

VAN NESS STREET COALITION

Dedicated to Preserving the Residential Character of Van Ness Neighborhood

March 7, 2016

Ms. Marnique Y. Heath, Chairperson
D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW, Suite 200 South
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: BZA # 17703A/ Sidwell Friends Lower School (Post Hearing Filing)

Dear Chairperson Heath:

The DDOT report contained nine recommendations for improvements that were not accepted by Sidwell Friends School. These included a recommendation that changes be made at the intersection of Wisconsin/ Upton Street, based on the exceptionally high incidence of crashes at that intersection, and the addition of a raised crosswalk at the intersection of 37th/ Upton Street. DDOT's report was filed too late to be considered at the ANC meeting. The Van Ness Coalition asks the BZA to adopt these recommendations in its final order, in order to address urgent safety concerns affecting Hearst School children, Sidwell parents, and neighborhood residents.

Strong support for improvements at these dangerous intersections is shown by the 102 signatures on our neighborhood petition (filed separately).

During the March 1 hearing, Sidwell Friends School's Head Bryan Garman offered to provide \$100,000 for capital improvements recommended by DDOT. These funds are not sufficient to cover all nine recommendations, which would cost a total of \$175,000 by Sidwell's estimate. The two recommendations were the focus of discussion at the hearing. Questions by Mr. Frederick Hill led to Mr. Garman's offer of \$100,000. Since the \$100,000 would be insufficient to cover all of the projects (based upon Sidwell's estimate), priority for expenditure of the additional funds should be given to those that are most urgent and which were the focus of discussion at the hearing.

Therefore, we ask that your final order include the following Condition giving priority for expenditure of those funds to safety improvements at Wisconsin/ Upton and 37th/ Upton Street:

- Prior to issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy for the Lower School facility at 3720 Upton Street NW, the Applicant shall either:

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EXHIBIT NO.39

- (a) Construct some of the capital improvements recommended by DDOT in its report to the BZA (Exhibit No. 29 of the record), up to a maximum monetary value of \$100,000. Projects shall be selected based on DDOT's determination that those improvements are necessary or desired for the life/ safety of District residents, drivers, and pedestrians, with priority given to the recommendations for improvements at the Wisconsin/ Upton intersection and 37th/ Upton intersection. No funds shall be allocated or expended for other projects on that list until DDOT has made its determination with respect to these two items; or
- (b) Place \$100,000 into an escrow fund to contribute to said capital improvements, with allocation and expenditure of the escrow fund made in accordance with the guidelines above.

If, five years after the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy, said improvements have not been constructed, the money shall be released to the Applicant.

The Van Ness Coalition asks that this Condition be added to the Proposed Conditions submitted by the Applicant as Condition No. 6.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brenda Viehe-Naess". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Brenda" and last name "Viehe-Naess" clearly legible.

Brenda Viehe-Naess