and
23 that here we are August -- we have passed August 31st,
24 2006. And we achieve the objective.

25 MS. CROSS-REID: I agree. And that's one

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1 of the reasons why I wanted to come here tonight to
2 testify. It's because of that.

3 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: As Mr. Hood said,
4 it's good to see you.

5 MS. CROSS-REID: Yes.

6 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: So I'm glad we can
7 celebrate this victory such as it is from the first
8 campus plan order. So thanks for coming down.

9 Let me see if anybody else has any
10 questions. Ms. Dwyer?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Mr. Hitchcock?

13 MR. HITCHCOCK: Just one briefly for Ms.
14 Cross-Reid.

15 Nice to see you again.

16 CROSS-EXAMINATION

17 MR. HITCHCOCK: In preparing your
18 testimony here tonight, did you talk to the ANC or any
19 community groups ahead of time to get their sense of
20 how things were working?

21 MS. CROSS-REID: No, I did not talk to
22 them. This is basically what I have gleaned from
23 reading in the publication and talking to the
24 community, e-mails.

25 MR. HITCHCOCK: So you say talking to the

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1 community? Who are you referring to?

2 MS. CROSS-REID: Oh, just generally, you
3 know, the problem here with GW is, you know, kind of
4 well-known around the city and lunches and just
5 cocktail parties and just --

6 MR. HITCHCOCK: Okay.

7 MS. CROSS-REID: -- general discussions
8 about what is happening.

9 MR. HITCHCOCK: Okay. I was just checking
10 from the ANC perspective or the Foggy Bottom. Thank
11 you very much. Nice to see you again.

12 MS. CROSS-REID: Okay.

13 MR. HITCHCOCK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

14 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Ms. Kahlow, any
15 questions?

16 MS. KAHLOW: As expected, I only have a
17 question for Mr. Lasky. Where do you live?

18 MR. LASKY: I live in 2109 F Street.

19 MS. KAHLOW: Do you have a car?

20 MR. LASKY: No, I do not.

21 MS. KAHLOW: Do your other people who live
22 in your building have cars?

23 MR. LASKY: I don't have accurate
24 information on that. I would think that most of the
25 second-year students I live with do not have cars.

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1 MS. KAHLOW: Were you told as a freshman
2 or as a sophomore and were your parents told about the
3 restriction on student parking for freshmen and
4 sophomores?

5 MR. LASKY: I am 100 percent sure that was
6 communicated to me at one point earlier in my GW
7 career, yes.

8 MS. KAHLOW: Do you remember how you
9 learned of that restriction?

10 MR. LASKY: I believe I learned of it at
11 colonial inauguration, which is the new student
12 orientation program.

13 MS. KAHLOW: Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thanks to the panel.

15 (Whereupon, the panel of witnesses was
16 excused.)

17 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Next up we have Lamar
18 Thorpe; Jeff Merudian; -- I hope I said that right --
19 I can't read the first name but Partalo,
20 P-a-r-t-a-l-o; Amy Connelly. I'm missing somebody.
21 So I'll get another name. Meseret Bekele. I'm sure I
22 pronounced that wrong, B-e-k-e-l-e. Whereupon,
23 JEFF MAROOTIAN, MESERET BEKELE, AMY CONNELLY,
24 LAMAR THORPE, and SONIA PARTALO were called as
25 persons in support and, having been previously duly

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1 sworn, were examined and testified as follows:

2 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: We'll start at this
3 end. And she'll take her seat in a minute. Are you
4 Mr. Marootian?

5 MR. MAROOTIAN: Yes.

6 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: You were on the ANC
7 before, right?

8 MR. MAROOTIAN: Yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. Why don't you
10 go ahead.

11 MR. MAROOTIAN: Good evening, Madam Chair,
12 members of the Commission. Thank you for the
13 opportunity to read this brief statement into the
14 record in support of the GW University's campus plan
15 proposal.

16 COMMISSIONER JEFFRIES: Excuse me. Who
17 are you?

18 MR. MAROOTIAN: My name is Jeff Marootian.
19 I am an alumnus of the George Washington University
20 and also a former advisory neighborhood commissioner
21 in ANC 2A. I resided in the Foggy Bottom-West End
22 community for seven years and currently live in Ward
23 One in the Columbia Heights community.

24 The university, like many large
25 institutions, has for many years been met with serious

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1 opposition from vocal community residents. Having
2 worked closely with some of these individuals, I
3 understand and recognize the depths of their concerns.

4 But I also recognize that often much of
5 this position has been rooted inherently in the
6 process. I've taken the time to carefully review the
7 merits of this campus plan, but I'm here really
8 primarily to talk about the process that the
9 university has undertaken in its development.

10 For over two years, the university and
11 community members have been engaged in conversations
12 about the future of the Foggy Bottom campus. The
13 university and the Office of Planning developed a
14 community-based planning process that has included
15 residents, students, and faculty alike and alumni.

16 The process was not simply just a
17 paper-based plan. It was a fully implemented plan.
18 Community residents played an active role in the
19 process and, as a result, contributed significantly to
20 the development of the plan. This type of
21 collaborative effort is a tremendous step forward for
22 the university and inherently for the community in
23 which it resides.

24 The process included a series of open
25 community meetings held during the Summer and Fall of

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1 2005 cosponsored by the D.C. Office of Planning, GW,
2 and the Advisory Neighborhood Commission, and numerous
3 small group meetings with civic associations,
4 businesses, churches, institutions, and neighborhood
5 residents to identify issues and seek suggestions.

6 The university hosted information sessions
7 and also a three-day Urban Land Institute panel, which
8 included two roundtable sessions for members of the
9 community. The university also developed a Web site as
10 a resource with information regarding GW planning and
11 development activities, including copies of the
12 application material submitted to the Zoning
13 Commission, a comprehensive issues exhibit documenting
14 stakeholder input and comment, and all presentations
15 made throughout the community-based planning process.

16 Over the course of the past few years, the
17 university has also tremendously enhanced its efforts
18 to meet the needs of its neighbors, simple steps, like
19 creating a phone line for residents to call if there's
20 a noise disturbance or issue involving a student, have
21 gone a long way to improve relations and also the
22 quality of life for everyone in Foggy Bottom.

23 The university has invested resources into
24 genuinely fostering improvements as a good neighbor.
25 This planning process is an extension of that positive

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1 working relationship that has been developing during
2 this time.

3 As an alumnus and former active community
4 resident, I commend the university for fostering a
5 collaborative partnership with its neighbors and for
6 including as many stakeholders as possible in the
7 planning process.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you. We're
10 just going to go down the table. So ma'am?

11 MS. BEKELE: My name is Meseret Bekele.

12 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: I need you to turn on
13 the microphone. There you go.

14 MS. BEKELE: My name is Meseret Bekele. I
15 am the owner of Foggy Bottom grocery, 2140 F Street.
16 As such, as a --

17 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Would you just either
18 scoot forward or pull the mike a little bit closer?
19 I'm just having a little trouble hearing you. You
20 don't have to start over. Just keep going.

21 MS. BEKELE: Okay. As such as my lovely
22 independent community, for the past two years, I'm
23 having the September 2000 Zoning Commission hearing,
24 GW, continue engaging in a conversation with the
25 neighborhood about the future of Foggy Bottom plan.

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1 As a community member and a small business
2 owner, I have attended several of these issues. Those
3 I can personally say that have truly appreciated
4 sincerely organization, development, strategy, not
5 only the campus plan concerning new university
6 development in targeting the location away from
7 surrounding the residential neighborhood, but as
8 environment through the landscaping, the streetscape
9 environment. This plan also benefits all the whole
10 community.

11 I completely understand and, without
12 hesitation, increasing development of the Foggy Bottom
13 area. However, GW also has been extremely helpful with
14 any personal concern to our residents. In fact, GW
15 has often got too far away establishing and
16 maintaining the streets of the District of Columbia,
17 Foggy Bottom, West End.

18 The neighborhood Web site education, the
19 Office of District is able to answer any question, the
20 Web site also available, information environment
21 university program campus development effort as a
22 university maintains 24-hour community concerns,
23 outline open to us for Foggy Bottom.

24 Foggy Bottom community, last is not least.
25 GW successfully coordinating university police

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1 neighborhood action term response, community-related,
2 call any report. Simply put, GW made effort to regain
3 a better neighborhood, sincerely work that went into
4 taking short the campus plan related community issue
5 to the commander to help with the concern to --

6 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: I need your closing
7 thought.

8 MS. BEKELE: Okay. So okay. Okay. The
9 responsibility also has -- okay. My concern. I wish
10 --

11 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: We'll read it. We
12 will read it.

13 MS. BEKELE: I wish that the community --
14 what? Okay. I wish the new development good luck and
15 strong encouragement to support this campus plan.
16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

18 Ma'am? I should say "Miss"? I hated
19 being called "ma'am" like until I was 40.

20 MS. CONNELLY: That's okay.

21 (Laughter.)

22 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: You're clearly not
23 there yet.

24 MS. CONNELLY: Pushing it. Can you hear
25 okay?

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1 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Yes.

2 MS. CONNELLY: Okay. I would like to
3 introduce myself. I am Amy Connelly, a George
4 Washington University M.B.A. student but, more
5 importantly, a Foggy Bottom resident.

6 I have come today before the Zoning
7 Commission in support of the George Washington-Foggy
8 Bottom redevelopment plan. Prior to becoming a
9 full-time student, I worked within the home-building
10 industry for five years.

11 Within the last few years, the industry
12 has really seen a change in how it looks at
13 traditional development. Insiders have thrown out
14 such buzz words as "mixed use," "transit-oriented
15 developments," "new urbanism," and smart growth," just
16 to name a few. But what does all of this mean? The
17 words sound nice, but what is the practice behind
18 them? What will I get out of it? These are questions
19 I have been asking myself as a concerned resident
20 within Foggy Bottom.

21 Through prior experience within the
22 industry, research, and a better understanding of the
23 plan in question, I can best illustrate the smart
24 growth this plan calls for with the following
25 attributes: walkability, connectivity, mixed use and

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1 diversity, quality architecture and urban design,
2 traditional neighborhood structure, smart
3 transportation, and sustainability.

4 In summary, these together lead to a
5 higher quality of life; better places to live, work,
6 and play; higher, more stable property values; less
7 traffic congestion and less driving; healthier
8 lifestyles with more walking and less stress; close
9 proximity to main street retail and services; close
10 proximity to bike trails, parks, and nature;
11 pedestrian-friendly communities, offering more
12 opportunities to get to others in the neighborhood and
13 town, resulting in meaningful relationships with more
14 people and a friendlier community; more freedom and
15 independence to children, elderly, and the poor, and
16 being able to get to jobs, recreation and services
17 without the need for a car or someone to drive them;
18 great savings to residents and school boards in
19 residing bussing costs from children being able to
20 walk or bicycle to neighborhood schools; more
21 diversity; and smaller, unique shops, and services
22 with local neighborhood owners who are involved in the
23 community; big savings by driving less and owning less
24 cars; less ugly, congested sprawl to deal with daily;
25 and a better sense of place and community identity

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1 with more unique architecture.

2 And the George Washington-Foggy Bottom
3 redevelopment plan will be no different. This plan
4 calls to add to and enhance the vibrancy already found
5 within the campus and surrounding community.

6 Thank you for your consideration and time
7 this evening.

8 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you. Sir?
9 Young man?

10 (Laughter.)

11 MR. THORPE: Well, thank you. Thank you.

12 Oh, boy. Madam Chair, members of the Zoning
13 Commission, it is indeed a pleasure to be here
14 tonight. My name is Lamar Thorpe. I am a native of
15 Los Angeles, California and a six-year veteran of the
16 United States Navy.

17 Of all the major cities I have visited
18 worldwide, I can honestly tell you that Washington,
19 D.C. clearly stands above the rest. And I can thank
20 you as residents of Washington, D.C. for allowing
21 people like myself to engage in the great
22 opportunities that this city has to offer.

