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February 28, 2000

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF ZONING
00 MAR -2 AM 9:40

Ms. Sheila Cross Reid
Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustments
441 Fourth St. NW, Suite 210 S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Application No. 16556

Dear Ms. Reid:

I have practiced medicine in the District of Columbia for more than a decade. I am a business owner and an employer. I serve the indigent by participating in the D.C. Medicaid program, as well as by providing *pro bono* care. I am also chief of internal medicine at Columbia Hospital for Women, one of the District's most important medical and social institutions.

Practicing medicine is important to me. But equally important is the education of my children. I have chosen to stay in Washington largely because my children have received an excellent education here, at the Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capital. I believe that good schools, whether public or private, enhance the livability and viability of Washington.

Washington has a diversity of people and, fortunately, a diversity of schools. This includes one--and only one--Jewish elementary school. I believe that it is imperative for the quality of life and expression of diversity in this city that a Jewish Day School be available for those who choose it.

Therefore, I support and urge you to support and approve the application of the Jewish Primary Day School of the Nations' Capital for temporary occupancy at 7701 and 7712 Sixteenth Street, NW. The temporary occupancy is necessary for the survival of the school as it prepares for occupancy of its planned permanent site in the District of Columbia. If the Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capital does not survive, many students and their parents will move out to Rockville and other suburban locations.

The proposed location is in a neighborhood where the school has always had students residing. Of course, as a minority group, Jews must gather from several neighborhoods to fill a school.

The Jewish Primary Day School is committed to staying in the District of Columbia. I hope that the Board of Zoning Adjustment will recognize that it is in the interest of the city as a whole to support the survival of the school by granting the zoning adjustment requested.

BZA
Case No. 16556
Exhibit No. 120

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16556
EXHIBIT NO.120

Schools enhance the quality of life in a neighborhood and in a city as a whole. I know that the Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capital has been sensitive to the needs of prospective neighbors. For example, a respected engineering firm has designed a detailed traffic management plan to keep school traffic off residential streets. Also, the school is planning to invite neighbors to school events and to set up a liaison committee to assure considerate interface with neighbors.

Please approve the application of The Jewish Primary Day School for a zoning adjustment. I also urge you to expedite the decision, so that the school can open on time in September.

Yours truly,

Henry B. Fox M.D.

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cc: Councilmember Charlene Drew Jarvis
Councilmembers at Large
Andrew Altman, Office of Planning