

Unrestrained Growth Places University Priorities Before Community Safety

D.C. Zoning Commission Hearings on Georgetown University Campus Plan Begin April 14

WASHINGTON, April 13, 2011 – Georgetown University enrollment on its main campus has grown 40 percent over the past 10 years to 14,000 students. Beginning tomorrow, it must present its case for continued and unrestrained growth before the D.C. Zoning Commission in a series of public hearings. Less than two weeks ago, GU submitted a pre-hearing submission to amend its campus plan proposal that claimed to address community concerns but only delayed making any significant decisions about housing, parking or student enrollment.

“Growth in graduate students is important to us,” said Todd Olson, vice president of student affairs and dean of students at Georgetown University during the [Kojo Nnamdi Show](#) on town-gown issues, March 21st. “We want to meet that demand. We want to do so in a way that aligns with our academic goals as an institution.”

Lenore Rubino, president of the [Burleith Citizens Association](#), explained, “Not once during the program – or in its campus plan submissions – did Mr. Olson mention quality of life for its students and neighbors as a university goal. While academic excellence is critical for a top national university, it should not come at the expense of safety, increased traffic and increased density that threatens to further cripple the community.”

Jennifer Altemus, president, [Citizens Association of Georgetown](#), added, “We are pleased that Councilwoman [Mary Cheh](#), Ward 3, is planning to testify in opposition to GU’s campus plan and the adverse effects of unrestrained growth on the surrounding neighborhoods. In addition, the ANCs representing three wards—3D, 2E and 3B—have each voted to oppose the plan. Contrary to GU’s contention, more students do not equal academic excellence. More students, more faculty and more traffic are an encroachment on the community and a detriment to the quality of student life.”

The Citizens Association of Georgetown, the Burleith Citizens Association, Foxhall Community Citizens Association and the local ANCs are registered parties in opposition to GU’s campus plan and will present their arguments along with individual residents at the hearings scheduled for May 12 and 16, 2011.

The neighborhood groups will highlight recommendations to minimize the adverse impacts on the historic neighborhoods as well as highlight the ongoing issues the community faces given the rapid and uncontrolled growth of GU. Community proposals include:

- * Cap enrollment for both undergraduate and graduate students at an appropriate level with the Zoning Administrator auditing this standardized enrollment on an annual basis.
- * Reinstigate GU’s prior goal of 100 percent on-campus housing for undergraduates, curtailing the expansion of student housing into the neighborhood.

* Mitigate traffic and parking impacts on the neighborhood. The proposed addition of 1,000 parking spaces will only increase traffic and does not address restricting the ability of undergraduates to bring cars into the community.

For more information, please visit www.cagtown.org or www.burleith.org.

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