23 Today I am here as the George Washington
24 University student voice. I am the President of the
25 Student Association, which represents undergraduates,

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1 graduates, law, and medical and professional students
2 on all of our campuses.

3 Traditionally students across the country
4 run for student body president criticizing their
5 university administration for not listening to
6 students. However, this year as well as in the past,
7 it has been particularly hard to build that type of
8 platform for our students.

9 At GW, administrators and students have
10 collaborated in terms of our 20-year campus plan.
11 Through a joint effort of administrators and students,
12 we have developed Campaign GW.

13 The campaign began as a mode for students
14 to get involved with the Office of Planning and engage
15 in the development of the 20-year campus plan. They
16 launched surveys where thousands of students involved
17 themselves, participated in dorm's dorms, where senior
18 GW administrators visited with students to get input
19 regarding the campus plan and the residence halls. And
20 we held student leadership forums, where students and
21 representative leaders participated in the development
22 process as well.

23 Today the 20-year campus plan is
24 reflective of the collaboration between students and
25 administrators. When I was elected president, I

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1 inherited Campaign GW that now focuses on assembling
2 student support for the 20-year plan.

3 We have maintained the lines of
4 communication so that GW students and their leaders
5 can participate in the decision-making process up
6 until the last zoning meeting or when you, Madam
7 Chair, close the record. Campaign GW informed all
8 incoming freshmen students as well as continuing to
9 educate upperclassmen students about the 20-year plan.

10 One thing you might have noticed at the
11 previous zoning meetings as well as tonight is that
12 the room is filled with support for the 20-year campus
13 plan, by, most importantly, I think, student, faculty,
14 staff, administrators, and citizens of Foggy Bottom.
15 My friends, that makes up the GW community.

16 Today the student body stands behind the
17 20-year plan. Thank you for taking the time to listen
18 to the GW student body, just as administrators did in
19 the past. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

21 MS. PARTALO: Hi. Thank you for the
22 opportunity to present testimony in support of the
23 George Washington University campus plan proposal. My
24 name is Sonia Partalo, and I am an alumnus of GW. I
25 also subsequent to graduating deciding to stay in D.C.

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1 and live in Foggy Bottom because it's a great
2 neighborhood to live in.

3 I lived in Foggy Bottom for four years. I
4 have moved six months ago, when I purchased a home in
5 Ward One. Thus, I experienced life as both a student
6 and a community resident, which are two very distinct
7 things if you live in Foggy Bottom.

8 I am very pleased to see that the
9 university campus plan proposal would greatly benefit
10 the community and the District of Columbia as well as
11 the student body.

12 Having lived among students as a young
13 professional, I know the importance of ensuring a
14 balance of student housing. The university has
15 recently implemented several initiatives to improve
16 the quality of life for community residents.

17 For example, the university has created an
18 Office of Off-Campus Student Affairs to work with
19 students to promote healthy citizenship as District
20 residents. Further, the university has already created
21 and outreach phone service for residents to call if
22 they're having a difficulty with a student neighbor,
23 which has been a great tool for folks who live in
24 Foggy Bottom, such as myself. I've called it before.
25 These things, combined with the campus plan that

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1 brings real amenities to the neighborhood, mark
2 significant progress.

3 One of the reasons why I moved out of
4 Foggy Bottom is because it is quite difficult to live
5 there having access to one grocery store and not a
6 whole lot of retail. If you live in the District, you
7 know that certain neighborhoods have plenty of that.
8 And it was a significant factor for me to consider
9 when I decided to move out.

10 Specifically to address the plan, the plan
11 reflects that GW acknowledges and is committed to
12 addressing the demand for on-campus student housing
13 and to comply with the existing campus plan housing
14 commission, which goes into effect this fall.

15 Since '99, it's important to note, GW has
16 added nearly 2,500 beds on campus, including the
17 identification of additional housing capacity and
18 existing residence halls and completion of the Potomac
19 House residence hall, which provides 379 on-campus
20 beds for undergrads.

21 The addition of these on-campus facilities
22 over the term of the plan would result in a bed
23 inventory that accommodates GW's projected student
24 housing needs and exceeds the campus plan housing
25 requirement.

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1 Furthermore, one of the 25 proposed
2 conditions included in the campus plan is an agreement
3 by GW to transition youths of off-campus facilities
4 located outside the Foggy Bottom campus boundaries for
5 other than undergraduate student housing youths. This
6 would not only benefit the community but would also
7 provide an opportunity for those students who desired
8 to live off of GW's main campus.

9 In addition, this plan would accomplish
10 the following, the three points that I thought were
11 important for somebody who is an undergrad and then
12 decides to stay and live in Foggy Bottom.

13 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: You are going to need
14 to summarize because you are about out.

15 MS. PARTALO: Yes. Concentrates
16 university development in a targeted location in the
17 core of Foggy Bottom campus so it doesn't produce this
18 Foggy Bottom sprawl, provides neighborhood-serving
19 retail services, and enhances the public environment
20 to improve landscape. If any of you have passed by,
21 you know that square 54 looks pretty ugly right now
22 and is on Pennsylvania Avenue. And it should be used
23 to create something that is quite beautiful.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

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1 Questions from the Commission for the
2 panel? Any questions? Any questions? Ms. Dwyer?

3 MR. DWYER: None.

4 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Mr. Hitchcock?

5 MR. HITCHCOCK: No questions.

6 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Ms. Kahlow?

7 MS. KAHLOW: Yes.

8 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: There's room down
9 there at the end. CROSS-EXAMINATION

10 MS. KAHLOW: Ms. Connelly, where do you
11 live?

12 MS. CONNELLY: On the corner of 26th and
13 Pennsylvania, 2555 Pennsylvania.

14 MS. KAHLOW: The Westbridge. Do you have
15 a car?

16 MS. CONNELLY: I do not.

17 MS. KAHLOW: Mr. Thorpe, where do you
18 live?

19 MR. THORPE: In the library.

20 (Laughter.)

21 MR. THORPE: I live on New Hampshire
22 Avenue in the Asten.

23 MS. KAHLOW: In the Asten. Do you have a
24 car?

25 MR. THORPE: I do. I use it for military

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1 purposes.

2 MS. KAHLOW: Where do you park it?

3 MR. THORPE: In the Asten.

4 MS. KAHLOW: Is that a GW parking lot?

5 MR. THORPE: Yes, it is.

6 MS. KAHLOW: Where is it licensed?

7 MR. THORPE: Connecticut.

8 MS. KAHLOW: Are you aware of any
9 under-age drinking since you are president of the
10 student body within the Foggy Bottom-West End area?

11 MR. THORPE: I am not, no. I am over -- I
12 am 25. So I wouldn't be engaging in --

13 MS. KAHLOW: I understand that you are.
14 But as president of the student body, are you aware of
15 anyone underage that drinks in the Foggy Bottom-West
16 End area?

17 MR. THORPE: No. My concern is campus
18 life. And that's a responsibility of the
19 administration.

20 MS. KAHLOW: Are you aware of any students
21 that have fake IDs?

22 MR. THORPE: No. Again, that's a
23 responsibility of the administration.

24 MS. KAHLOW: Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thanks to the panel.

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1 (Whereupon, the panel of witnesses was
2 excused.)

3 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Dwan Tai, T-a-i;
4 Nicole Capp; Emily Brooks; Kevin Kozlowski. How about
5 Brand Kroeger? Okay. We'll go with the panel that we
6 have. Whereupon, NICOLE CAPP, EMILY BROOKS,
7 DWAN TAI, KEVIN KOZLOWSKI, and BRAND KROEGER
8 were called as persons in support and, having been
9 previously duly sworn, were examined and testified as
10 follows:

11 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Start on this side
12 and we'll work our way down, if you don't mind.

13 MS. CAPP: Good evening. My name is
14 Nicole Capp. And I am a GW sophomore, undergraduate
15 living at Ivory Tower. I have read the entire campus
16 plan, attended many community meetings last year, and
17 also have attended all of the hearings so far.

18 I remember one of Vice-Chair Hood's
19 initial questions, which I found very important and
20 something we must not forget, why are we here? For
21 me, it is to pass a new campus plan, to capitalize on
22 our unique opportunity to better this District,
23 consisting of residents, professionals, students, and
24 visitors alike.

25 With that, I must say it is with great

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1 excitement and enthusiasm that I greet the D.C. Zoning
2 Commission in an effort to convey my extreme and very
3 much justifiable support for the 2006-2025 GW campus
4 plan.

5 Since the spring semester of last year, I
6 have been an active member in a grass roots efforts
7 made by both students and university leaders to inform
8 our GW community of the proposed changes included in
9 the new campus plan.

10 As I trust it is apparent to you that GW
11 has worked with the community on revising and
12 modifying the campus plan, it may not be so apparent
13 how GW has incorporated students in the process
14 directly.

15 I would like to highlight how GW has not
16 just blindly created a campus plan without considering
17 outside sources, as, unfortunately, has been implied
18 by some community-based interest groups.

19 Information sessions led by esteemed and
20 informed leaders of this university, including our
21 very own executive vice president and treasurer Lou
22 Katz, Alicia O'Neill, Sherry Rutherford, and John
23 Rawls, enable students to learn of the plan's
24 intricacies.

25 Questions, concerns, suggestions, and

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1 feedback flowed from students across campus. And the
2 university in conjunction with student leaders
3 responded quickly. A mass survey on square 54
4 development and the campus plan was instituted online.
5 And the opportunity for students to voice their ideas
6 was welcomed.

7 Forums and the survey in conjunction with
8 intimate meetings between student leaders and the
9 Office of Planning resulted in what I consider an
10 excellent and notable collaboration between students
11 and the administration.

12 As an example, you will see in the campus
13 plan there was a proposed new addition to the existing
14 School Without Walls facility. The key in this plan
15 is the contextual dicing and rear courtyard.

16 The design of the living facilities is all
17 single bedrooms with shared living areas. This type
18 of housing design, in addition to the accessibility
19 through the center the campus provided, was designed
20 in response to the student online survey I spoke of
21 prior. This stands as one of the countless examples
22 of the university working with students.

23 On the even more personal level, just
24 thinking about my summer, I recount countless e-mails
25 and telephone conferences with the university and

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1 other leaders over changes occurring to the campus
2 plan, including the exciting compromises meeting with
3 historical preservation.

4 In addition, we discussed streetscape
5 plans as they were actually being developed. Funny as
6 it may seem, but some of the ideas thrown out over the
7 phone on lighting, brickwork, and benches materialized
8 within the months after they were brought up by a
9 friend of mine, Casey Pawn.

10 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: I need you to close
11 it out.

12 MS. CAPP: Yes. I have my last sentence,
13 actually. In short, our ideas were heard, considered,
14 and implemented. And for this, I thank the university
15 and hope you, too, recognize and appreciate their role
16 in creating a plan that pulls from the knowledge,
17 concerns, experience, and minds of all members in our
18 District community, especially from my end and what I
19 find is the bulk of what GW is about, its students
20 that will one day contribute to America and the world
21 as a whole. Thank you so much.

22 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: That really was just
23 one sentence.

24 (Laughter.)

25 MS. CAPP: That was one sentence, I

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1 promise.

2 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: We'll have to talk
3 about punctuation later.

4 (Laughter.)

5 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Go ahead.

6 MS. BROOKS: Hi. Good evening,
7 commissioners. My name is Emily Brooks. And I am
8 actually a freshman at the university. So I come
9 taking kind of a new spin to this.

10 I am from Chattanooga, Tennessee and am
11 very involved with the freshman class and very
12 connected and kind of come in in a sort of
13 representative fashion as well because I feel very
14 connected to them.

15 I am going to be speaking a little bit
16 about the environment of why students come to GW and
17 also the academic undergird of the university and why
18 this campus plan matters to me in maintaining and
19 furthering that academic integrity.

