

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Sophie Bethune <sophie.bethune@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 2:52 PM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: BZA Case 19377: The Boundary Companies and The Missionary Society

To whom it may concern:

RE: BZA Case 19377: The Boundary Companies and The Missionary Society

As a parent of two children attending Lee Montessori Public Charter School and a ward 5 resident, I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed development adjacent to the school.

I am particularly concerned about the possibility of additional “private” streets being added in the vicinity of the school. In an urban environment like Washington DC it is not practical or desirable to maintain what are essentially private gated communities that restrict access to members of the public to city streets and, in particular, to children attending school. If the development is extended around the school and the new housing is accessed only by private roads in the same way as the existing development this will strand the St Pauls’ school building amid a perimeter of private access. This is not community minded, may create unsafe circumstances for our children (forced to walk on sidewalk-less streets) and could add to racial profiling whereby children and families of color are disproportionately stopped or questioned while walking through Chancellor’s Row.

My specific concerns are:

- Pedestrian access to Lee Montessori and Washington Leadership Academy. There need to be safe sidewalks allowing pedestrian access to and from the school also taking into account those who arrive/depart via Metro. Pedestrian access must not be limited by "private sidewalks" and demands by neighbors for school children to take longer, more cumbersome routes to school.
- Safe and improved road access to the school site from 4th street for all school traffic, including a driveway entrance that is wide enough to fit two cars at once and traffic measures such as a stop light which will help ease traffic congestion during peak drop off and pick up hours.
- Sufficient drop off space for a drop off lane at Lee Montessori for use by parents in morning and afternoon drop off and pick up hours. Traffic flow needs must be assessed and taken in to account. Any development must be informed by a full traffic study.
- Sufficient parking for the schools to accommodate current needs and growth
- That adequate green space must be preserved and mature trees maintained. Green space benefits the entire community and, in particular, the many families in the area as well as the children attending both schools, providing much needed recreation and green space.
- We need a comprehensive plan to minimize and mitigate the impact of construction on the schools – including the impact of mud, dust, construction materials and noise – that also fully addresses access (vehicular and pedestrian) to the school during construction.

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.19377
EXHIBIT NO.122

Comments in opposition/general concern