

18676

Good morning. I'm John Hagood. My wife Laura and I live at 71 P St – our home is fifty yards from the proposed Mundo Verde site.

For the last two years Laura and I have been active in the Bates Area Civic Association. We love our neighbors on P Street, and we keep an eye on what goes on there.

Mundo Verde's engagement with the community has been exemplary, and its good people have won our hearts with their plans. The prospects they offer are far better than any other proposal we have heard of, for that end of the block.

I understand the talk of a school brings concern about parking. I can honestly say, the curbside spaces on P Street near North Capitol Street are used only as free parking for weekday commuters from Maryland. No local residents – indeed no one with a Washington DC license plate – parks there. All the but two of the houses along P Street have alley parking. The loss of those parking spots will not have a meaningful impact on neighborhood drivers.

If anything, the advent of the School will bring more rational transportation to people who actually live in the District. The school will generate fewer single occupancy vehicles on the streets than any other enterprise would – in the short-term, because of its practical commitment to the environment, and in the long-term, because the school educates citizens who value their communities and their planet.

No decision can be evaluated in a vacuum. Truxton Circle has seen several iterations of failed ideas for the former J.F. Cooke School. We know from experience that having to wait yet another cycle for yet another – and lesser – charter school or non-profit to consider the site will mean wasted time for everyone. Without Mundo Verde, the spot will continue to be a dead zone.

As residents of P Street, Laura and I rejoice at the arrival of Mundo Verde. The school has a proven record of education, already demonstrated by its teachers, students and parents. They have been honest and open participants in our midst. They have been forthcoming with information. They have answered our questions and addressed our concerns. We trust them, and we hold high expectations for all they would bring to our city.

We can let go of fears about parking our cars. There's something more important, and far more real going on here; something that will endure longer than most of us or our cars will. We feel fortunate that Mundo Verde has come forward with an excellent, sustainable use for the empty J. F. Cooke School. It would be an honor for us to welcome the Mundo Verde charter school to our neighborhood.

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 18676
EXHIBIT NO. 29

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