20 Being at GW for me has been a dream come
21 true. I have all the things that I was looking for in
22 my college search and have also access to the
23 tremendous resources that Washington, D.C. offers me.

24 Foggy Bottom seems to be the perfect
25 location. My internships are just a few Metro stops

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1 away at Capitol Hill. And several lobbying law firms
2 on K Street are potential future employers for me.

3 To quote the Princeton Review, it's
4 probably not surprising that many of the students who
5 choose to attend school three blocks west of the White
6 House and three blocks north of the Vietnam War
7 Memorial are politically active, like me. So I
8 believe that it is my responsibility as an activist, a
9 student, and a citizen to be there tonight testifying
10 in front of you. We should continue to capitalize on
11 this amazing institution. And that is what I am
12 trying to do.

13 Like a large majority of my friends here
14 at GW, I have ambitions of becoming an attorney and
15 pursuing public office. Students at GW take advantage
16 of the opportunities that surround them in Foggy
17 Bottom and beyond.

18 And one of my opportunities, one of my
19 freshman friends already started working at this K
20 Street lobbying firm. And an overwhelming majority of
21 my class say that the number one reason they come to
22 GW here is for the academics and the atmosphere.

23 Like me, many of my classmates turn down
24 Ivy League schools like Dartmouth, Georgetown,
25 Wellesley, and Northwestern to come to school here at

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1 GW. And we are incredibly concerned with our
2 education and its name and application to our future
3 goals.

4 Personally I want to go to Yale. I have a
5 dream of going to Yale Law School. And I know that I
6 can make that happen. And I also, you know, want to
7 be able to return to D.C. and work at a very namely
8 institution, a very namely law firm. And I feel that
9 my undergrad and my graduate degree, my law school
10 degree, are, you know, going to have to matter.

11 And I feel that this campus plan is taking
12 us from a number 52, which is where we were ranked
13 last year in the Princeton Review and in U.S. News and
14 World Report, up. And I want it to go up. And I can
15 see it going up with my freshman class.

16 This has been the most selective freshman
17 class yet. Twenty-two thousand applications were
18 received, and 2,000 were accepted. I was one of
19 those. And I am very honored and proud to be here.

20 So, in conclusion, I just want to say,
21 first of all, before I completely conclude, that there
22 have been a lot of concerns mentioned about campus
23 life and about students that are noisy. I just want
24 to say that there are so many people here that have
25 been representing our Student Association. We can

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1 work with those students. And I feel that we can work
2 to get those students under control.

3 In conclusion, I kindly ask you --

4 (Laughter.)

5 MS. BROOKS: I kindly ask you,
6 commissioners, to consider this, our passion for this
7 school and our educational value, when considering
8 this plan. Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

10 DR. TAI: Good evening. Chairman, Madam
11 Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and members of the
12 Commission, and interested parties. My name is Dr.
13 Dwan Tai. I am a neighbor of George Washington
14 University and a Foggy Bottom resident for 37 years,
15 over 37 years.

16 I have studied and taught at GW, having
17 earned my PH.D. there as well. For the last three
18 decades, I have been a property owner in the
19 neighborhood. I also work right across from square 54
20 on Pennsylvania Avenue.

21 I would like to just highlight three
22 points. First, my neighbors and I strongly support
23 the Foggy Bottom campus plan, which has been developed
24 over the past two years through a very transparent,
25 open, and inclusive process.

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1 As a long-time resident of Foggy Bottom, I
2 believe all of us have benefitted from the development
3 of George Washington University as a world-class
4 university. We are all beneficiaries of the hard work
5 and dedication that created this campus plan, which
6 will further enhance both GW and the Foggy Bottom-West
7 End neighborhood.

8 Second, it is important to support a
9 square 54 development, which includes within its
10 purpose and design living spaces of various sizes that
11 would be made available to the neighborhood groups on
12 a free reservation basis. This is needed because
13 other possible community spaces, like the GW Hospital,
14 West End Library, or the hotels, either charge fees or
15 have very limited access and hours and restrictions on
16 refreshments.

17 The community deserves and expects a
18 square 54 development that would provide appropriate
19 facilities needed to advance a friendlier and more
20 inclusive community.

21 Third, it's very important to support
22 square 54 development, which includes in its purpose
23 and design a food court with extra community tables
24 similar to the food court at Georgetown Park Mall,
25 where healthy, reasonably priced food choices would be

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1 available and the ambience and hours would be
2 conducive to creating an informal
3 neighborhood-gathering place for conversations and
4 community networking.

5 Such a food court would be a critical part
6 of a dynamic town center. This will respond to a
7 basic need as there is no other food court that would
8 provide such ambience near the Foggy Bottom-GWU Metro
9 station.

10 In summary, my neighbors and I support
11 strongly the proposed Foggy Bottom campus plan. We
12 commend GW for establishing and maintaining an
13 outstanding Office of D.C. and Foggy Bottom-West End
14 Affairs office, which has been very effective in
15 following up on community issues and concerns. I
16 strongly urge support for square 54 development, which
17 would include free meeting spaces as well as
18 community-friendly food court.

19 I would be very happy to respond to any
20 questions, having been a resident of 37 years. Thank
21 you very much for your consideration.

22 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you, Dr. Tai.

23 Mr. Kozlowski?

24 MR. KOZLOWSKI: Good evening. This is,
25 as Nicole Capp mentioned, also my third meeting. So

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1 it's great to see some preliminary faces here. My
2 name is Kevin Kozlowski. And I am a sophomore at the
3 George Washington University and live in International
4 House, which is a dorm.

5 While everyone here talks about the campus
6 plan in general, geography is one of my major
7 subjects. So I should focus on something specific,
8 especially when it comes to urban geography. The
9 aspect of the plan I wish to focus on is the creation
10 of new pathways throughout the Foggy Bottom campus.

11 Anyone who walks through certain parts of
12 West End and Foggy Bottom can attest to the seemingly
13 impermeable impression residential and commercial
14 development imposes upon us as we walk the streets of
15 those neighborhoods.

16 I believe one of the strengths of this
17 plan is that while it will result in the development
18 of new buildings within GW's campus boundaries, the
19 school also intends on putting its attention on
20 pathways around campus. Instead of walking more than
21 a block out of your way simply to get to a building
22 one street over, these pathways would allow for easy
23 and quick access to any part of the campus.

24 While no city planner, I also believe we
25 should work to alleviate some of the pedestrian

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1 congestion on campus, especially during peak hours of
2 the day between classes.

3 Many of the pathways at the school intense
4 on enhancing are simply paved-over gaps between
5 buildings or parts of unsightly open air parking
6 space. These revitalized pathways would go a long way
7 in adding to the distinctive landscape, which GW
8 intends to enhance and create on the campus if the
9 plan is approved.

10 Additionally, there are a number of
11 driveways and parking lots between buildings that
12 students use as makeshift pathways. The campus plan
13 would not only beautify them but also increase safety
14 as certain pathways become more visible and more
15 people are made aware of their existence.

16 The benefits do not simply stop at the
17 beautification of campus, alleviation of congestion,
18 and increasing in safety. Our Foggy Bottom and West
19 End neighbors would also be able to benefit from these
20 pathways. They can provide our neighbors with easier
21 and cleaner access when they walk to the Metro or the
22 store. Quiet and well-landscaped pathways, after all,
23 would provide a much welcome retreat from the noise
24 and congestion that is D.C.

25 I realize that the revitalization

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1 enhancement and creation of new pathways is not ample
2 enough reason to approve a new campus plan, but it is
3 aspects of the plan such as these pathways, new and
4 improved landscaping in front of buildings, and the
5 all-important Eye Street corridor coupled together
6 with all the other aspects of the campus plan that
7 will make it so worthwhile.

8 GW will be enhanced as one of the premier
9 research institutions of this country. Imagine a
10 world-class institution right up there with all the
11 Ivy Leagues right here in the District attracting the
12 best and brightest students, not only from the East
13 Coast or this country but from the entire world, for
14 that matter.

15 This sort of opportunity to improve our
16 city by leaps and bounds does not come around every
17 day. Therefore, all things considered, I ask this
18 Commission to realize all the benefits of the plan and
19 approve it, not only for GW, not only for Foggy Bottom
20 and the West End but for the entire District of
21 Columbia. Thank you for the opportunity to address
22 you tonight.

23 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

24 Questions from the Commission? Questions?

25 Mr. Jeffries?

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1 COMMISSIONER JEFFRIES: Yes. Well, first
2 of all, I think the university should be very proud.
3 These students are quite, quite impressive. I have to
4 tell you it's quite, I mean, wonderful just to hear,
5 you know, just to hear, you know, so much. And it's
6 been very helpful to me because, again, I feel I'm a
7 new kid on the block as it relates to Foggy Bottom and
8 GW.

9 I am sort of interested about this whole
10 notion of attracting the best and the brightest and
11 that that is not only something that serves the
12 university but also the District because these
13 students end up staying here and contributing taxes.

14 I think that's very interesting. I mean,
15 I hadn't really thought about it that way, but does
16 anyone have a -- certainly the university has already
17 put this forward, but it might be interesting to get a
18 sense of the number of students that actually end up
19 staying in the area and given a sense of, you know,
20 those kind of numbers in terms of their contribution
21 to the tax base and so forth, because I think that's a
22 very, I mean, noteworthy benefit.

23 So, anyway -- and that's not so much to
24 you. I'm just really making a statement, really, to
25 others, but unless you can answer that, oh, wow. Go

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1 right ahead.

2 DR. TAI: Yes. My understanding is that
3 there are thousands. In fact, I'm a case in point. I
4 came because of George Washington University. And I
5 stayed because of George Washington University. And I
6 think thousands of people do the same.

7 So, actually, Foggy Bottom community is
8 increasing its population because of GW, because of
9 all the wonderful amenities that they provide, that
10 wonderful lifestyle that you can walk everywhere. You
11 don't need a car. I mean, it's just amazing academic.

12 One of the commissioners asked about
13 whether neighbors take advantage a lot. They do take
14 a lot of advantage. We're very closely connected. It
15 is one of the best places in terms of quality of life
16 in the world because of GW and the amenities and the
17 educational opportunities, the employment
18 opportunities. It's amazing what they do for the
19 Foggy Bottom GWU community.

20 And I could also address if you wanted to
21 the noise and all the stuff because I've been right on
22 campus for 37 years.

23 COMMISSIONER JEFFRIES: I have a question,
24 though, Dr. Tai. If you're not an academician, you
25 didn't work for a foundation --

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1 DR. TAI: No. I am in the nonprofit
2 sector and a small business owner.

3 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Okay. Okay.

4 DR. TAI: I only taught back in the '70s
5 for a short time.

6 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Okay.

7 DR. TAI: So basically because of the
8 whole situation, I was able to be very actively
9 involved in contributing, giving back to the
10 community.

11 For example, we have helped to build the
12 largest archway in the world that's at 7th and H. We
13 take the leadership and do a lot of volunteers
14 services. And we're small business entrepreneurs.
15 That's paying a lot of taxes as well.

16 So, as I said, I know a lot of people that
17 do stay because of GW. And they like to continue
18 while they're working, to go to school and everything.

19 And having a university right in the heart of
20 everything is extremely important, actually. It's a
21 real wonderful amenity.

22 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: I guess the only
23 point I was going to make is that being from Chicago,
24 I live near the University of Chicago. And one of the
25 reasons I was attracted to that area was because of

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1 the University of Chicago. But there's a certain
2 demographic profile of the kind of person who might
3 want to live next to a university versus someone who
4 might not want to take on the benefits that might
5 enure from a university.

6 So I'm just trying to get a sense. We've
7 had a few -- someone who worked for a foundation,
8 higher education, I mean, different people who have
9 come up who would seem to fit a profile of a type of
10 person who would want to be near a university versus
11 someone who just looked up who moved here years ago
12 and looked up and said, "Wait a minute. This area is
13 really changing dramatically. And this is not quite
14 what I bought into."

