February 23, 2000

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Government of the District of Columbia
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W.
Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Application for Special Exception, Docket No. 16554

Dear Members of the Board:

The authors of this letter, Ellen and Paul Hoff, have owned and inhabited our house at 2228 Que St. N.W. for over 20 years. The house is just around the corner from the Alice Pike Barney Studio House on the south side of Sheridan Circle. As a long time resident of the neighborhood, we wish to express our opposition to the above referenced application for a special exception for the Barney Studio House to use the premises for a music school.

The application suggests that there would be as many as 64 Friday evening or Sunday afternoon concerts/recitals in addition to the regular weekday classes. The application states that at least one of the rooms for the performances may seat up to 90 people.

One of our chief concerns is the effect these concerts/recitals will have on parking in the neighborhood. This is an extremely congested area. On weekend evenings we suffer from cars parked illegally in our alley (inhibiting entry to our garage), and from cars parked illegally on Que Street too close to the cut for the alley, creating a dangerous situation for anyone trying to turn onto Q St. from the alley. This has resulted in a number of accidents. The exception would put an additional, unreasonable strain on the neighborhood every weekend.

The application suggests that because the concerts/recitals would be after the workday there would be no parking problems. Our experience over the course of many years is the opposite. Weekend nights are the most congested, and the most likely to generate illegally parked cars. This is because of the many restaurants, movie houses, and the like in the immediate vicinity that draw people to the neighborhood Friday and Saturday evening. We simply can not absorb more cars with the frequency and number contemplated in the application, and still have any resemblance of a safe, residential block.

BZA
Case No. 16554
Exhibit No. 28

Board of Zoning Adjustment
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CASE NO.16554
EXHIBIT NO.28

We also are concerned about the safety/inconvenience of having a number of students dropped off and picked up in front of the premises on Sheridan Circle. Parents waiting to pick up a student from a lesson will have to wait in their cars in the curb lane of Sheridan Circle for their child to come out. This wait, which may take a number of minutes at a minimum, will lead to a substantial line of cars around the Circle, as any observer of similar pickup points at elementary schools around the city know. This will create a substantial traffic hazard for people coming south on Massachusetts Avenue, many of whom are driving at a fast rate as they enter the Circle, in preparation of turning right on 23rd Street.

We urge you to reject the application.

Sincerely,

Ellen Hoff

Paul Hoff