Martin Block
3348 Military Rd NW
Washington DC 20015

Feb 23, 2000

Ms. Sheila Reid
Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth St NW
Washington DC 20001

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
'00 MAR -3 A10:12

Dear Ms. Reid,

I write to you in support of the application by the Jewish Primary Day School of the Nations Capital (JPDS) for temporary occupancy at 7701 and 7712 16th Street NW (Ohev Shalom and Tifereth Israel congregations). You have pending before the BZA their "Application # 16556" wherein JPDS seeks temporary use of the existing space for 3 years at these two locations (located across the street from each other) for purposes of allowing the JPDS day school to survive while it constructs its permanent home.

I am a 15 year resident of the District and own and operate a business within the District. I am a member of one of the two congregations affected by this application. I am joined in strong support in this request by other members of the Ohev Sholom and Tifereth Israel congregations as well as Reverend Aldridge, and urge you to expeditiously approve the application as submitted. (The school's permanent home is also slated to be in the District.)

The Jewish Primary Day School is the only Jewish day school located in the District of Columbia. It has grown in the District over the past 12 years and is recognized locally and nationally for the quality of its educational programs, curriculum, faculty and student performance. Most important, half of the families who send their children to this school are District residents.

It is both urgent and critical that our day school be granted its application. We are an integrated part of the community on a variety of levels. The presence of our school at these locations is a natural extension of the use and purpose of these congregational facilities, and our location to the neighborhood will enhance rather than detract from the character of that portion of 16th Street.

Without BZA support on this issue, the District risks the loss of an important component of the diversity of the community. We are committed to the district as a family, and as business people in the community. Please vote to allow our school to continue operation at these locations.

Best regards,

Martin Block - MB Please help our school survive.

Martin Block

Cc:
Council Chair Cropp
Council members at Large: Brazil, Schwartz, Mendelson, Catania
Andrew Altman, Office of Planning
Council Member Patterson

BZA
Case No. 16556
Exhibit No. 135

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16556
EXHIBIT NO.135