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June 2, 2008

The Hon Ruthanne Miller, Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20001

Madam Chair:

Re: Case 17769

BZA Case 17769 is an appeal case about which the Committee of 100 on the Federal City wishes to express concern.

The impact of a new school in a residential neighborhood calls for a balance between benefits of an educational option against disruption of neighborhood life. Intelligent land-use planning seeks to address concerns about transportation, safety, traffic, density, compatibility, structural stability, groundwater and stormwater management – among others – to assure that the nonresidential uses do not have deleterious effects on residential life.

We look to the Board of Zoning Adjustment to see, through the appeals process, that permits are not issued before transparent processes have assured that all of these concerns have been addressed. The Zoning Commission has acted to adopt rulemakings that would support the land-use priorities and protections involved in school siting, rulemakings that the Committee supported, rulemakings that can make the work of the BZA easier and the protections for neighborhoods greater.

We have also sought to have the underlying administrative processes defended by District attorneys when – and only when – they have been appropriately utilized. Citizens depend on their government to enforce the enacted rules governing the use of their properties and the communities in which they and their families live and work.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia

Barbara Zartman, Chair
Zoning Subcommittee

CASE NO. 17769

EXHIBIT NO. 16

Laura Richards, Chair
The Committee of 100 on the Federal City