National Child Research Center
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Susan L. Piggott
Director

March 3, 2000

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

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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Re: Application No. 16556 (Jewish Primary Day School)

Dear Ms. Reid:

I strongly urge you to approve the zoning application submitted by the Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capitol.

I am the director of the National Child Research Center (NCRC), a pre-school of 192 students. One of my primary responsibilities is advising parents concerning kindergarten and elementary school placements. As an educator, I believe that it is important for families to have a broad choice of schools available, so that they can find a school that meets their child's needs, and reflects their values.

Fortunately, parents in the District of Columbia currently have a broad choice of schools to which to send their children. While many NCRC children go on to public and independent schools, several continue at denominational schools, such as Sidwell Friends', St. Patrick's, Blessed Sacrament, St. Ann's, and Our Lady of Victory. NCRC has also had four children go to the Jewish Primary Day School, and a fifth has applied to JPDS for next year. **Without JPDS, families in our school who seek Jewish education for their children within a reasonable distance of their homes would have no place to go. I hope the BZA will value the importance of maintaining a diversity of educational options in the District of Columbia as it considers JPDS's zoning application.**

I also want to bring to the BZA's attention NCRC's experience with traffic management on a quiet neighborhood street in Cleveland Park. The vast majority of our students travel to school in cars. By educating our parent body, using staff resources for enforcement, and keeping in close contact with neighbors, we ensure that our carpool line does not block neighbors' driveways and does not obstruct both lanes of our narrow street; that NCRC staff and parents park legally; and that any problems are quickly resolved. I am confident that JPDS's traffic management plan will do likewise. **The solution to school-neighborhood traffic issues is to work out the problems, as NCRC has, and as I am sure JPDS will, because overall, schools benefit our neighborhoods and our city.**

BZA
Case No. 16556
Exhibit No. 239

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16556
EXHIBIT NO.239

I hope the BZA will approve JPDS's application. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Piggott

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Director

cc: Councilmember Charlene Drew Jarvis
Councilmember Kathy Patterson
Councilmembers at Large
Andrew Altman, Office of Planning