15 DR. TAI: I think you're right in terms of
16 the biggest and the brightest and the most socially
17 conscious people that want to really help build a
18 better world.

19 If, for example, a person wanted a big
20 family, you know, have a lot of space in the house,
21 they probably couldn't afford to stay, you know, in
22 this area. But the people who are pretty much
23 visionary and they see all the potential impacting the
24 world, they see how much they can contribute to
25 downtown D.C. because you're near everything attending

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1 all these meetings and everything contributing a lot,
2 they will be the type that want to be here, just like
3 -- so, therefore, that's the overall picture, I think,
4 people who are really committed to continuing lifelong
5 education.

6 MS. CAPP: And I just wanted to comment a
7 little bit about -- I'm sorry. No. I totally love
8 everything she is saying, but, Commissioner Jeffries,
9 what you said is what I spoke directly to and exactly
10 what I came before you to talk about today because,
11 like I said, I turned down Wellesley to come here. I
12 turned down -- and a friend of mine turned down
13 Georgetown to come here. And there are so many kids
14 that dream of going to those schools as well, but this
15 is becoming the hot school.

16 This is becoming the visionary school
17 because this is in the heart of where people want to
18 be after their education. So why not be there now and
19 why not be able to take advantage of those
20 opportunities while you're here?

21 I work on the Hill right now. I mean, I
22 have an internship there. I have a friend --

23 COMMISSIONER JEFFRIES: I can imagine.

24 (Laughter.)

25 COMMISSIONER JEFFRIES: It hasn't been

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1 missed by me.

2 MS. CAPP: Okay.

3 DR. TAI: And I left Columbia University
4 to come here to finish my Ph.D. And just exactly it
5 was a smart choice to be right where you want to be
6 the rest of your life. It was a smart choice.

7 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. Mr. Turnbull?

8 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Ms. Capp?

9 MS. CAPP: Yes?

10 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Contextual design?

11 MS. CAPP: Yes?

12 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Your parents
13 aren't architectural planners, are they?

14 MS. CAPP: No, but I have read the
15 intricacies of the plan.

16 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Oh, okay.
17 Students start saying "contextual design."

18 (Laughter.)

19 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: It's hard to get
20 our architects to --

21 MS. CAPP: It's one of the elements of the
22 plan that struck me.

23 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Contextual design.
24 My God, you know. It's exciting.

25 MS. CAPP: It's in here.

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1 (Laughter.)

2 MS. CAPP: It's in this very large book.

3 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Wow.

4 MS. CAPP: I eventually found it.

5 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: How about
6 sustainable design?

7 MS. CAPP: I'm sorry?

8 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: How about
9 sustainable design?

10 MS. CAPP: Equally as acceptable, I guess.

11 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: So you'll pass --

12 (Laughter.)

13 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: You'll pass that
14 on to the administration?

15 MS. CAPP: I will. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Okay. Thank you.

17 MS. CAPP: No problem.

18 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Ms. Brooks, you
19 don't want to go into law. You want to go into
20 politics. It just isn't right.

21 (Laughter.)

22 MS. BROOKS: They are hand in hand.

23 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: I know. Oh, okay.
24 What an exciting group.

25 MS. BROOKS: I'm glad you enjoyed it.

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1 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Thank you very
2 much.

3 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: We don't usually have
4 this much fun at the Zoning Commission.

5 (Laughter.)

6 MS. BROOKS: We should come more often.

7 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Wait until you see
8 some of the things we deal with, and you might not
9 want to do that.

10 Okay. Ms. Dwyer, any questions?

11 MR. DWYER: No.

12 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Mr. Hitchcock?

13 MR. HITCHCOCK: None.

14 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Ms. Kahlow?

15 MS. KAHLOW: I would like to ask the three
16 freshmen and sophomores some questions, clearly, about
17 parking.

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18 MS. KAHLOW: Let's start with Ms. Capp.

19 MS. CAPP: Yes.

20 MS. KAHLOW: Am I correct?

21 MS. CAPP: Yes, that's correct.

22 MS. KAHLOW: Yes. Thank you.

23 Do you have a car?

24 MS. CAPP: No, I do not.

25 MS. KAHLOW: Okay. Were you told about

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1 the restriction for freshmen/sophomores not to bring
2 cars to campus?

3 MS. CAPP: Most definitely, more than
4 once.

5 MS. KAHLOW: How?

6 MS. CAPP: At colonial inauguration, as
7 Josh Lasky noted, in addition to just everywhere on
8 campus, actually, even before I got here. It's
9 freshmen especially. No cars.

10 MS. KAHLOW: Thank you.

11 MS. CAPP: No problem.

12 MS. KAHLOW: Ms. Brooks, do you have a
13 car?

14 MS. BROOKS: No.

15 MS. KAHLOW: Were you told about the
16 restriction?

17 MS. BROOKS: Yes, I was. And I also would
18 like to note that it is \$800 a semester to park your
19 car at GW. So, even if I had that option, I wouldn't
20 take advantage of it, but I heard about it as well at
21 colonial inauguration, which is our formal
22 orientation, to clarify.

23 MS. KAHLOW: And your parents were aware
24 of it?

25 MS. BROOKS: Oh, absolutely.

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1 MS. KAHLOW: Thank you.

2 Mr. Kozlowski, do you have a car?

3 MR. KOZLOWSKI: No.

4 MS. KAHLOW: Thank you.

5 And you were told about it also?

6 MR. KOZLOWSKI: Yes, ma'am, also at
7 orientation.

8 MS. KAHLOW: And your parents know about
9 it?

10 MR. KOZLOWSKI: Yeah. We're actually --
11 I'm actually from Brooklyn. So my parents really
12 would not want me getting a car because it's kind of
13 difficult even to park when I would go back home.

14 (Laughter.)

15 MS. KAHLOW: Thank you. Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you. Thanks to
17 the panel.

18 MS. CAPP: Thank you so much.

19 (Whereupon, the panel of witnesses was
20 excused.)

21 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. Brand Kroeger,
22 Jasmine Gaskins, Nickey Lane. There's a last name I
23 can't read. So I'm just going to say Stella from St.
24 Mary's Court. Stella from St. Mary's Court? Oh,
25 she's coming. Okay. Okay. How about Thomas Carr?

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1 Okay. Whereupon, BRAND KROEGER, JASMINE
2 GASKINS, STELLA PENNEGIOTOU, and THOMAS CARR
3 were called as persons in support and, having been
4 previously duly sworn, were examined and testified as
5 follows:

6 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: We'll start on this
7 end and work our way across the table. Sir? Young
8 man?

9 MR. KROEGER: Thank you very much, Madam
10 Chair.

11 First, before I begin, let me preface my
12 statement by saying thank you to the Commission for
13 your continued civility throughout these proceedings.

14 As we know, there's a lot of tension. And
15 I can only hope that opposing counsel will take a look
16 at your civility and embody that in the rest of these
17 proceedings.

18 But I have had an opportunity --

19 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: You are going to tell
20 us who you are, though, right?

21 MR. KROEGER: Yes. My name is Brand
22 Kroeger. I'm from Deston, Florida and live over on
23 Virginia Avenue and 22nd, which is in I House
24 Dormitory you heard earlier.

25 I have had an opportunity to become very

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1 involved with the Foggy Bottom community, specifically
2 through my activities in the church community at St.
3 Stephen's Catholic Church that you see on Pennsylvania
4 and 25th over in the Foggy Bottom community. And
5 being so involved with that community, I have had the
6 ability to meet many residents of the Foggy Bottom
7 area and would just like to share some of the
8 interactions with those residents with the Commission
9 here today.

10 In meeting these residents, not all of
11 them are opposed. As you have seen, many of them come
12 up here to you today in the Commission. The ANC and
13 the Foggy Bottom Association will put that forth to
14 you and tell you that all of the residents are
15 opposed, but that is definitely not the case.

16 But those residents that are opposed are
17 simply opposed because it is a university plan. And
18 time and time again, it is an attitude of obstruction.

19 And you have seen it here in this Commission, where
20 intricacies of this plan are being focused on, rather
21 than the plan itself and what we are trying to
22 accomplish as a university.

23 And this ideology of obstruction is
24 something that I believe every party should look past
25 and look at the true merits of this plan. And if we

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1 look at the true merits, you can do nothing but
2 support it.

3 Now, residents all the time say, "We love
4 the students of this university, but we do not like
5 the university itself." But right there is a
6 fundamental misunderstanding because we are this
7 educational institution. We the students are this
8 educational institution.

9 And counsel has been using words like
10 "threat" when describing students in the Foggy Bottom
11 area. And if a threat to these residents is traveling
12 to St. Mary's old folks' home over on 24th Street and
13 singing Christmas carols as students to these
14 residents, then I would like to see more threats.

15 If a senior prom, when we bring all of the
16 old folks in the community to have a great time and
17 celebrate holidays of the new year, if that is a
18 threat, I would like to see more threats. If
19 community day activities in the West End, engaging in
20 youth groups at local churches, if those are threats,
21 then I want to see more.

22 If engaging in jump-start activities here
23 in the District of Columbia, helping with the School
24 Without Walls that you heard earlier is a threat, then
25 I would love to see more of those threats here in the

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1 Foggy Bottom community.

2 The students of George Washington
3 University overwhelmingly support this plan. And any
4 who oppose this plan not only oppose this institution
5 but oppose the progression of the student body and
6 oppose the progression of George Washington University
7 as an institution.

8 Thank you for your time. And I urge each
9 and every one of you to support.

10 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you, Mr.
11 Kroeger.

12 MS. GASKINS: Good evening. I am Jasmine
13 Gaskins. And I am, too, a freshman here. Before I get
14 to my argument, I would like to say that the fact that
15 there are actually I think more than just two freshmen
16 -- I think you heard Emily Brooks before -- and we're
17 here about the GW campus plan is just an indication
18 about how good our university is at working with our
19 students. But I am not here to talk about the
20 mechanics of the plan but, rather, the more important
21 issue is the students.

22 As a prospective young individual who
23 plans on being a politician as well, I came to this
24 university to work within the D.C. area. I am here to
25 stay here, to be a contributor to this community. So

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1 definitely I've mentioned before I'm not a threat.
2 I'm a contributor. And I will be a taxpayer to this
3 area.

4 But what we need to look at as far as the
5 contributions about the sign center, it's very
6 important in this age of globalization. I'm pretty
7 sure you are all familiar with that. If you look at
8 our economy from '95 to 2006, how the world is
9 becoming more interconnected, we have outsourcing,
10 that sort of thing.

11 So there is an urgent need for
12 technological based professions here in this area.
13 And we definitely need that in the United States in
14 order to compete in the world.

15 Yes, natural resources are still very
16 important, but if you look at how the economy is
17 changing, the resources that are more important now
18 are its people.

19 And so definitely we need to invest in a
20 sign center in order to build the other half of GW.
21 Yes, we have a very strong international and domestic
22 political program, but we need that other half. We
23 need that technological based program.

24 And so by contributing to this GW campus
25 plan in order to get a new sign center, we're helping

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1 not only this local community. We're helping our
2 nation. We're helping our nation to become more
3 prepared to compete in the new style economy.

4 So, to end that up, I think we should just
5 look beyond the mechanics or the ambiance of the area
6 and look at the more important issue. As one man
7 mentioned before, look at the Nelson Mandelas, the
8 future Bill Gates and helping us to better compete in
9 this world.

10 So thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you, Ms.
12 Gaskins.

13 Ma'am?

14 MS. PENNEGIOTOU: Good evening. My name
15 is Stella Pennegiotou. And I live at St. Mary's Court
16 in Foggy Bottom. I am here tonight to make sure you
17 know how much time and effort GW spent keeping us
18 informed as the plan came together.

19 I can recall at least two presentations on
20 these plans by Michael Akin by GW during the lunchtime
21 program at St. Mary's Court. The lunchtime program is
22 not only open to St. Mary's Court residents but also
23 attracts many other residents from Foggy Bottom.

