Alice B. Cohen and Harold David Cohen
3630 Chesapeake St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

March 6, 2000

'00 MAR 15 AM 11:28
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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

Re: Application No. 16556

Dear Ms. Reid:

We are writing to urge the Board of Zoning Adjustment to approve the above-referenced application by the Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capital (JPDS-NC) for zoning to establish a temporary site. As long-time residents of the District of Columbia (one of us for over 60 years, the other for nearly 50 years), we believe that favorable action on this applications by the Board of Zoning Adjustment would be in the District's interest. As grandparents of a child attending JPDS-NC, we know that such action is critical to the continued success of this excellent school.

For eleven years, JPDS-NC has occupied space at Adas Israel Congregation on Quebec Street, N.W., providing an opportunity for families in the District to send their children to a Jewish community day school where they receive a very strong education in both secular and Judaic studies. In fact, JPDS-NC is the *only* Jewish day school in the city. More than 60 District families rely on JPDC-NC for their children's education, and there is no question that JPDS-NC attracts and keeps families in the District. Without the school, many families who want their children to attend a Jewish day school would move to the suburbs where other such schools exist. The continued existence of JPDS-NC therefore should be viewed as critical to the diversity of the city itself.

Having outgrown its current location, JPDS-NC has reached agreement with the congregations of Ohev Shalom and Tifereth Israel (which face each other on 16th Street in Shepherd Park) to share facilities temporarily while the school develops a permanent site. If the required zoning approval is denied, the school will have no place to exist for the 2000-2001 school year. It is not an exaggeration, therefore, to say that the future of Jewish education in the District is in the Board's hands.

As JPDS-NC has indicated, the school and its parent body (which includes our son and daughter-in-law) are fully committed to working with the Shepherd Elementary neighborhood to address any concerns it may have about JPDS-NC's temporary presence there. JPDS-NC teaches its students the importance of being good neighbors and providing community service, and we are confident that the school would exemplify those principles in the Shepherd Park neighborhood.

BZA
Case No. 16556
Exhibit No. 269

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16556
EXHIBIT NO.269

We hope the Board of Zoning Adjustment will consider and approve this application in an expedited fashion to ensure that JPDS-NC has sufficient time to move and ready itself for the 2000-2001 school year. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Harold David Cohen

Alice B. Cohen

Alice B. Cohen
3630 Chesapeake St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

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