

MARKETWISE



Gateway
to
Unity

Town and Gown: *LeDroit Park and Howard University*



Maybelle Taylor Bennett of Howard University and Alvin Nichols of Fannie Mae discuss the next plan of action of the Howard University LeDroit Park Initiative.

Historically, animosity has emanated between universities and their neighbors. College students are commonly stereotyped as extreme “partyers” who drink too much, become disorderly, and leave empty bottles and trashed property in their wake. Likewise, college administrators have been characterized as being cavalier and insensitive toward residents in neighborhoods surrounding college campuses who objected to institutional operations and expansion plans that they believed destabilized their communities. In general, universities frequently offend their neighbors on many levels, which causes friction between the college and the local communities that can escalate when the neighborhoods begin to deteriorate while the “elite” university continues to prosper.

These strained conditions have long been portrayed in movies, covered in newspaper articles, and studied in reports and journals. Increasingly, universities are realizing the need to become involved in their city or town for their own self-preservation, as the college’s health and vitality are

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