24 This is a complex plan. And I cannot tell
25 you that I have memorized every detail.

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1 (Laughter.)

2 MS. PENNEGIOTOU: I thought you all would
3 get a chuckle out of that way.

4 What I can tell you is that GW officials
5 spent a lot of time seeking our suggestions and making
6 sure all of our questions were answered. Thank you.

7 Now I have something to say about my dear
8 friend. My dear friend Dottie Seranko wanted to be
9 here this evening but was unable to attend at the last
10 minute. She asked me to submit her statement for her.

11 You will find it attached. Dottie spent a lot of
12 time on this statement. So I hope you will read it.

13 Many thanks and God bless.

14 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you. And we
15 definitely will read it if you submit it for the
16 record.

17 Mr. Carr?

18 MR. CARR: Madam Chair and members of the
19 Commission, thank you for holding this hearing and
20 providing me an opportunity to present testimony on
21 GW's proposed Foggy Bottom campus plan.

22 My name is Thomas Carr. I have been a
23 resident of the District and Foggy Bottom since 1999
24 when while in federal service I transferred from
25 Miami, Florida. I have since retired.

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1 I am also a GW alumnus, having completed
2 two advanced degree programs since transferring to the
3 District. The location of the Foggy Bottom
4 neighborhood and GW's unique campus in a major
5 metropolitan area, their relationship to the central
6 business district, and the government institutions in
7 the District, and mass transportation permitted me to
8 complete that feat while having a full professional,
9 personal, and academic life.

10 A lot can be accomplished when most of
11 your professional, personal, and academic needs are
12 within a ten-block walking distance and only one or
13 two Metro stops away.

14 To permit others the same flexibility, the
15 residential character of Foggy Bottom and the West End
16 neighborhoods must be retained, reinforced, even
17 expanded to remain vibrant. To retain the unique
18 character of Foggy Bottom and the West End
19 neighborhoods, at the same time the GW University must
20 remain a vibrant, modern, world-class institution that
21 is in step with the nation and the world.

22 For these reasons and many others I do not
23 have time to expand upon, I support the Commission's
24 approval for the campus plan and the mixed-use town
25 center on square 54.

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1 The "grow up, not out" approach will
2 prevent encroachment into the Foggy Bottom and West
3 End neighborhoods and the reduction of the tax base
4 and the residential housing needs for other
5 institutions in the District, at the same time
6 provides the university with the space it needs to
7 meet its institutional needs.

8 The town center will provide desperately
9 needed amenities to support the vibrant residential
10 lifestyle in the Foggy Bottom, West End neighborhoods.

11 Besides being of benefit to the university and the
12 local neighborhoods, the approval of these proposals
13 would be of benefit to the District for they will
14 enhance the vibrant cluster that is Foggy Bottom, West
15 End, and GWU that will stimulate and sustain growth in
16 the surrounding neighborhoods and communities and
17 enhance and expand the District's tax base and sustain
18 and promote a world-class university in the District.

19 That ends.

20 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

21 Questions from the Commission for the
22 panel? Any questions? Mr. Hood?

23 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: Madam Chair, I
24 just wanted to ask Mr. Kroeger and Ms. Gaskins. I
25 really appreciate students being involved with the

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1 process. I think my hat is off to you, as my colleague
2 said earlier. I was trying to figure out who I was
3 going to ask this question to, but I am going to ask
4 you two.

5 First of all, how did you find out about
6 this hearing? And were you asked to come down and
7 testify?

8 MS. GASKINS: Well, I found out -- I'm a
9 type of person that I get involved in a lot of things
10 anyway. But it was very open. I can't remember
11 exactly how I found out, but it came to me and I came
12 to it kind of.

13 But I'm a free thinker. I think for
14 myself. But when I come here to speak, it's my
15 personal opinion. And no one told me to come here and
16 speak. It is what I feel and how I analyze the
17 situation and what I thought was important.

18 So if you're asking, I wasn't encouraged
19 to come here simply by administrators or anything like
20 that. I came here on my own free will and the benefits
21 that I saw that this plan provides.

22 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: I must be a good
23 judge of character because you told me exactly -- that
24 was a good answer. It really was.

25 (Laughter.)

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1 MR. KROEGER: Well, Commissioner Hood, I
2 serve as Assistant Vice President of Student
3 Activities with the Student Association as well as the
4 Vice Chairman of our College Republicans.

5 I know that you all are probably very warm
6 to Republicans in this room.

7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. KROEGER: But anyway --

9 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: Turn the mike off.

10 MR. KROEGER: Through those activities --
11 and this plan has bipartisan support, may I add.

12 (Laughter.)

13 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: It must be getting
14 late.

15 MR. KROEGER: Anyway, through my
16 activities on campus, the administration as well as
17 some of your student leaders, whom you have already
18 heard from here today, have done a great job of
19 getting the word out. And at those meetings, whether
20 it was College Republicans, Colonials for Life,
21 Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, whatever it was,
22 the students knew about it.

23 And I chose to come to the first hearing
24 that we had here today and had no intention of
25 speaking to the Commission. And after hearing the

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1 testimony and learning sort of the motives behind a
2 lot of the opposition that is the Foggy Bottom
3 Association and the ANC, I decided to speak today to
4 voice my wholehearted support for this campus plan.

5 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: Okay. I thank you
6 both. Thanks. Thank you, Madam Chair.

7 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Any other questions
8 from the Commission? Any questions? Ms. Dwyer?

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Mr. Hitchcock?

11 MR. HITCHCOCK: No questions.

12 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Ms. Kahlow?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. Great. Thank
15 you very much.

16 (Whereupon, the panel of witnesses was
17 excused.)

18 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Anne D'Guilio, Ben
19 Hymen, Paul Brooks, Craig -- I'm not going to
20 pronounce the last name right -- K-u-p-i-e-c, Maggie
21 Desmond. Whereupon, ANNE DiGIULIO, PAUL BROOKS,
22 CRAIG KUPIEC, and MAGGIE DESMOND
23 were called as persons in support and, having been
24 previously duly sworn, were examined and testified as
25 follows:

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1 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. We're going to
2 start here on my left. And we'll work our way down
3 the table. So please go ahead.

4 MS. DESMOND: Good evening. My name is
5 Maggie Desmond. And I am here to speak to you tonight
6 to express my support for the 2006-2025 GW campus
7 plan.

8 As a current undergraduate student at the
9 George Washington University, my affection for the GW
10 campus, for the Foggy Bottom community, and for the
11 District of Columbia on the whole has grown
12 wholeheartedly over the past two years.

13 I have spent the past two summers
14 welcoming students and their families to our community
15 as the freshman orientation leader for colonial
16 inauguration, which has been mentioned a couple of
17 times tonight. And it is through this experience that
18 I have truly come to value the distance GW has come
19 and the places we aim to go.

20 While I believe our primary goal is to
21 sustain and promote a world-class university whose
22 influence and accomplishments are accredited
23 worldwide, I take pride in the fact that the
24 development strategy of the campus plan seeks to do so
25 within limited boundaries and with respect to our

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1 Foggy Bottom neighbors.

2 My orientation experience has provided me
3 with a unique opportunity to meet incoming students
4 and their families from all 50 states and countries
5 all over the world. Consequently, it has also
6 provided me with a unique perspective on the way the
7 GW community is seen in and of our location in Foggy
8 Bottom and D.C.

9 Our facilities are enhanced by our
10 relationship with those around us, as is our
11 education. Our opportunities are enhanced by the
12 community we live in, as is our experience.

13 Past campus plans have utilized the spaces
14 within the Foggy Bottom campus to the best of their
15 ability. And my fellow students and I are benefitting
16 from those changes today.

17 We take classes in state-of-the-art
18 facilities, such as the Elliott School of
19 International Affairs Building or the new home of the
20 GW School of Business in Duquesne Hall. We eat and
21 meet in common spaces of the Marvin Center, which
22 services students and community members as well.

23 We live in on-campus residence halls that
24 meet the needs of students and comply with provisions
25 of the existing Foggy Bottom campus plan. As a

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1 current GW student, it is clear to me now how
2 important the proposed changes in the campus plan will
3 be to the future of the university and its students.

4 The changes I am referring to include
5 intentions to accommodate student and community
6 demands for on-campus student housing space; to
7 provide the mutually beneficial mixed-use commercial
8 development of square 54; to offer
9 non-enrollment-driven revenue and retail
10 opportunities; to maintain an attractive, yet
11 functional campus environment; and to further improve
12 university classrooms and laboratories; to facilitate
13 an enhanced educational experience. I only hope that
14 future GW students will be able to benefit from those
15 proposed changes in the future as I am benefitting
16 from past changes today.

17 Change is natural and inevitable. In a
18 vibrant neighborhood in a dynamic city, one can only
19 expect transformations to take place to meet the needs
20 of our university and our community. The question is
21 whether we are going to plan for them in the long run
22 or not. The institution of a 20-year plan allows for
23 predictable and planned changes, ones that have been
24 discussed and reviewed by all parties involved.

25 For the joint benefit of GW students,

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1 Foggy Bottom neighbors, and D.C. residents, I offer my
2 support for the GW campus plan and appreciate your
3 time.

4 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

5 MS. DiGIULIO: Hello. My name is Anne
6 DiGiulio. And I am the Community Service Coordinator
7 for the George Washington University Residence Hall
8 Association. And tonight I am testifying on behalf of
9 the George Washington University Residence Hall
10 Association.

11 As a student living on campus and as a
12 member of RHA, I see the need for undergraduate
13 housing. The 20-year campus plan addresses this need
14 among others. The proposed renovation and connection
15 of the Shenley, Crawford, and West End is a really
16 exciting idea.

17 This project will bring many students to
18 the heart of campus. The site is surrounded by the
19 Academic Center, Marvin Center, and Kogan Plaza. It
20 is also close to other main academic buildings and the
21 Foggy Bottom Metro stop, putting it in the center of
22 campus. This proposed residence hall brings students
23 to the academic and social center of campus and
24 embodies the "grow up, not out" philosophy.

25 Another important and exciting idea is the

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1 School Without Walls project. The residence hall
2 proposed for this site would be unique to GW. Housing
3 approximately 474 students, this residence hall would
4 consist of quads, giving each student a separate
5 bedroom with shared living area and kitchen. The
6 additional beds are much needed. And this type of
7 unique situation would attract upperclassmen, which
8 would otherwise live in off-campus non-university
9 housing apartments.

10 GW is no longer going to house undergrads
11 in off-campus facilities. This initiative is called
12 for by many community members, but it will also
13 benefit the students individually, the university, and
14 the student body as a whole. By closing HOVA, the
15 Asten, and City Hall to undergrads, the students that
16 would be housed in these there are being brought back
17 to campus. This will encourage more interaction
18 between students and, thus, a more unified student
19 body.

20 By allowing the student body new housing
21 style options, they will find a living situation that
22 fits their needs on campus, rather than having to go
23 off campus for housing. This diversity of housing
24 allows students to have many options and experiences
25 throughout their undergraduate careers.

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1 As freshmen, students can experience the
2 traditional dorm life. However, sophomores and
3 upperclassmen would prefer more apartment-style
4 living. And with this plan, GW will provide the needs
5 of its students.

6 Washington, D.C. is a great city. And it
7 is very accessible to us as students. Our campus has
8 two Metro stops and is walking distance to many
9 popular attractions. But we are a unique school
10 because, even though we are in the center of a large
11 city, GW still has a distinct campus and it is good
12 for the student population to be living on campus and
13 taking advantage of what campus life has to offer. By
14 housing undergraduates on campus, we can interact more
15 with students and create a community and network with
16 one another.

17 That being said, the university is not in
18 a bubble. One of my favorite parts of my position on
19 the Residence Hall Association is that I get to
20 interact with community members.

