

Fredrica D. Kramer
387 O Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Statement before the Zoning Commission, October 30, 2006
In support of applicants in Case No. 06-17

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my wholehearted support for the renovation of School Without Walls. I am the parent of a senior who is in his fourth year of attending this school that I consider a miracle of educational excellence and social and cultural nourishment.

You are now well familiar with the extraordinary educational achievement of which Walls can boast. You may be less familiar with the extraordinary mix of students—of academic superstars and others with the talent and desire but not all the tools to achieve; of students of every color and from every economic level; students from families who already achieved and from those who are struggling and will advance through the success of their children. Walls students socialize, bond, and support each other across all the lines that so often divide us. The school is a model for the development of the social and ethical standards that we try to reach through the experience of education but so often fail to achieve.

With specific respect to the renovation plans, I will also tell you that I generally think less fancy environments are character building, and look askance at spending money on physical improvements over faculty and curriculum. The physical condition of Walls, the precarious electrical system, the condition of the roof and the library underneath, the lack of communal space, go far beyond issues of character building, and threaten the ability of the school to continue to deliver quality education.

Please support this opportunity to preserve and advance this gem in the crown of DCs public school system. As much as I anticipate separation anxiety when my son goes off to college, I will be profoundly sad to leave the Walls community. I intend to continue to support is as long as I can define a useful role. I hope you will too.

Sincerely,


Fredrica D. Kramer
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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

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EXHIBIT NO. 63
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