March 20, 2000

Rec'd.
MAR 21 2000

Sheila Cross Reid, Chair
Members of the Board of Zoning Adjustment
Judiciary Square Building
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Jewish Primary Day School Application

To the Board of Zoning Adjustment:

I attended last week's hearing to testify but am unable to attend the hearing on March 21, and therefore I write this letter to express my support for the zoning application submitted by the Jewish Primary Day School.

I urge the Board to look at the community's experience with the Lowell School as a model for how JPDS will (or won't) affect traffic in the surrounding area. I drop my son off at the Lowell School on Kalmia Street (around the corner from the proposed site for JPDS) every morning at the height of rush hour, and then commute from there to my job in downtown D.C. I take different routes — west on Kalmia to 16th Street, east on Kalmia to West Beach Drive, or occasionally north through the neighborhoods. I have commuted along these routes both before and after Lowell was located on Kalmia Street. Lowell is a larger school, and yet the drop-off is accomplished in 20 minutes (I too would never have believed this possible until I experienced it), and there are no new traffic back-ups or delays that are attributable to the drop-off.

Nor does Lowell disrupt any other aspect of community life: at 8:10 in the morning, for example, when the drop-off occurs, there are no children playing outside or bicycling or otherwise seeking to use the neighborhood streets, where traffic could be an issue; instead, they are waiting on bus stops for school buses or walking to school.

I can understand why neighbors would be concerned about traffic, although, based on the Lowell experience, I think these concerns are unwarranted. Much of the remaining neighborhood opposition, however, has been generated through appeals to lines of division among us. The Board should discount this opposition appropriately. A school where we educate our children and prepare them to be good future citizens and neighbors is the highest value use that I can think of for any property, and therefore I urge you to approve the JPDS application.

Sincerely

Joan E. Hartman

BZA
Case No. 16556
Exhibit No. 304

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16556
EXHIBIT NO.304