February 28, 2000

District of Columbia
Board of Zoning Adjustment
Suite 220
441 4th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

'00 FEB 28 P2:21
OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Re: BZA Application No. 16556
Application of Jewish Primary Day School for a special exception to establish a private school

Dear Members of the Board of Zoning Adjustment:

An application has been filed by Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capital ("JPDS") for a special exception to establish a private school for 215 students and 32 teachers and staff in a residential neighborhood. JPDS proposes to locate its school at two synagogues on 16th Street, N.W. -- Ohev Sholom at 7712 16th Street, N.W. (zoned R-1-A) and Tiffereth Israel at 7701 16th Street, N.W. (zoned R-1-B). I, Helene M. Harris, am the owner of 1443 Juniper Street, N.W., which is less than 50 feet from the property involved in BZA application No. 16556. For the reasons set forth below, I strongly oppose the application of JPDS for a special exception.

The proposed operation of a private school for 215 students and 32 teachers and staff at these locations will create objectionable traffic and safety conditions in an already taxed single-family residential neighborhood.

- Increased traffic congestion can reasonably be expected from 215 students and 32 teachers and staff traveling to and from the synagogues, which are both located at uncontrolled intersections on 16th Street.

- The proposed traffic management plan for more than 70 vehicles would impede access to 16th Street from Jonquil and Juniper Streets and cause traffic congestion on Jonquil and Juniper Streets. Similarly, access to Jonquil and Juniper Streets from 16th Street would be impeded.

- The plan for student loading and unloading operations would require vehicles to use the public alleys behind the synagogues and between Jonquil and Juniper Streets as one-way thoroughfares and drop-off/pickup sites, thereby blocking access of adjoining and nearby property owners to the alleys and private garages.

- The proposed school would add to the many weekly rentals, programs, and activities sponsored by non-synagogue entities.

BZA
Case No. 16556
Exhibit No. 56

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16556
EXHIBIT NO.56

In addition, the proposed operation of a private school for 215 students and 32 teachers and staff at the two locations is likely to create parking problems for the adjoining and nearby property owners.

- On-site parking space is extremely limited at both synagogues. Currently, there are lined spaces for 7 cars at Tiffereth Israel (and currently cars utilizing these spaces partially block the alley) and 18 cars at Ohev Sholom. I have serious reservations about the plan to reconfigure the existing spaces so that JPDS would have the number of on-site parking spaces required under 11 D.M.C.R Section 2101.1 – two spaces for each three teachers and other employees.

- There is no space to create on-site parking spaces for parents and others who will regularly visit the school. Parents, daily volunteers and visitors can be expected to park on Jonquil and Juniper Streets, thereby adversely impacting adjoining and nearby property owners. This daily influx of visitors to the synagogue would create a continual absence of parking spaces for senior residents to have access to their homes.

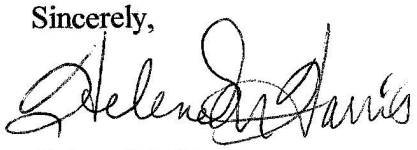
Further, the operation of a private school for 215 students and 32 teachers in close proximity to residential property is certain to cause other objectionable conditions, including increased noise and litter.

- The queues that are likely to result in the alleys adjoining streets would interfere with trash collection as well.

- The planned reconfiguration of the parking spaces at both synagogues will impact their ability to dispose of and have collected the trash and garbage generated by 247 additional people each day, thereby increasing the risk of rodent infestation.

I respectfully request the right to appear and participate as a party at the hearing of this matter, which is scheduled for March 15, 2000. Unless circumstances change due to the actions of JPDS, I will not be represented by counsel.

Sincerely,



Helene M. Harris
1443 Juniper Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20012