Pensler Galleries
2029 Que Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009
Telephone (202) 328-9190

P E N S L E R G A L L E R I E S

Fine Paintings

March 8, 2000
Ms. Shelia Reid
Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, N.W. Suite 220
Washington, D.C. 20001

OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
'00 MAR 13 A9:06

Re: Application No. 16556

Dear Ms. Reid,

I write to voice my support for the application of the Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capital (JPDS-NC) for temporary occupancy at 7701 and 7712 Sixteenth Street, N. W. (Ohev Shalom and Tifereth Israel Congregations).

Now pending before the BZA is Application No. 16556, in which JPDS-NC seeks a special exception for temporary use of existing space for three years at these two locations, directly across the street from one another, which will make it possible for JPDS-NC to continue educating young children while it constructs a permanent home elsewhere in the District of Columbia.

I have owned and operated a business in the District of Columbia for more than twenty-five years. My family and I are congregants at one of the synagogues involved in this application. I am joined in strong support of this application by other members of Tifereth Israel and Ohev Shalom congregations, as well as other religious, business and community leaders and citizens, and urge you to act favorably and expeditionsly, and to approve the application as submitted.

JPDS-NC is the only Jewish day school located in the District of Columbia. It has grown and thrived in Washington, D. C. over the past thirteen years and is recognized locally and nationally for the quality of its educational programs, curriculum, faculty and student performance. Significantly, half of the families who send their children to this school are D. C. residents. Also important is the school's commitment to equal opportunity for students and staff; although this is a religious school, it is a multi-racial and multi-ethnic school as well. JPDS-NC is an educational institution which contributes to the cultural diversity and richness of our city; it is a part of the fabric of this city. JPDS-NC is a resource for many Jewish families who choose to make their homes in the District of Columbia and also wish to provide their children with an

BZA
Case No. 16556
Exhibit No. 232

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16556
EXHIBIT NO.232

education which reflects their religious beliefs and traditions. JPDS-NC is a shining example of the type of institution which enriches and strengthens the District of Columbia on many levels; the zoning process should give appropriate recognition and weight to the general benefit to the community that this school unquestionably embodies.

JPDS-NC, in keeping with the Jewish values it teaches, will strive to be a considerate and respectful neighbor. I have utmost confidence in the commitment of the school's administrators, teachers and families to work with the neighbors in Shepard Park to address their concerns about traffic, safety and other issues.

It is critical to the continued existence of JPDS-ND that its application be granted. The presence of the school at the Sixteenth Street locations is a natural extension of the use and purpose of these congregational facilities situated on a major traffic artery, and its location in the neighborhood will enhance rather than detract from the character of the upper Sixteenth Street area. Indeed, JPDS-NC is an asset to the Dixtrict of Columbia as a whole, as it is an important component of the diversity and educational excellence of the community. I urge the BZA to vote favorably and expeditiously to allow JPDS-NC the three year temporary occupancy it has requested.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Alan M. Pensler
President

cc. Council Member Charlenen Drew Jarvis
Coucil members at Large
Andrew Altman, Office of Planning
U. S. Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton