1338 Geranium Street, NW
Washington, DC 20012
February 29, 2000

Ms. Sheila Cross Reid
Chair, Board of Zoning Adjustments
441 Fourth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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Re: Application 16556

Dear Ms. Reid,

I strongly support the application of the Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capitol to locate temporarily at 7701 and 7712 Sixteenth Street, NW. I am a resident of Shepherd Park, a member of Tifereth Israel Congregation and the father of a student at the Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capital (JPDS).

The school has made a tremendous contribution to Jewish life in the District of Columbia for 13 years, and has helped to stem the movement of the Jewish community out of the city. As the only Jewish Day School in the District of Columbia, it has provided an excellent education for hundreds of students, and serves as a focal point for many families who hope to be able to remain residents of the District. (Over half the students are DC citizens.)

Unfortunately, JPDS must move from its current location at the end of June, 2000. A search committee has been unable to find an alternative location for the school for the coming September. There is a very strong likelihood that if JPDS cannot relocate temporarily into Tifereth Israel Congregation and Ohev Sholom Talmud Torah, the school will have to close permanently. We would lose a wonderful and valuable community institution.

What better temporary home could there be for a Jewish school, than two synagogues? Both Tifereth Israel Congregation and Ohev Sholom Talmud Torah have been in our neighborhood for forty years. Because both have large buildings that already include classrooms, they could easily accommodate the school with minimal impact to our neighbors. To ensure that there will be minimal impact, JPDS has put much effort into developing a traffic plan that includes the input of Shepherd Park residents.

I hope you and the BZA will approve this application.

Sincerely,

John S. Young

CC: Councilmember Charlene Drew Jarvis
Councilmembers-at-large
Andrew Altman, Office of Planning
ANC 4A03, Joseph Hairston

BZA
Case No. 16556
Exhibit No. 140

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16556
EXHIBIT NO.140