21 Every Sunday our organization goes grocery
22 shopping for senior citizens. This gives us the
23 opportunity to meet and interact with community
24 members on a regular basis.

25 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: I need your closing

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1 thought.

2 MS. DiGIULIO: Okay. Because the plan is
3 a very good plan, we support the campus plan, then.
4 We enjoy it, enjoy the community.

5 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

6 MR. KUPIEC: Good evening. My name is
7 Craig Kupiec, and I am a senior at the George
8 Washington University speaking to express my complete
9 support for the Foggy Bottom campus plan filed by GW.
10 My reasons are as follows.

11 I am a political science major with a
12 chemistry minor and premedicine focus. And I have
13 used Corcoran Hall, which is the chemistry, physics,
14 and forensics building throughout my studies at GW. I
15 have had both classes and labs in this facility.

16 GW's desired renovations, in addition to
17 the new science facilities, would greatly enhance
18 students' understanding and knowledge base for future
19 career goals.

20 Our medical school is one of the best in
21 the country for bioterrorism research. Yet, on the
22 exact same campus, undergraduate science facilities
23 are not currently able to compete with other programs
24 around the country. This is an essential part to the
25 campus plan.

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1 I am a senior living in on-campus housing,
2 which is imperative to my studies and internship
3 opportunities. On many college campuses around the
4 country, it is convenient and desired for
5 upperclassmen to live off campus. This is simply not
6 the case at GW.

7 Living on campus provides students with
8 the convenience of living close to the Metro and
9 academic facilities and is equally as cost-efficient
10 as living in off-campus housing.

11 GW provides wonderful housing in close
12 proximity to internships and co-ops. And the benefit
13 of living on campus is invaluable. The housing
14 aspects of the campus plan are fundamental to the
15 future and success of a growing GW.

16 Like most students may have stated, I
17 cannot express enough value to the goals of this
18 campus plan that will provide for alumni of GW. New
19 academic facilities, more desirable housing
20 opportunities, and a more attractive campus are all
21 facets of a demand for attending any university.

22 This campus plan not only attempts to
23 achieve these aims but supersede them and provide a
24 premier academic, professional, and personal student
25 experience for alumni, which will forever be indebted.

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1 The Zoning Commission's support is
2 absolutely necessary to make all of these goals a
3 reality. You are not only investing in the future of
4 our community, Foggy Bottom, and the rest of the
5 District of Columbia but also the careers and future
6 of GW's students and members of this community.

7 I appreciate your consideration of support
8 for the complete campus plan and its approval.

9 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you, Mr.
10 Kupiec.

11 Mr. Brooks?

12 MR. BROOKS: Good evening. Madam
13 Chairperson and members of the Zoning Commission, I am
14 Paul Brooks. And I am before you this evening to
15 testify in support of the proposed campus plan of
16 George Washington University for its Foggy Bottom
17 campus.

18 I'm not a resident of Foggy Bottom, but I
19 was born in D.C. I've lived in D.C. for 30 years
20 during my lifetime. I'm a graduate of grade schools;
21 high schools; and four universities in the District of
22 Columbia, including George Washington University Law
23 School.

24 And during my legal career, I've worked in
25 the Foggy Bottom area for over 15 years. I've also

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1 had the opportunity to serve as counsel to Catholic
2 University's president for its government and
3 community relations work.

4 The two areas that I wish to address this
5 evening are simply issues of process and procedure.
6 The first has to do with the inclusion area priorities
7 employed by GW to ensure participation by all
8 cooperating neighbors and other interested persons and
9 organizations. And the second has to do with the
10 concept of partnership in land use regulation and
11 planning.

12 GW has stepped up and vigorously engaged
13 public and private persons and groups interested in
14 its campus plan. GW has been proactive in engaging
15 the public in a wide array of media and forums with
16 respect to planning goals and strategies.

17 It is difficult, if not impossible, to
18 find fault with the diligence and determination of GW
19 in reaching all possible segments of the community.
20 GW has permitted a wide range of formal and informal
21 opportunities and flexible mechanisms for interested
22 parties to become personally acquainted and involved
23 in the planning process.

24 For my personal knowledge -- and I have
25 attended at least three of the public sessions held by

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1 George Washington University -- what is noteworthy is
2 there simply wasn't one part of the university
3 involved in these open forums. There were people from
4 finance, people from the Legal Division, people from
5 facilities, people from design, as well as their
6 government-community relations staff.

7 In all segments of government and
8 business, a basic measurement for accountability is
9 the level of transparency. Despite differences in
10 perspectives, viewpoints, and personal preferences, it
11 is evidenced that the openness and candor encouraged
12 by GW in its interaction with all parties leaves no
13 doubt as to its credibility and completeness.

14 The second area has to do with the common
15 ground that has been achieved by all the parties in
16 the campus-planning process. It is necessary to
17 determine whether GW has been a true partner with its
18 Foggy Bottom residents and other interested public and
19 private parties. And GW should be held accountable to
20 deal with potential problems, which might take place
21 because of contemplated activities.

22 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: I need your closing
23 thought, but we will read your statement.

24 MR. BROOKS: Okay. Absolutely.

25 However, it is unfair to saddle George

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1 Washington or any other university for resolving
2 matters of public responsibility deemed to be
3 important to citizens, to certain citizens, and
4 groups.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

7 Question from the Commission for the
8 panel? Any questions? Mr. Jeffries?

9 COMMISSIONER JEFFRIES: I have a question
10 for Mr. Brooks. You served as counsel for the
11 president for government and community activities for
12 Catholic University.

13 MR. BROOKS: I'm not there now. Yes. In
14 the past.

15 COMMISSIONER JEFFRIES: I know you're no
16 longer there now. Can you just give me some sort of
17 -- if you can make a comparison? I mean, I know it's
18 two different universities --

19 MR. BROOKS: Absolutely.

20 COMMISSIONER JEFFRIES: -- but in terms of
21 sort of the communication and outreach between the
22 Catholic University and the surrounding community.
23 And if you can just compare that to what your
24 experience has been at GW?

25 MR. BROOKS: What I have found so

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1 fascinating, particularly when I was at Catholic
2 University, since I grew up in that neighborhood was
3 the diversity within ANCs. It is incredible the
4 complexity of different considerations, motions,
5 historical resentments that come into play.

6 I have found that I like to feel that
7 Catholic University has done a wonderful job in its
8 work, but at the same time I must say that GW has not
9 only contributed the types of resources needed, but
10 there's really been the institutional sweat equity to
11 become involved.

12 And, really, I think what is important is
13 George Washington University as well as Catholic
14 University, it's a university without walls. And when
15 we talk about space, we're not only talking about open
16 space. We're talking about social space.

17 And, on the one hand, while we have
18 problems and concerns about intensity of use and
19 density, wouldn't it be terrible if there weren't that
20 intensity of use of these facilities, particularly by
21 the local community?

22 So often the universities are criticized
23 for not being open and attracting people from all
24 segments of the community to their campuses. Well,
25 George Washington University is as open as I think it

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1 could be deemed to be reasonable in terms of
2 accessibility to everyone in the community,
3 particularly with the Metro station there and the fact
4 that so many of the resources are made available to so
5 many different parts of the community throughout the
6 city.

7 COMMISSIONER JEFFRIES: Just comparing it
8 back to Catholic University, I mean, would you find
9 that GW has a higher level of sort of outreach than
10 Catholic or just about the same or is it --

11 MR. BROOKS: It really is a different
12 type. And one of it has to do with, frankly, I think
13 that maybe at Catholic University, there is a little
14 bit more scarcity of resources to do things in certain
15 respects.

16 COMMISSIONER JEFFRIES: Okay.

17 MR. BROOKS: But I know that this year the
18 annual report for Catholic University just issued, the
19 entire report is on community service. And I think
20 one thing that I am very sensitive to having gone to
21 an inner city high school a few blocks from here is
22 the fact that the educational institutions are so
23 committed to service.

24 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Anyone else? Ms.
25 Dwyer? Mr. Hitchcock? Ms. Kahlow?

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1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. Thank you all
3 very much.

4 MR. BROOKS: Thank you. Thank you.

5 (Whereupon, the panel of witnesses was
6 excused.)

7 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Kara Williams, Ryan
8 Davis, Christine -- I'm going to say it Caggaino.

9 MS. CAGGAINO: Close.

10 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. You'll correct
11 me when you get up. Steve Timlin. Whereupon,

12 RYAN DAVIS, KARA WILLIAMS, CHRISTINE
13 CAGGAINO, and STEPHEN TIMLIN were called as persons in
14 support and, having been previously duly sworn, were
15 examined and testified as follows:

16 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. On the end,
17 I'm guessing you're Mr. Davis? Okay. Would you start
18 and turn on the mike? There you go. Great.

19 MR. DAVIS: Madam Chairperson, Commission,
20 my name is Ryan Davis. I am a senior at the George
21 Washington University and a member of the United
22 States Air Force ROTC detachment at Howard University.

23 I would like to testify tonight in support
24 of GW's proposed Foggy Bottom campus plan. What I
25 would like to highlight about this plan is both the

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1 current student population and the Foggy Bottom-West
2 End community involvement in its development.

3 GW has included in this plan 25
4 conditions, which maintain all conditions previously
5 set in the existing campus plan as well as additional
6 ones. These include eliminating undergraduate student
7 housing in off-campus facilities and a commitment not
8 to buy land residentially zoned for non-investment
9 purposes.

10 These conditions do two things. One, it
11 responds to issues raised by the community; and, two,
12 helps develop a further sense of community on GW's
13 campus as all students will reside in the campus
14 formalized borders.

15 The plan also calls for the preservation
16 of open spaces and important campus historic
17 buildings. An example of this is the addition of open
18 public space in the square 54 plan.

19 GW has held numerous information sessions
20 to educate both the student body and the community at
21 large about the 2006-2025 campus plan. In the Spring
22 of '06, GW conducted very well-received dorm tours,
23 sending administration officials into GW residence
24 halls in order to educate the student population on
25 its plan.

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1 The university also held a series of open
2 community meetings to identify issues and gather
3 suggestions for the campus plan. There was also the
4 three-day Urban Land Institute panel for community
5 members to give suggestions for the specific develop
6 of square 54.

7 As GW is a member of the Foggy Bottom
8 community, it must maintain a working relationship
9 with the other members of that community. I believe
10 GW has done that.

11 This plan and future ones like it must not
12 be seen as GW versus Foggy Bottom residents but,
13 rather, GW working with Foggy Bottom residents to
14 contribute to the community as a whole while
15 continuing to maintain GW's status as a world-class
16 institution.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

19 Ms. Williams?

20 MS. WILLIAMS: Hi. My name is Kara
21 Williams. I am a junior at GW. I am going to focus
22 more on community in my little statement here because
23 while I am very aware of the plan, I think that that
24 is something that must be emphasized. That is
25 definitely how I am more a part of this process here.

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1 When I first stepped onto GW's campus in
2 2004, it was obvious that I was not just stepping onto
3 my university campus but that I was stepping into the
4 District of Columbia.

5 When I went to get my groceries, I passed
6 by the Foggy Bottom Historic District. When I walked
7 to class, I walk past the World Bank. When I grabbed
8 a bite from J Street and our Marvin Center, I walked
9 with students from the School Without Walls during
10 their lunch break. GW opened its arms to me, but it
11 didn't confine me. Instead, I was encouraged to
12 branch out and explore GW's extended community.

13 I became very involved in one of GW's
14 chartered student organizations, the Residence Hall
15 Association. I served on its executive board as
16 Community Service Coordinator. You heard Anne
17 DiGiulio is currently the Community Service
18 Coordinator.

19 It was with this position that I began
20 volunteering at St. Mary's Court every Sunday running
21 errands for residents to and from St. Mary's Court and
22 the Watergate.

23 I was also introduced to the Friends
24 community group. Friends in the Residence Hall
25 Association collaborated on a holiday toiletry drive

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1 last november and December. And it is these kinds of
2 activities that allowed me to get involved not only on
3 campus but within the Foggy Bottom community as well.

