Barbara Bailey
1448 Juniper

I join the major and council members who support the continued existence of JPDS in the District of Columbia. I am in support of its mission, vision, and its espoused values. However, as a resident of ward 4, I do not support JPDS at the temporary locations which are the subject of this hearing based solely on land use and our community's past experience with temporary sites approved by the BZA. We have a history with your rulings, their enforcement and their impact.

I live nearly across the street from Tifeth Israel. I have three children, one of which attends Shepherd and walks there daily. My youngest child has three years left at shepherd -- three years during which she will be impacted by this additional intrusion into our residential community. ~~In my letter requesting party status, I made reference to the dangers associated with my children in close proximity to all of the activity at the synagogue that would be compounded with the addition of this school. Despite the fact that I live less than 50 feet from the synagogue, I was denied party status. I am insulted and appalled that the board denied party status under these circumstances.~~

You have allowed the applicant to enter testimony about their vision, mission, curriculum and allowed them to have children testify about what a good school JPDS is, and how horrible it will be for it to close. That burden should not be laid at our feet. JPDS had many years to find a new home, but waited to the 11th hour to bring their quest to Shepherd Park. What did that testimony have to do with the issues here today? It is my hope that they would not influence your duty and obligation to uphold zoning regulations.

As a parent, I could never understand why other parents would want to place in jeopardy their own children. My major issue is this -- how could in all good conscience jpds parents want to subject their children and mine to the dangers of commuting to a school on 16th street. If you use 16th as a primary source of parking, believe me, it is an accident waiting to happen.

Presently those who attend the synagogue park on 16th street, and more often than not park in the space set aside for the bus stop -- the result is two lanes of traffic until Iris, then one lane of traffic between Iris and Kalmia. I have witnessed traffic backing up because the bus had to stop in the only open lane because of this parking. Of greater concern is the idealist manner in which the traffic planner describes 16th as a solution to parking. The traffic planner stated that "from 9-4 there is abundant parking on 16th street... parents will be encouraged to park there." This is both idealistic and unrealistic ~~and~~ a dangerous solution. which will be present all day, not just during carpool hours. It is

We all know that that particular strip of 16th in question is a raceway -- it is all downhill. In my experience, traveling north and turning onto Juniper, is like taking an exit off I 95 ~~where there is no slow ramp.~~ Once you make that turn, then you must be careful of oncoming traffic, children, and activity at the synagogue. Anyone who has made that turn knows the dangers which it presents under ordinary circumstances -- dangers which are magnified with the "abundant parking" at the lips of 16th and juniper.

BZA
CASE No. 16556
EXHIBIT No. 317

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16556
EXHIBIT NO.317

JPDS proponents want to argue the benefits to the larger comm.

The traffic management plan sounds wonderful --but it presupposes a vacuum - a vacuum that does not exist. The synagogue does not exist in a vacuum ~~--but the larger community standard must be applied here which representatives of JPDS called to our attention to last week~~. There are other dynamics going on in this community and other changes anticipated in traffic patterns resulting from planned construction and possible closure of Beach Drive. This will all push the traffic deeper into our community. Can I allow my child to play and ride her bike on her days off from DC Schools -- will JPDS' days off correlate to those of DC Public Schools? As a taxpayer I state emphatically that the purpose of our alley is not a carpool lane -- if it is allowed to be used in this manner, we will not be able to use it in the manner intended.

it presupposes what is normal about traffic?

one lane

public & private

Because this touches on their good faith & JPDS

I feel compelled to say something about last week's testimony. I was appalled about the comments of the community affairs person. First, the misleading characterization of letters of the mayor and members of the council. They in fact stated support of JPDS remaining in the District -- they were silent about whether they should be housed at the sites in question. Further, it was clear that this consultant does not know the neighborhood and has not talked to many neighbors. ~~If she had she would not have perjured herself under oath. The comments of the community affairs person were those not of a conciliator, but of an advocate~~. I was appalled as a person who lives across the street from the synagogue at the untruths she was willing to affirm to. No one has knocked on my door from the synagogue about anything in the 15 years I have resided there. I heard the traffic plan was going to be dropped at my door -- it never came -- I got a copy at one of the ANC meetings. I learned of this requested exemption for my neighbors

~~The District wants to attract citizens like us, but you drive us away by not safeguarding our fundamental rights~~. The very characteristics of our community, which make us stable and attractive to JPDS ~~and stable~~, are the very characteristics that you threaten to disrupt~~ion~~. More and more intrusions -- zoning laws are designed to protect us -- do it.

One of the best predictors of the future is past experience and practice. That is the problem here. You have strong opposition in the community in part because of past broken promises which resulted from a ruling by the BZA which allowed the ~~primary~~ day care ctr ~~school~~ a three year temporary exemption, ~~which has lasted thirteen years. In 1987 the~~ bza ~~ordered temporary primary day school for 3 years as you heard~~ allowed a That temporary school only now plans to close 13 years later. ~~This extended four times past the agreed upon~~ period. There were promises made then too, promises for a community liaison and better relations. This never happened. This very weekend we had a bar mitzvah, a concert and citywide tutoring blocking our alleys and streets. Mr Parsons asked what guarantee is there that JPDS will only be here for three years -- there is no guarantee -- their success is dependent upon being successful at forest hills who are putting up a fight.

Yes we are concerned about our larger community, but also in sustaining our solid and diverse community so that we can effectively participate in the larger community. It seems jpds would lay at our feet the result of their failed efforts to plan for this transition and the potential demise of their school. That is not our burden to bear.

If JPDS were sincere about giving back to the larger District community then they would place JPDS in a community that could truly benefit, not add an additional intrusion to a community that is already burdened. There are many other district communities which would be truly enriched by your presence -- a community where its residents have a need for adult education, cultural awareness programs, and positive activity ~~where the community is in need~~ of it. ~~But these communities are not the communities~~ JPDS want ~~to locate in for various reasons~~. Please do not insult us by informing us of all the richness you will bring to us - but instead seek out a community which you can really benefit. You were offering snow removal earlier until you learned at hearings that my husband, a tax attorney by the way, removed the snow from the synagogue lot so that they could park in their own spaces instead of those on the street which the community had just shoveled

All of us who are in opposition to this exception moved into this neighborhood with the full understanding that synagogues were present and there was reasonable activity to be expected. We have accommodated the many inconveniences and intrusions with this understanding. This very weekend I was woken from a sleep by the delivery trucks they say never come, after grocery shopping encountered a traffic jam in front of my house due to both a concert and city-wide tutoring going on -- these occurrences are not unique. As I sought parking behind my home, and walked to the street I encountered other neighbors who coincidentally had to park elsewhere. We met and observed the traffic jam. I would expect that Tifeth Israel should employ the traffic manager for Saturday and Sunday as well.

This is new intrusion is too much. If this zoning is approved, this school will not enrich this diverse and solid community, but instead lay at our feet the burdens associated with placing a school where there is not sufficient space to run it safely, both for the students of the school and the Shepherd Park Community.