6100 29th St. NW
Washington, DC 20015
March 9, 2000

Ms. Sheila Cross Reid
Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustments
441 Fourth St. NW, Suite 210 A
Washington, DC 20001

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF ZONING
'00 MAR 13 P4:57

Re: Application No. 16556

Dear Ms. Reid:

I live in the District of Columbia. I am also a business owner and employer in the District.

My neighborhood, near Chevy Chase Circle, has narrow streets and single family homes. My neighborhood also has a public school and several churches. The churches conduct an elementary school, religious schools, and preschools. I am pleased that my neighborhood offers educational options for its residents. Indeed, I believe that schools and churches enrich a neighborhood and the District as a whole. Although the schools in my neighborhood have uncontrolled traffic and inadequate parking, I welcome children and schools in my neighborhood. I am more than happy to put up with an occasional blocked street, alley, or driveway. I also welcome children from other neighborhoods who attend school or church in my neighborhood. By the way, I do not have children of my own.

Washington has a diversity of people and, fortunately, a diversity of schools. This includes one--and only one--Jewish elementary school. I believe that it is imperative for the quality of life and expression of diversity in this city that a Jewish Day School be available for those who choose it.

Therefore, I support and urge you to support and approve the application of the Jewish Primary Day School of the Nations' Capital for temporary occupancy at 7701 and 7712 Sixteenth Street, NW. The temporary occupancy is necessary for the survival of the school as it prepares for occupancy of its planned permanent site in the District of Columbia. If the Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capital does not survive, many students and their parents will move out to Rockville and other suburban locations. I would miss them, and I think that you would, too.

The proposed location is in a neighborhood where the school has always had students residing. Of course, as a minority

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EXHIBIT NO.250

group, Jews must gather from several neighborhoods to fill a school.

The Jewish Primary Day School is committed to staying in the District of Columbia. I hope that the Board of Zoning Adjustment will recognize that it is in the interest of the city as a whole to support the survival of the school by granting the zoning adjustment requested.

Schools enhance the quality of life in a neighborhood and in a city as a whole. I know that the Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capital has been sensitive to the needs of prospective neighbors. For example, a respected engineering firm has designed a detailed traffic management plan to keep school traffic off residential streets. I might add that the schools in my neighborhood have no traffic management plan, and have never been asked to, even though they are here permanently. Also, the Jewish Primary Day School is planning to set up a liaison committee to assure considerate interface with neighbors, and is making efforts to offer free educational and cultural programs to neighbors. Surely the Shepherd Park neighborhood will be impacted less--and only temporarily--than my neighborhood is on a permanent basis. I wish that a building were available for the Jewish Primary Day School in my neighborhood. There are buildings available in Shepherd Park, and I hope that the school is allowed to rent space there.

Fair is fair. Please approve the application of The Jewish Primary Day School for a zoning adjustment. We also urge you to expedite the decision, so that the school can open on time in September.

Yours truly,

E. Samantha Cheng

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