3918 2nd Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20032

March 2, 2000

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Ms. Sheila B. Reid
Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustments
414 Fourth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20012

Re: Application #16556

Dear Ms. Reid:

As a D.C. resident, I join many Shepherd Park neighbors, members of Ohev Shalom Talmud Torah, and Tifereth Israel synagogues and Reverend Aldridge in supporting the Jewish Primary Day School's application before the Board of Zoning Adjustment. The only Jewish day school in the District of Columbia, the Jewish Primary Day School (JPDS) is committed to remaining in the District. Its application is only for temporary occupancy at 7701 and 7712 Sixteenth Street, N.W.

Securing appropriate space for JPDS' temporary location in the District benefits the *entire* community, including Shepherd Park. For example, JPDS contributes to the quality of life of its neighbors through snow removal, after school programs, joint programs with Shepherd Park Elementary School, increased public safety with traffic policing, cultural exchange programs involving seniors, and a community relations oversight board. Founded in 1987, JPDS is, of course, an independent school opened to everyone. The school has been recognized for the quality of its educational curriculum, faculty talent and student's performance. Most importantly, more than fifty percent of the students are District residents.

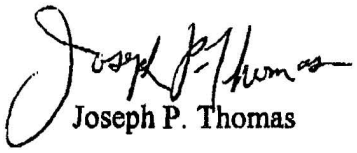
In addition, JPDS has retained a local traffic-engineering firm to examine existing traffic conditions in the area. Relying on input from the community, JPDS is committed to determining the most appropriate plans for handling drop-off and pick-up of its students, including a possible adjustment in its school day hours to accommodate present traffic patterns.

BZA
Case No. 16556
Exhibit No. 156

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16556
EXHIBIT NO.156

This temporary three-year occupancy will mean so much to the 178 children, and their many D.C.-based families, who are eager for their beloved school to have a home. Thank you for approving this application and for allowing JPDS to remain in the District.

Sincerely,



Joseph P. Thomas

cc:
Councilmember Charlene Drew Jarvis
Councilmembers-at-large
Andrew Altman, Office of Planning
Joseph Hairston, Chair, ANC 4A