

August 27, 2012

Dear Residents of City Hall:

With the fall semester starting this week, we want to provide you with an update on construction of the new School of Public Health and Health Services building across the street from City Hall. As you can imagine, residents living near this site will experience some noise and other inconveniences as a result of this construction activity – *especially during excavation activities that will continue this fall*. We apologize in advance for disturbances and are working with our contractors to minimize (to the extent possible) the impact to neighboring buildings. Also, we realize that creating a world-class campus requires all of us to be patient during campus development.

All demolition and construction work will occur during hours permitted by the District of Columbia for construction: *Monday to Saturday, between 7am-7pm*, except in special/pre-approved circumstances (which will be announced to surrounding residence halls when possible) and/or emergency situations. We are also working with the contractors to schedule, to the extent possible, especially noisy work to begin later in the morning. Our goal is to start such exceptionally noisy activities after 8 a.m. on weekdays and after 9:00 am on Saturdays. To be clear, work will occur on site beginning at 7:00 am, but we are making our best effort to delay the start of some noisy construction activities.

To clarify, “exceptionally noisy” activities are defined as: surface scraping and asphalt/concrete demolition; jack hammering; driving of piles/use of hoe ram; repeated/continuous honking/idling in vicinity of residence halls, and; loud/boisterous outdoor conversations within close proximity to residence halls.

The university provides free ear plugs to any student who requests them as well as white machines that can be loaned for the school year. There are also several free white noise options that you can run on your computers or smart phones, here’s one we found: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/white-noise-lite/id292987597?mt=8>. Please use contact info below to email/tweet us and we’ll arrange to provide you earplugs or loan you a portable machine.

If you have questions regarding construction activities that have been prohibited during early hours due to their likelihood of resulting in exceptionally noisy conditions, please email either talktogw@gwu.edu or campaign@gwu.edu or tweet @GWDSAHelps. We also urge you to use any of these contacts if there has been a violation of these prohibitions (*please share as much information as possible, especially time of day/type of noise*) so we can immediately follow up with the construction team.

Thank you, in advance, for your patience. Your cooperation will greatly contribute to the success of this endeavor and will help enhance GW’s prestige as a world-class research university. We will continue to update you throughout the fall and will hold several informational sessions in your residence hall lobby early in the semester that will be advertised in advance.

Sincerely,

Alicia Knight, Senior Associate Vice President for Operations
Peter Konwerski, Senior Associate Provost and Dean of Student Affairs