

August 31, 2017

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the request by UHS GW University Hospital to install a Helipad. My primary concern is service redundancy. Recognizing that MedStar Washington Hospital Center has an existing Helipad which is 3.5 miles (surface road route) from GW and that MedStar Georgetown University Hospital (2.3 miles (surface road route) from GW) has received zoning and neighborhood approval to build a 477,000- square-foot medical/surgical pavilion will house 156 private patient rooms, a new emergency department, larger operating rooms, **a rooftop helipad with direct access to the emergency room**, plus three levels of below-ground parking, I do not believe another Helipad at UHS GW University Hospital is warranted.

These types of significant and expensive redundancies in our U.S. Health industry are some of the main drivers for the continuing escalation in the cost of our healthcare. Given the proximity of other hospital helipad locations, I strongly urge UHS GW Hospital to rescind their request their own Helipad. Otherwise, it has the appearance of private hospitals in competition with each other by creating these service redundancies and increasing costs.

In addition, I believe our DC City Council has an obligation to help regulate the overall cost of healthcare by not changing existing laws that would enable such redundant services.

Secondarily, I believe safety is a concern given that air traffic in the Foggy Bottom area is already congested – with National Airport airplanes, White House Helicopters, and other Governmental air traffic that are already in the vicinity. The population density of Foggy Bottom is too great to risk any accident that may occur.

I urge the Foggy Bottom Association, the ANC, the DC City Council to reject UHS GW University Hospital's request for a Helipad.

Sincerely,

John George
20+ year Foggy Bottom home-owner