4 I can definitely say I don't just look at this plan
5 for GW's benefit but also for the benefit of my
6 new-found neighbors and friends.

7 Of course, I see this as a good plan aside
8 from the most immediate benefits of almost
9 guaranteeing housing to future GWU students
10 separately, though mixed-use commercial redevelopment
11 of square 54 provides a universal benefit. Hungry
12 students just want benefit from the grocery store, but
13 so will D.C.

14 I don't need to say that there are areas
15 of D.C. where grocery stores aren't available. And I
16 think that GW sets an admirable example when it steps
17 up and provides a better option for satisfying some
18 part of D.C. residents' nutritional needs.

19 GW has acted responsibly in every step of
20 their planning. All plans have been made accessible
21 to the wider GW and Foggy Bottom communities. I know
22 that I felt I played an active role in understanding
23 the need of GW and at the same time the need of Foggy
24 Bottom residents.

25 It's clear that GW views this as a two-way

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1 street, and it's not done listening to residents'
2 concerns. I am excited to see the progression of this
3 project and the great benefits it will bring my
4 community, my new community.

5 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you. Now
6 you're going to tell me how to pronounce your name.

7 MS. CAGGAINO: It's Caggaino.

8 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Caggaino. Okay.
9 Sorry.

10 MS. CAGGAINO: We skip a couple of
11 letters.

12 Good evening. My name is Christine
13 Caggaino. I graduated from GW in May of 2006 and made
14 the active decision to make Foggy Bottom my home as a
15 young professional.

16 While I was a student, I undertook an
17 independent study in urban development focused on this
18 very plan. From an academic standpoint, I examined the
19 goals and effectiveness of the community-based
20 planning process. At the end of this process, it
21 became abundantly clear that this plan presented a
22 win-win situation for the university, the
23 neighborhood, and the District of Columbia.

24 Members of the ANC, the Foggy Bottom
25 community, and the Office of Planning have publicly

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1 extolled the virtues of this plan as evidenced in the
2 Foggy Bottom current articles that I have attached to
3 my testimony and which I hope you will all take the
4 time read.

5 This plan addresses the university's need
6 to grow and expand its academic facilities and its
7 housing needs while not further encroaching on the
8 historic neighborhood that becomes a valuable asset.

9 Residents like Jim Morris, an ANC
10 commissioner, are quoted as saying that, on balance,
11 this university plan is advantageous to the
12 neighborhood overall. The idea of growing up, not out
13 represents a willingness on GW's part to be a more
14 mature member of the fabric of the District of
15 Columbia but concentrating its students in one core
16 area.

17 Additionally, this plan incorporates the
18 ideals of smart urban growth, transit-oriented
19 development, and environmentally friendly design.
20 Furthermore, this plan represents a concerted effort
21 on the part of the university to open a dialogue with
22 its residents.

23 In the second article attached, Travis
24 Parker, who is a development review specialist for the
25 Office of Planning, explains the road to all of these

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1 meetings last summer and concluded the result appears
2 to meet the needs of all sides.

3 GW understands that it cannot erase the
4 mistakes of the past and can only work together with
5 the neighborhood and with the city towards a better
6 future for Foggy Bottom and West End on the whole.

7 It needs to be acknowledged that this plan
8 is by no means perfect for any single stakeholder.
9 Rather, it is a solid compromise never before seen in
10 GW's community relations. It effectively addresses
11 the issues in the community as defined by neighbors
12 themselves. Again, to quote Mr. Parker, this is a
13 plan that will make the university an increasingly
14 positive part of the Foggy Bottom-West End community.

15 Thank you very much. Have a good night.

16 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

17 Mr. Timlin?

18 MR. TIMLIN: Commissioners, I am Stephen
19 Timlin. I live at 842 New Hampshire Avenue, Northwest
20 at the corner of Eye Street in the Foggy Bottom
21 historic district.

22 I have owned and occupied my house for
23 more than 20 years. It is located one block from the
24 George Washington University medical school and the
25 Metro elevator on the Eye Street mall.

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1 I am aware that some of my neighbors are
2 against the 20-year campus plan because they believe
3 the university is out of compliance with the current
4 campus plan. I feel this is a separate matter and not
5 a part of the matter before you.

6 I like the new campus plan because of
7 several factors. I like the plan for a retail
8 corridor along Eye Street, to include a large grocery
9 store and additional retail businesses in square 54.
10 I have no objection to the university's using square
11 54 as a cash cow to produce income for its needs,
12 particularly for a new science center.

13 I like the plan for the university's
14 housing most of the students in new and existing dorms
15 in the middle of the campus, instead of in the
16 surrounding neighborhood.

17 This semester there is far less student
18 noise outside my house on Thursday, Friday, and
19 Saturday nights between midnight and 3:30 A.M. since
20 the freshmen have been moved out of the hall on
21 Virginia Avenue.

22 I am surprised that the proposed campus
23 plan includes a historic district as favored by the
24 Office of Planning and the Historic Preservation
25 Office. I think this is an unnecessary burden on the

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1 university.

2 Since the university has already destroyed
3 so much of Foggy Bottom since it arrived in 1912, I
4 think the university should be allowed to destroy
5 anything still left within its campus boundaries.

6 I am very glad to have the university's
7 Office of District of Columbia and Foggy Bottom-West
8 End Affairs available to me. I have met by
9 appointment with Bernard Demschuck, and I have met by
10 appointment with Michael Akin at their offices to
11 discuss matters of importance to me. I have been
12 entirely satisfied with their concern, their interest,
13 and their responses to my inquiries, including
14 discussion of aspects of the proposed 20-year campus
15 plan.

16 I urge you to approve the proposed 20-year
17 campus plan. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

19 Questions from the Commission? Does
20 anyone have questions? Mr. Turnbull?

21 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Mr. Timlin, you're
22 the one that came up with a radical solution for the
23 university there with allowing them to destroy
24 everything within their boundaries.

25 MR. TIMLIN: Yes? My comment?

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1 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: I don't know what
2 my question would be on that.

3 (Laughter.)

4 MR. TIMLIN: I could respond, if I may?

5 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Okay. Please do.

6 MR. TIMLIN: Something that I have said to
7 my neighbors over the years is that I don't much care
8 what GW does on the other side of 24th Street; that
9 is, east of 24th Street, although in recent years, I
10 was strongly interested in their purchasing the Inn at
11 Foggy Bottom in the middle of my block, now the George
12 Washington University Inn.

13 And I was very interested in their
14 acquiring the building at 1957 E Street because I knew
15 at the time they were jumping the campus boundaries.
16 And if they jumped the campus boundaries in one
17 direction, they may want to do it in another
18 direction.

19 So I don't care what they do within their
20 campus boundaries. I know they have requirements to
21 educate their students. I know they have to have
22 funding and it can't all come from the tuition that
23 the students pay.

24 But, as far as I am concerned, their
25 campus is their territory. And they can do what they

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1 want with it. And if they can afford to do it and
2 squeeze more money out of their students along the
3 way, let them go ahead and do it.

4 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Wow. I would like
5 to get a tour of your house when you gut it. It would
6 be interesting. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Mr. Hood, did you
8 have a question?

9 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: Yes. I just want
10 to ask Ms. Caggaino, on the second page -- I believe
11 this is in Northwest Current.

12 MS. CAGGAINO: The Foggy Bottom Current.

13 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: Oh, the Foggy
14 Bottom Current?

15 MS. CAGGAINO: Yes. It's in there.

16 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: It's interesting.
17 It says, "Tomorrow evening a fight that has been
18 openly forming in Foggy Bottom for almost two years
19 will officially break out in front of the District
20 Zoning Commission." I must have missed that night
21 because I haven't seen any fights.

22 MS. CAGGAINO: You know, it's a lot calmer
23 than I would have expected.

24 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: Yes. And I think
25 that says a lot about the issue that we said at the

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1 last hearing. You know, it's about coming to the
2 table and moving forward. But if this is -- do we
3 have the person here who writes for the -- what is it,
4 Foggy Bottom?

5 MS. CAGGAINO: Yes.

6 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: Is that person
7 here?

8 MS. CAGGAINO: The article is written by
9 Julie --

10 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: I won't say
11 anything.

12 MS. CAGGAINO: I don't know.

13 VICE-CHAIRPERSON HOOD: I won't say
14 anything. Okay. Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Ms. Dwyer, any
16 questions?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Mr. Hitchcock?

19 MR. HITCHCOCK: No questions.

20 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Ms. Kahlow?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER JEFFRIES: Excuse me, Madam
24 Chair. I have a question.

25 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Oh, did you have a

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1 question? Oh, sorry.

2 COMMISSIONER JEFFRIES: Mr. Timlin, I'm
3 very curious about this whole business of sort of
4 unnecessary burden in terms of historic district.
5 What do you suppose could perhaps happen in another
6 ten years given that the university has this historic
7 district that someone might consider, you might
8 consider, to be an encumbrance?

9 I mean, is it possible that because they
10 have this historic district, that they might have to
11 expand or do something else in another 10 or 15 years?

12 I mean, what do you think are the repercussions of
13 having such a district that you consider to be
14 burdensome?

15 MR. TIMLIN: I live in an historic
16 district. And I appreciate living in an historic
17 district. And my feeling has been that with an
18 historic district proposed on the campus property,
19 eventually these old buildings need to have major
20 repairs.

21 And I think it can sometimes come to a
22 point where we have great-grandfather's axe and the
23 head has been replaced twice and the handle has been
24 replaced three times but it's still
25 great-grandfather's axe.

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1 With the campus buildings getting older,
2 the financial burden on the campus is going to
3 increase because of these buildings needing constant
4 care. I know from my experience in my house that was
5 built in 1886, I have to call a roofer for the third
6 time to take care of a roofing leak.

7 These old buildings need maintenance. And
8 some of them in the middle of the campus I feel are
9 not worth keeping because the university can make
10 better use of those properties by tearing them down
11 and replacing them with taller buildings that can
12 better suit the university's needs.

13 COMMISSIONER JEFFRIES: You know, I guess
14 -- and I don't want to take a lot of time. It's late.
15 But, you know, I did hear from some of the residents
16 concern, those who are opponents, concern that what is
17 going to stop the university from coming back in
18 another ten years when there is some other issue that
19 the university needs to address in terms of growth and
20 progressing. I mean, you make it seem like this is
21 it, that there is potentially no time in the future
22 ten years from now that GW might come back.

23 I guess my concern is they're concerned
24 that this historic district might be the very device
25 that might make them come back, you know, in terms of

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1 development beyond its boundaries.

2 MR. TIMLIN: Certainly it could because
3 the university has to evolve and change as the
4 community's needs change, as the campus community's
5 needs change. And certainly they could come back and
6 say, "We don't want these old buildings anymore. We
7 don't want the responsibility for maintaining these
8 old buildings. We can make better use of the land by
9 replacing the old buildings at certain locations." So
10 I could certainly see that that could be forthcoming.

11 COMMISSIONER JEFFRIES: Okay. Well, you
12 know, these things are very fluid. You know, I think
13 that's what I've heard from some of the community who
14 are in opposition, that, you know, we just went
15 through this a few years ago, now we're back, and
16 there may be an amendment.

17 I just wanted to sort of make certain
18 that, you know, you're sort of covering that. And I
19 thought that was a very interesting statement in terms
20 of unnecessary burden because to me, it could
21 potentially open up a door down the road. And I just
22 want you to comment on that.

23 MR. TIMLIN: I am surprised that the
24 university was agreeable to that because since they
25 have destroyed many buildings in Foggy Bottom, a lot

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1 of the historic homes in Foggy Bottom, to build their
2 campus, I can't see why they should object to knocking
3 down what's left.

4 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. Thanks to the
5 panel.

6 (Whereupon, the panel of witnesses was
7 excused.)

