

**Foggy Bottom Association**  
PO Box 58087  
Washington, DC 20037

**West End Citizens Association**  
PO Box 58098  
Washington, DC 20037

January 9, 2022

Mr. Anthony Hood, Chairman  
Zoning Commission  
441-4th Street, N.W. – Suite 210  
Washington, DC 20001

Re: GWU Campus Plan 2006-2025, ZC Case No. 06-11/06-12 – Request for an Emergency Public Hearing on GWU’s Request to use Hotel Rooms Off Campus (in a CR zone abutting extensive Residential use) for Student Quarantines

Dear Chairman Hood and Members of the Zoning Commission:

The Foggy Bottom Association (FBA) and the West End Citizens Association (WECA), both Parties to ZC Case No. 06-11/06-12, GWU Campus Plan 2006-2025, are jointly requesting – prior to any GWU submission of a Proposed Amendment to the GWU Campus Plan 2006-2025 – an Emergency Public Hearing on the George Washington University’s (GWU’s) intent to house students off campus in a hotel at 1143 New Hampshire Ave. which is in a MU-10 (formerly CR) Mixed Use (Residential and Commercial use) zone abutting extensive Residential zones.

On January 4, 2022, the FBA and the WECA each received an e-mail from GWU stating its intent for “use of a single off-campus hotel to house some students for several weeks. This housing will be needed to provide space to enable the university to safely accommodate students who test positive for the Covid-19 virus. The housing will be confined to a single hotel, Yours Truly, located at 1143 New Hampshire Ave NW, Washington, DC 20037. The university will rent up to 250 beds, which will be located on floors separate from the rest of the hotel.”

On October 8, 2020, the WECA submitted testimony at a ZC hearing on ZC No. 20-17, OP’s Text Amendment to Subtitle Z to Suspend Certain Types of Approved Campus Plans During 2020-2021 Academic Year Due to COVID-19 Pandemic. The WECA recommended that all GWU quarantined students be housed on campus. A copy of this testimony is attached to this letter.

Thank you for your consideration of this request for an Emergency Public Hearing. If additional information is needed, please contact WECA Secretary-Treasurer Barbara Kahlow on [barbara.kahlow@verizon.net](mailto:barbara.kahlow@verizon.net).

Sincerely,

/s/

John George  
FBA President

/s/

Sara Maddux  
WECA President

Attachment

cc David Avitabile, Esq., counsel for GWU  
Jeri Epstein, Chair, ANC-2A  
Jennifer Steingasser, OP

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on January 9, 2022, a copy of this Letter was served on the following:

**GWU**

c/o David Avitabile, Esq.  
Goulston & Storrs  
1999 K Street, N.W., #500  
Washington, DC 20006  
Electronically: [davitabile@goulstonstorrs.com](mailto:davitabile@goulstonstorrs.com)

**ANC 2A**

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

**DC Office of Planning**

Ms. Jennifer Steingasser  
Electronically: [Jennifer.steingasser@dc.gov](mailto:Jennifer.steingasser@dc.gov)

10/8/20 Testimony of Barbara Kahlow  
on Zoning Commission Case No. 20-17

OP's Text Amendment to Subtitle Z to Suspend Certain Types of Conditions of Approved Campus Plans  
During 2020-2021 Academic Year Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

I, Barbara Kahlow, live at 800 25th Street, N.W. I am testifying on behalf of the West End Citizens Association (WECA), the oldest citizens organization in the Foggy Bottom-West End area. One of the WECA's goals is maintaining the quality of life for the residential community in Foggy Bottom-West End.

On August 12, 2020, the WECA filed comments on the Commission's August 7<sup>th</sup> Emergency and Proposed Rulemaking in ZC Case No. 20-17, Suspension of Certain Types of Conditions of Approved Campus Plans During 2020-2021 Academic Year Due to COVID-19 Pandemic. Today, I want to add another substantive comment based on: (a) information which the WECA learned on September 14<sup>th</sup> in the George Washington University's (GWU) quarterly Community Advisory Committee meeting, (b) other filed community comments on the August 7<sup>th</sup> rulemaking, and (c) a not-fully-responsive change made by GWU on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

On September 14, 2020, in answer to a WECA question about GWU's testing of students for COVID-19, we learned that GWU planned weekly testing only of students in the three dormitories (housing approximately 500 students) which are open in Fall 2020, i.e., GWU would be doing no testing of the many students living in off-campus housing in the Foggy Bottom-West End community. We were horrified and worried for the safety of residents, especially elderly residents and residents of high-rise apartment buildings who share elevators and other common areas. On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, GWU responded to our oral concerns by making a change to include limited testing of only some off-campus students. On September 24<sup>th</sup>, GWU wrote me regarding off-campus students, "Students can now obtain tests through GW's in-house testing operation if they believe they have been exposed to the virus or have symptoms." GWU further responded that these students would need to be quarantined in their off-campus housing.

The WECA noted and supports the recommendation in Exhibit 9 that states, "universities should be required to take responsibility for minimizing COVID-19 risks in neighborhoods stemming from the increased number of students that will be required to live off-campus, including ensuring students are tested and, if necessary, quarantined on campus."

In our August 12, 2020 comments, we stated, "the WECA recommends that universities (including GWU) strengthen their penalties for off-campus student violations to act as a stronger deterrent to student behavior adversely affecting off-campus residential neighborhoods (including high-rises and single family homes." Today, we want to further recommend that the Commission conditionally require any universities with any suspended conditions of previously-approved Campus Plans to COVID-19 test all of its students – both on and off campus (e.g., in the Foggy Bottom-West End neighborhood) – and to quarantine all students, as necessary, in on campus university facilities.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.