Shepherd Park Citizens Association
Washington, D.C. 20012

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ZONING COMMISSION
'00 MAR 10 AM 3:37

By Facsimile: 727-6072

March 9, 2000

Sheila Cross Reid
Chairperson
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: **Jewish Primary Day School of the National Capitol–Application No. 16556**[1]

Dear Chairperson Reid:

The Shepherd Park Citizens Association has considered the application of the Tifereth Israel Congregation, 7701 16th Street, and Ohev Shalom Talmud Torah Congregation, 7712 16th Street, NW, for an exception to the zoning regulations of the District of Columbia in order to relocate the Jewish Primary Day School in their respective buildings.

The application were filed with the Board of Zoning Adjustment in mid-December but the community was not notified until much later. Since that time a number of community meetings have been held under the auspices of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4A, the applicants, and the Shepherd Park Citizens Association. At each of those meetings, the neighbors in Shepherd Park living in the immediate vicinity of the congregation were overwhelmingly opposed to the application. The principal grounds for opposition were that traffic, parking, and related considerations that presently exist from ongoing activities at the congregations and at three other schools in the immediate vicinity have severely disrupted the quiet enjoyment of the property owners who believe that an adjustment to the zoning to permit school use would further degrade their property interests. The applicants state that the use is proposed only for three years after which the school would move to new quarters in Forest Hills. However, we are informed that the proposed location in Forest Hills is extremely controversial and it is not clear that the necessary approvals, some of which have yet to be applied for, will be forthcoming.

The ANC Commissioners have considered this issue at two successive monthly meetings. The first considered the proposal generally and resulted in a vote to recommend against the application. The second meeting was held to discuss in detail the proposed traffic management

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[1] We have been advised of only one application even though there are two distinct properties involved each of which would appear to require a zoning exception.

BZA
Case No. 16556
Exhibit No. 211

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16556
EXHIBIT NO.211

HALL STILL, HARDWICK, GABLE, GOLDEN & NELSON
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
1120 20TH STREET, N.W.
SUITE 700, NORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-3406
TELEPHONE (202) 973-1200
FACSIMILE (202) 973-1212

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Date: 3-9-00

To Facsimile Number: 727 6072

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From: Joseph R Membrino

Writer's Direct Dial Number: (202) 973-1200

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Shepherd Park Citizens Association opposition to Application NO. 16556

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Shepherd Park Citizens Association
Washington, D.C. 20012

By Facsimile: 727-6072

March 9, 2000

Sheila Cross Reid
Chairperson
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street Suite 210
Washington, D C. 20001

Re: Jewish Primary Day School of the National Capitol–Application No. 16556[1]

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plan, although the issue of the application itself received a broader discussion as well for a second time. The ANC once again voted to oppose.

We also note that Council Member Jarvis has notified the ANC Commissioners of her recommendation against the application. Council Member Jarvis also informed the ANC that she was working to help relocate the school temporarily in unused space in the University of the District of Columbia which is close to the current site of the Jewish Primary Day School.

Having considered all the views on the question and recognizing that some in the community who live somewhat removed from the proposed school sites would support or acquiesce in the application, we are persuaded that the provisions of the zoning laws are to protect people in the quiet enjoyment of their property. We find that the evidence that such enjoyment of those in the immediate vicinity of the proposed school sites would be considerably impaired if the application were granted.

Accordingly the Shepherd Park Citizens Association has decided to recommend against the grant of an exception to the zoning regulations and requests the Board to decline the application.

Your attention to this is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Joseph R Membrino

Joseph R. Membrino
President

7409 14th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20012
Phone 673-1200