



The Burleith Citizens Association Statement – ANC Meeting, February 28, 2011

The Burleith Citizens Association strongly supports the ANC's proposed resolution and is grateful the commissioners recognize the detrimental impact Georgetown University is having on Burleith and the surrounding communities.

We now have the voices of the ANC, Citizens Association of Georgetown, Foxhall Citizens Association, Hillandale Homeowners Association, Councilmembers Evans and Cheh expressing their concerns over the impact of GU's 2010-2020 campus plan.

The plan is neither modest NOR without impact to the surrounding communities. For too long, the surrounding communities have suffered because of the university's poor housing policies. We are still reeling from the effects of the 2000 Campus Plan. We have found GU's band-aid fixes to be ineffective.

During the course of our careful study of the campus plan, we noted students are also suffering. GU's students pay one of the highest tuitions in the country, yet they have a university that does not provide safe and affordable housing. Housing that students would enjoy living in and could benefit from the full college experience.

President DeGioia writes of GU's sustained commitment to the local community, to having ongoing conversations and to making positive contributions to GU's neighbors. I have seen no evidence of it. It smacks of lip service, an attempt to appear as a community partner while being much less than that.

Rather than acting like a venerable institution, GU has behaved like a stealthy corporate-Goliath. GU's unwillingness to consider viable and important solutions has demonstrated the school's contempt for our communities.

If GU were truly committed to protecting our communities from further deterioration of our property values and quality of life, the plan would have included specific means to reach the positive accord we have repeatedly requested.

With almost a 50% rental rate of which the majority are GU group rental houses, Burleith homeowners are losing their basic rights to enjoy our homes, protect our property values and maintain a balance of diversity in our neighborhood.

We are grateful the ANC has taken a strong stance against Georgetown University's plan and that its opinion carries great weight with the Zoning Commission.