

**AU Townhall with President Sylvia M. Burwell**  
**Tuesday, June 20, 2023 | 6 PM**  
**American University – East Campus – Constitution Hall (Rooms 1-2)**

**Introductions & Opening Remarks**

Cory Peterson, AVP for Community and Government Relations, welcomes Attendees to the townhall meeting and introduced AU President Sylvia M. Burwell who welcomed the community. Cory next facilitated a round of introductions for all neighbors present at the Town Hall.

**Questions and Answer with President Burwell**

- Q: During COVID – my husband was taking some classes at GU – Does American University offer retiree classes for senior citizens?
  - President Burwell: We do have an audit program for nearby neighbors to take classes at the University.
- Q: First, it sounds like the soundwall issue is taken care of. AU is well on its way with the Meltzer center project. What is your next facility project going forward?
  - President Burwell: The campus plan outlines everything we need in a 10-year period. Want to focus on what we have and do not have anything “on Deck” we are focused on maintenance (Pres. Burwell). We are doing a number of things, moving the bookstore and having new food offerings.
  - Qdoba and Panera Brad will be added to [campus], we are also focused on renovations to residence halls
- Q: Last year, the Wesley seminary proposed to build a dorm that will be mostly reserved for AU students. Is that going to affect the campus plan as you have it laid out?
  - President Burwell: In terms of the property, AU has an appreciation and respect in terms of David and their college. This building is a priority for their needs. For us, our priority is making sure that AU has its necessary housing stock and making sure that it is kept current with our student’s needs. We appreciate and respect their focus; it will not affect our renovations and priorities. We need to get this piece of the Student Thriving Center done and investment for the student residence halls.
- Christina: On campus early in the morning I use the running track and just love having it in our community. One problem, I think a lot of neighbors are using it as a dog bathroom. The landscape is beautiful, and it sees a lot of unleashed dogs. Someone had a dog that started barking and chasing me. I understand wanting to be open to the community. Is there a way to put up signage for neighborhood dogs?
  - President Burwell: There aren’t supposed to be dogs in those places. It costs a lot of money to upkeep the soccer pitch; we have one of the only grass fields. For us, this is a huge deal. We don’t want that for you, and we don’t want that for AU. Phil can speak for policing and signage. Maybe we need to revisit that?

- Phil Morse: We do patrol and when we see violations, we do make contact with the person(s). I suggest you give us a call if it happens, and we'll come down right away and take care of it.
- Q: Lights and signage have helped, but with graduation day this year, I am unsure if it is because of all the new stuff, Ward circle was a traffic jam for a long time. We usually get notified of certain dates, but I am not sure if we got one for graduation.
  - President Burwell: That is a fine suggestion, like we do for move-in.
  - Phil Morse: Do not know about external communication, but we do utilize our officers and DC officers to direct traffic during graduation.
  - Cory Peterson: It was also sent out through community channels and newsletter.
  - President Burwell: That is important as we have 6 commencements, and each student has 5 tickets.

### **Closing Comments**

President Burwell thanked all attendees for their time and participation in the Town Hall.

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### **Attendees**

#### *Community:*

Nancy Beneco, neighbor  
 Rita Bloom, neighbor  
 Carol Boochever, Spring Valley neighbor  
 Margaret Chung, neighbor  
 William Clarkson, Spring Valley Neighborhood Association, AUNP Steering Committee Co-chair  
 Caroline Decker, neighbor  
 Chuck Elkins, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, Student Life and Safety Co-chair  
 Karen Feld, neighbor  
 Andrea Felder, neighbor  
 Diana Gregg, Alumni / neighbor, Student Life and Safety member  
 Teresa Guzman, neighbor, Facilities Planning member  
 Robert Heiss, neighbor  
 Arleen Heiss, neighbor  
 Bruce Klein, Fort Gaines neighbor, Student Life and Safety member  
 Judith Koppereud, AU Park neighbor, Student Life and Safety member  
 Steve Lamm, neighbor  
 Thomas Leary, neighbor  
 Joanne Leshner, neighbor  
 Fernando Manibog, neighbor  
 Rita McWilliams, neighbor, Strolls Spring Valley, Partnership  
 Maria Meier, neighbor  
 Scott Meier, Neighbor  
 Lawrence Miller, neighbor and Alumni  
 Maureen Miller, neighbor  
 Rachel Norriella, Neighbor, Helping Afghan lawyers to study at AU  
 Christina Parascandola, neighbor  
 Shelly Repp, Tenleytown Neighbors Association  
 Ali Sadr, neighbor

Jared Sax, AU park neighbor  
Debbie Stiler, neighbor  
(Robert) Bob Smolik, neighbor  
Lila Suna, neighbor,  
Timothy (Tim) Talley, Wesley Heights neighbor, Facilities Planning working group member  
David Thompson, neighbor and alumni  
Carol Wells, Westover Place and AUNP Steering Committee Member  
John Wheeler, Ward 3 Vision, AUNP Steering Committee Member  
Val Wheeler, Tenleytown neighbor  
Betsy White, Neighbor, Wesley Heights neighbor, Engagement and Communications Co-chair  
Matt Frumin, Ward 3 Councilmember

*American University Staff:*

Elizabeth Deal, AVP for Community and Internal Communication  
Seth Grossman, Vice President for People and External Affairs and Counselor to the President  
Cory Peterson, AVP for Community and Government relations  
Jonathan McCann, AVP of Planning and Project Management  
Brendan McNickle, Project Manager  
Phil Morse, AVP University Police, Emergency Management and Transportation Programs  
Sherry Rutherford, AU Campus Plan Consultant, Equity Real Estate

*Other:*

Don Edwards, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC  
Breanne Kroehler, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC  
Katie Smith, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC