

## Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

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**From:** Jonathan Fichter <jonathan.fichter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 17, 2017 3:36 PM  
**To:** DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)  
**Subject:** Case Number 19599: Letter In Support of GDS Application

Dear Board of Zoning Adjustment:

I support the application of Georgetown Day School (GDS) for zoning relief regarding their construction plans.

To be specific, I am referring to Application No. 19599, to construct a new private school in the R-2, R-3, and MU-4 Zones at premises 4200 Davenport Street N.W (Squares 1672 and 1673, Lots 4, 14, 804, 812, 815, 824, and 822).

I have no connection to GDS, but I live a few blocks away and consider GDS a neighbor. I follow Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 3E meetings pertaining to GDS because I see GDS as a valuable part of our community. Having a great school like GDS in the neighborhood is a cultural asset, and I believe that the improvements GDS is planning will increase the value of our homes and neighborhood.

I live in a single-family house, and I see the construction GDS is planning as a compatible part of the neighborhood. Also, the former Safeway building has been closed long enough, and I am looking forward to a time when GDS can convert the site to a useful and attractive part of the neighborhood.

I think the concerns about traffic impacts from GDS are overstated by some in our community. My spouse rides Metro to work, so patterns of car travel do not affect her. Similarly, my children and I hope in a few years to commute entirely by walking and biking. At present, we drive, and if GDS causes any traffic problems I have never seen them. Granted, I live a few blocks away, but I have observed that the departure patterns of GDS students and teachers do not align with evening rush hour. I also know from ANC meetings that the arrival patterns affect only a narrow period during morning rush hour. I have no reason to believe that the construction of a new lower and / or middle school on the GDS campus at the site of the former Safeway would have any negative traffic impacts. Also, GDS plans to accommodate all carpool queuing on-site. That's impressive. Not all schools do that. We should give GDS some flexibility and choice in the methods they use to limit the number of trips to their campus.

GDS works hard to collaborate with the community and my ANC, and I appreciate their efforts. They are reliable partners and good neighbors. I propose accepting their application and giving them flexibility in accomplishing their plans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Fichter  
4525 Burlington PI NW  
Washington, DC 20016

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.19599  
EXHIBIT NO.46

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