BZA Application # 16556
Testimony of Brenda Krieger; Co-Chair Facilities Committee, JPDS-NC
March 15, 2000

Good Morning Chairman Reid and members of the Board,

I am Brenda Krieger. I am the parent of a 4th grade student at JPDS and the co-chair of the facilities committee in a volunteer capacity. I have lived in the District of Columbia for almost thirty years and I am thankful that I could elect to send my child to a Jewish day school here. I bring to my task 25 years of experience as a commercial interior designer and planner. Over the last three years I have played an integral part in the school's analysis of its long range space needs and in its search for a permanent and temporary location. In this capacity I have worked closely with the architects hired to develop a program for the school. I have been able to apply the knowledge gained in these exercises to the analysis of the use of the two sites before us. Although neither Synagogue was adequate to house the entire school population by itself, the spaces made available to us at the two sites together work exceedingly well. In addition, the use of these spaces for educational purposes is a natural and traditional auxiliary use of a synagogue.

At Ohev Sholom, we plan to house grades K-3. All renovation at this building will be interior. To accommodate these 8 classes with a potential growth up to 120 students, we will build out 8 new, well sized classrooms on the lower level. In addition, on that level we will have space for a large teacher workroom/lounge as well as indoor activity space.

The upper level is already structured into usable spaces, having been originally built to accommodate classrooms in addition to the Sanctuary. These existing rooms will be painted and cleaned up and will house school offices, science room and library. We will also make use of the small chapel and large Sanctuary/auditorium.

With our dual curriculum and academic emphasis, athletics play a minor role. There are no team sports. We do have a PE program that now, and in the temporary location, will be held indoors for the most part. There is a small enclosed and paved outdoor play area adjacent to the building, similar to the area we now use at our present location. This will be used for recess. In addition, again in keeping with our present practices, we will take advantage of our closeness to the park for nature walks and exercise.

We are working with an architectural firm for the final development of this site. They have reviewed our preliminary layouts and the building itself. These architects will be drawing up construction documents for our work at this site in accordance with all building and life safety codes as well as ADA requirements.

Tifereth Israel has been undergoing its own renovation and upgrade for the past two years. They have completed Phase I and plan to complete Phase II by this summer. This phase includes the upgrading of their existing classrooms in addition to other spaces in the building. They will be installing an elevator with access to all floors. We will be housing grades 4-6 at Tifereth Israel with a potential growth over the three years to 85 students. The classrooms for these grades already

BZA
CASE No. 16556
EXHIBIT No. 282

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16556
EXHIBIT NO.282

exist on the second floor of the building. We will also be making use of the library, chapel and Social Hall on occasion. When we will be using the spaces, there are no primary Synagogue functions scheduled. The Pre-school presently located at the Synagogue will no longer operate at this location. Religious school takes place only late Wednesday afternoons and on Sunday. We presently share out classroom use with the religious school at Adas Israel and will continue this practice at Tifereth Israel. We have contacted the Department of Recreation to look into some use of the adjacent public fields and our Head of School has already met with the Principal of Shepherd Elementary and discussed use of the fields only at times that would not conflict with present use by that school.

Because I have become very familiar with both buildings and with the operations of JPDS, I am very confident that we can fulfill the educational mission of the school at these sites for the next three years. Although not an ideal location for the long term needs of the school, these sites are a workable and satisfactory solution for our temporary needs.

Thank you