March 8, 2000

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Ms. Sheila Reid
Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, NW Suite 210S
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: Application No. 16556

Dear Ms. Reid:

As a third generation native resident of Washington, D.C., and the parent of two children who will attend the Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capitol starting September, 2000, I am writing to urge the Board of Zoning Adjustment to approve the school's zoning application for a temporary site. The approval is critical to the continued success of this school that adds to the diversity of our wonderful city.

JPDS-NC attracts and keeps families in Washington. It is a primary reason we have maintained home ownership in the District and plan to continue to do so. We personally know of two families that left the District very recently so they could attend a Jewish day school in the suburbs—so unsure and troubled were they over the uncertain location and perhaps even future of JPDS-NC. We know of other D.C. homeowning families that are holding out, but have their realtor's phone number on speed dial. In my opinion, this behavior is a great loss to the school and most definitely a tragedy to the vitality of our city.

For eleven years, JPDS-NC has provided families in Washington an opportunity to send their children to a Jewish community day school where they receive a strong education in both Judaic and secular studies. It's the only such school in the city. More than 60 families who reside in Washington rely on this school for their children's education.

As JPDS-NC has indicated, the school and the parent body are fully committed to working with the Shepherd Elementary neighborhood to address it concerns regarding traffic, etc. We appreciate the importance of being good neighbors and providing community service to the areas that accommodate schools.

We hope the BZA will consider and approve this application in an expedited fashion to ensure sufficient time for the school to move and reestablish itself so it's ready for the 2000/2001 school year. Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Howard Taske
3720 Veazey St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

cc: Chair Pro Tempore Charlene Drew Jarvis
Councilmembers at Large
Andrew Altman, Office of Planning

BZA
Case No. 16556
Exhibit No. 225

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16556
EXHIBIT NO.225