Rabbi A. Nathan Abramowitz
7832 16th Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20012

February 24, 2000

OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
'00 MAR -6 P3:02

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

Re: Application # 16556

Dear Ms. Reid,

I write to you as one who has been a very long time resident of our neighborhood in Shepherd Park. I have lived at my above address and worked at our Synagogue at 7701 16th Street, NW since the fall of 1960, a period of over forty years.

Since coming to Washington, I have served not only as Rabbi of my Congregation but I have, in addition, immediately upon my arrival, immersed myself in the affairs of our city and neighborhood. For a time I served on the Board of Directors of Neighbors Inc. and was active in our local clergy group known as the Upper Northwest Group Ministry. We have always tried to keep our doors open to all the good causes that are so important to our community and society.

At this time, I want you to know that I join many of my Shepherd Park neighbors, members of the two Synagogues in our area, and Rev. Aldridge as well, in supporting the application of the Jewish Primary Day School that is before the Board of Zoning Adjustments. The Jewish Primary Day School (JPDS) is the only Jewish Day School in the District of Columbia and is committed to remaining in the District. Because they must vacate their current site and because they have not yet been able to acquire their permanent home, the JPDS has made an application for temporary occupancy at 7701 16th Street and 7712 16th Street, NW.

The Jewish Primary Day School is a treasure for the entire Washington community. Founded in 1987, JPDS is an independent school open to everyone. The school has been recognized for the quality of its educational curriculum, faculty talent and the performance of its students. Importantly, more than half of its students are District residents and it is in the city's interest that the school's temporary and permanent residence be kept in the District of Columbia.

"Thou shalt teach them diligently to thy children" is a Biblical quotation that we take very seriously. We feel that the opportunity to have our Synagogues used for educational purposes is entirely within our mission both historically and in the present.

BZA
Case No. 16556
Exhibit No. 168

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16556
EXHIBIT NO.168

This temporary three year occupancy that is being requested will mean so much not only to the 178 children who attend JPDS and who are so anxious for the school to have a home for the coming few years, but will indeed be of benefit to all of us. Thank you in advance for your attention and consideration. It is my hope and prayer that you and the Board will approve the JPDS application so that the school may remain in Washington.

Sincerely,



Rabbi A. Nathan Abramowitz

Cc:
Councilmember Charlene Drew Jarvis
Councilmembers at Large
Andrew Altman, Office of Planning
Joseph Hairston, Chair ANC 4A