

## **For Discussion Tonight: Spring-Valley Wesley Heights Citizens Association Grievance**

- "The relief requested by SV-WHCA is amazingly simple: that the University agree to abide by the terms of the Agreement reached by the signatories and upon which the University obtained the relief sought from the Zoning Commission. That includes, but is not limited to, discontinuation of the "facilitators", direct dialogue between AU and the parties and other neighbors; a discussion of the use of co-chairs as considered during negotiations leading to the Agreement; a repeal of the rules and procedures adopted without the participation of all the signatories; and limitation of the members to those organizations set forth in the Agreement and any other mutually agreed upon and admitted pursuant to the Agreement." (June 9, 2017 SV-WHCA Grievance Letter to AU; page 5, no. 16)
- To facilitate what we hope to be a productive discussion, the following documents are attached 1) the referenced Agreement 2) the Collaborative Ground Rules, 3) Role of the CLC, Collaborative and Neighborhood Forum with Organizational/Relationship Chart and 4) CLC Mediation Guidelines.
- This is the University's understanding of what SV-WHCA is requesting:
  - 1) The Collaborative should not be facilitated by a third party.
  - 2) The CLC and Collaborative should take up the issue as to whether they ought to have co-chairs.
  - 3) The "rules and procedures" of the Collaborative should be repealed:
    - there should be no restriction on the number of representatives from any one member organization that wishes to participate;
    - the Collaborative should be a "flexible framework" in which neighbors directly affected by the University can raise concerns and work informally with the University to develop solutions;
    - the rules as written require members to "agree ahead of time to accept the decisions of the Collaborative".
  - 4) The Collaborative should be limited to the organizations set forth in the Agreement and a newly formed community group should not have been permitted to participate. (The Agreement states that the Collaborative will be composed of the following groups: SV-WHCA, NLC, Ft. Gaines, Westover Place, Tenley Campus Neighbors Assn., Tenley Neighbors Assn., representatives of ANC 3D and ANC 3E who represent neighbors immediately adjacent to the main campus, and any newly constituted groups that represent neighborhood immediately adjacent to the main campus).

- We have only a short period of time tonight to discuss these issues. We want to spend at least a few minutes addressing each item to hear SV-WHCA's concerns and determine where the rest of the CLC stands on these matters.
- In their last communication, SV-WHCA asked whether the University is "willing to discuss with an open mind the issues raised in the grievance and to change its position on the basis of those discussions at another CLC meeting."
- If there is a sense from the member organizations of the CLC and Collaborative that we need to make changes to the operating documents and/or structure of these groups, the University is open to explore such changes. Conversely, if there is a sense from the CLC and Collaborative that changes are unnecessary, we would respect these sentiments as well.
- Ultimately, any change to the operations of the CLC and/or the Collaborative should be driven by the community organizations that comprise the groups, keeping in mind that our collective mandate is to resolve problems, find common ground and reduce conflict.