8 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: We're going to take
9 one more panel this evening. I had promised the
10 Commission I was going to try and wrap this up
11 earlier, but they know not to believe me anymore.

12 Okay. Alexander Kachenko; Chris Hart; Lou
13 Benton- Short, faculty member; Ed Abramic. Whereupon,
14 EDWARD ABRAMIC, ALEXANDER KACHENKO,
15 LISA BENTON-SHORT, and CHRIS HART were called as
16 persons in support and, having been previously duly
17 sworn, were examined and testified as follows:

18 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. We'll start on
19 my left with the gentleman in the purple shirt and
20 work our way down the table.

21 MR. ABRAMIC: You have my brief. I am a
22 single issue person. The single issue is --

23 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Would you state your
24 name for the record? Would you state your name for
25 the record, please?

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1 MR. ABRAMIC: Oh, Ed Abramic, Edward
2 Abramic.

3 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

4 MR. ABRAMIC: I live at St. Mary's Court.
5 Before I go into the brief, I would just like to
6 preface this by saying I am a single issue person.
7 This is urban planning/parking, single issue.

8 With respect to parking, the square 54
9 project calls for 1,000 cars of parking, 1,000 cars.
10 This is obscene. We are social animals, you know. We
11 were not leopards or tigers. We should mingle, not be
12 enclosed by steel and glass honking our way to a
13 parking spot. We're more like foxes and wolves.

14 Also, there's the national obesity
15 problem. Get out and walk. Don't get in that dad-gum
16 car and look for a parking spot. Get out and walk.
17 Obesity. And no underground or over-ground parking,
18 none of that stuff.

19 Nonetheless, I'm a pragmatist. I'm not
20 saying we should tear down all parking. We should,
21 instead, make parking and driving commensurate with
22 the social costs. My God, it's too cheap driving a
23 car. It should come as a more dear luxury to you.

24 I have a car. I'm a pragmatist myself. I
25 should say I got rid of my car three years ago. But

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1 it should be an expensive implement because driving it
2 has huge social costs, police salaries, snow removal,
3 et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

4 This is pragmatism. But let me go into my
5 brief. I'll make it real short. I live in Foggy
6 Bottom. I support the GW plan for growth going up,
7 instead of sprawling out. When we sprawl, we need
8 parking.

9 And, for heaven's sakes, much of our
10 students, who make noises in the streets, they love to
11 hear their voices echo across the buildings. By God,
12 they get a big kick out of it at 2:00 o'clock in the
13 morning.

14 They're more social context, elbow to
15 elbow people. If you have ever been to the Lincoln
16 Center, New York, elbow to elbow people. We're
17 civilized animals.

18 Oh, is that my time up?

19 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: That's it.

20 MR. ABRAMIC: Oh, sorry. We're civilized,
21 once again.

22 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

23 Go ahead.

24 MR. KACHENKO: My name is Alexander
25 Kachenko. I am a freshman at George Washington

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1 University. One aspect, in particular, of the
2 proposed campus plan which I support is the building
3 of new science facilities on the George Washington
4 University's Foggy Bottom campus because it would
5 create diversity in the student population.

6 Currently the vast majority of students I
7 am in contact with is studying politics, either
8 domestic or foreign. While I love politics, I feel
9 that the lack of a substantial science community in
10 this school hinders the student's ability to pursue
11 science.

12 If I ever decide not to pursue politics,
13 my next field of study would be physics. And I would
14 leave George Washington University. As it currently
15 stands, there are many better and less expensive
16 options for a science education.

17 Similarly, students who are looking solely
18 for a science major are not likely to choose this
19 school because it does not have the proper facilities
20 for that study.

21 The location that makes this school such a
22 great political science school would also make a great
23 school to study sciences. The federal government
24 funds science research projects all across the
25 country.

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1 Most companies that receive these funds
2 have branches in D.C. This means that the research
3 going on across the country all connects back to this
4 one city exposing students here, the companies that
5 research in every corner of the U.S.

6 If this university were known for a strong
7 science department, the opportunities for internships
8 and jobs would be limitless. By diversifying the
9 possibilities of study, the university will also
10 increase the caliber of students attending.

11 If the school attracts both political and
12 science majors, more students will apply and the
13 university will be able to select the best out of a
14 larger, broader group of students. More students
15 would be competing for a limited number of spaces,
16 allowing the university to be more selective.

17 Furthermore, having state-of-the-art
18 research facilities on campus would create very good
19 jobs right here. Graduates would be able to pursue
20 their careers in this city. The jobs created add to
21 the tax base. And people who live in D.C. are going to
22 spend money in D.C. aiding the local economy.

23 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

24 I can tell I messed up your name. So I
25 apologize. I couldn't read it.

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1 MS. BENTON-SHORT: That's okay. Good
2 evening. My name is Lisa Benton-Short. And I am
3 Associate Professor of Geography. I am also the Chair
4 of the Faculty Senate University and Urban Affairs
5 Committee.

6 The University and Urban Affairs Committee
7 helps to foster continued good relationships between
8 GW and the greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

9 For example, many of the committee members attend the
10 Friends meetings, Friends social events, like the
11 block party. And we have also organized an off-campus
12 faculty speaker series that's run at St. Mary's Court.

13 So my comments today represent the
14 sentiments of many of the faculty on the UAUA
15 committee and focus mostly on how the plan enhances
16 faculty research and teaching at GW, particularly the
17 academic space needs within the existing Foggy Bottom
18 campus boundaries.

19 As a faculty member, I teach several
20 courses each semester and can attest to the fact there
21 is simply not enough classroom space on campus. In
22 addition, much of it needs to be upgraded,
23 particularly as technologies advance and everybody
24 wants to use PowerPoint, videos, slide shows. And for
25 us geographers, we like to use ArtView mapping and all

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1 sorts of interesting spatial relationships and graphs.

2 Most of our technology classrooms simply
3 are inadequate to meet these new demands. So both
4 faculty and students suffer when the capabilities of
5 our classrooms are limited.

6 The approval of the campus plan will allow
7 GW to generate the funds it needs in order to not only
8 retrofit old classrooms but, more importantly, to
9 build state-of-the-art classrooms and labs. This not
10 only benefits faculty and students, but it also
11 benefits the community, who are welcome to audit our
12 courses.

13 As a faculty researcher, I can also attest
14 to the inadequate research space and labs currently on
15 campus. Many faculty members, including myself, were
16 delighted to learn that one of the long-term range
17 plans for the GW campus is the building of a new
18 science center.

19 A new facility will allow both faculty and
20 students the opportunity to engage in cutting-edge
21 research on a range of critical national and global
22 issues. It's imperative that research scholars have
23 the facilities that provide cutting-edge technology
24 research spaces. And most of the faculty I've spoken
25 with understand the development of square 54 will

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1 provide that non-enrollment revenue that will allow
2 the universities to build the new science center.

3 So I really support and endorse the GW
4 campus plan. I feel it reflects GW's broader strategic
5 planning initiatives that will create a world-class
6 university within our nation's capital.

7 Thank you very much.

8 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

9 Mr. Hart?

10 MR. HART: Being the last, I would
11 probably be popular to just yield my time. Especially
12 since I'm 23 and without making comments about the
13 room, it's past my bedtime.

14 Commissioners and fellow concerned
15 residents, my name is Chris Hart. I am a business
16 owner in Foggy Bottom, eight-year resident of the
17 District of Columbia, former student of the George
18 Washington University, and former President of the
19 Student Body.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to speak to
21 you today regarding the Foggy Bottom campus plan. It
22 is my heartfelt belief to support the plan with a few
23 minor reservations.

24 I understand there are many qualms from
25 residents in the community concerning existing

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1 requirements in the current campus plan. Considering
2 the state and developments of our current community,
3 we must work together to move forward and develop a
4 mutually amicable joint agreement for our future.

5 First, my reasons to lend support. This
6 plan is without question fair grounds to base a
7 compromise on. For years, residents have been
8 concerned with the sprawl of the university. This
9 directly addresses and adheres to those concerns.

10 The idea to build the university and
11 strengthen it within its existing boundaries, it's
12 past its time. And from there, now, let's work to
13 build something for the future.

14 It is clear we need a basis to work
15 towards a cooperative coexisting community. Currently
16 we do not have that. Over the last three years, the
17 university has reached out and offered ideas,
18 possibilities, and solutions. And I commend their
19 efforts. We, the members of the community, must meet
20 them face to face at the table and come to an
21 agreement.

22 Some of my initial concerns about it
23 include, number one, if the university plans to house
24 all of its undergraduates on campus, bringing the
25 students within campus bounds from HOVA, as they

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1 already have from the Columbia Plaza and from Asten,
2 then I feel it is unacceptable to think that we do not
3 need an increase in on-campus parking. We must
4 continue to look after the residents and the
5 businesses who are still within those campus bounds
6 and will be sharing that space.

7 Number two, as a city, we must protect the
8 look of that area of our community as it has come to
9 be. We must not allow a free-for-all on the size and
10 height of buildings, preserving historic Foggy Bottom,
11 but let's not overshadow it with an entirely too dense
12 campus.

13 Number three, I'm offended -- this is a
14 little bit off the topic -- that older students and
15 older undergraduates cannot freely choose where in the
16 city it is that they would like to live, including
17 GW-owned dorms and buildings. This to me is a basic
18 civil right.

19 Number four, I have noticed the strides
20 the university has made to work with the community. I
21 have not been as involved this past half year, but I
22 believe it is imperative that we, the community, work
23 more closely together and in a more civil manner.

24 Number five, the university needs to be
25 more fair in its practice of adhering to and sticking

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1 to its commitments. What we decide today should not
2 be held up in a legal battle for exemption tomorrow.

3 Number six, we need to work to create
4 square 54 in a timely manner with neighborhood input,
5 which I believe the university is working to do.

6 Number seven and most importantly, we must
7 establish a strong neighborhood advisory committee.
8 This last concern, as I said, I believe is most
9 important for it underlines the idea --

10 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: You need to wrap it
11 up.

12 MR. HART: -- of a committee coming
13 together with members of all constituencies, the
14 university, residents, resident students, government
15 leaders, business leaders, to have a simple and
16 effective goal of making a better community.

17 I think this plan is a starting point.
18 And I support it wholly.

19 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Thank you.

20 Questions from the Commission for the
21 panel? Any questions? Ms. Dwyer?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Mr. Hitchcock?

24 MR. HITCHCOCK: No questions.

25 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Ms. Kahlow?

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1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. You testified
3 at the original campus plan.

4 MR. HART: Yes, I did.

5 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. And what is
6 your business?

7 MR. HART: A tanning salon on GW's campus.

8 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay.

9 MR. HART: So I'm one of those who stuck
10 around. And now I'm paying back plenty of taxes.

11 (Laughter.)

12 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. Well, good.
13 Glad to hear it. Thanks for coming down. Thanks to
14 the panel.

15 (Whereupon, the panel of witnesses was
16 excused.)

17 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. Well, we're
18 going to close it out for this evening. And we will
19 resume with testimony of those in support. And then
20 after that, at the next session on Thursday, we will
21 then after we finish those in support, we'll take up
22 testimony in opposition.

23 Ms. Dwyer?

24 MS. DWYER: Yes. Just one point of order.
25 I think some of the witnesses who are remaining are

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1 not going to be able to come back. So I just wanted
2 you to let them know that they can just file their
3 statements for the record if they can't come back on
4 the next hearing date. That's all.

5 CHAIRPERSON MITTEN: Okay. If anybody
6 didn't understand that, if you didn't get a chance to
7 testify in person, we would love to take your written
8 statement. And the record will remain open at least
9 through this Thursday for us to accept written
10 statements. So please feel free to submit those to
11 the Office of Zoning.

12 Thank you all again for your attention.
13 And we will see you on Thursday.

14 (Whereupon, the foregoing matter was
15 concluded at 10:37 p.m.)
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