FEB 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

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:

We, Raymond and Barbara Bailey, are the resident owners of property at 1448 Juniper Street, NW, which is within 200 feet of the property involved in BZA application No. 16556. We are parents of Bianca Bailey age 15; Jason Bailey age 12; and our youngest, Aliana Bailey age 8, who walks to Shepherd Elementary daily. 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 our residential neighborhood. JPDS proposes to locate its school at two synagogues on 16th Street, NW -- Ohev Sholom at 7712 16th Street (zoned R-1-A) and Tiffereth Israel at 7701 16th Street (zoned R-1-B). **This letter is to strenuously oppose the subject application.**

Despite arguments to the contrary, our opposition has nothing to do with religion, curriculum, culture or a lack of support for expanding educational opportunities. In fact, our strong opposition to this application is solely as resident property owners who are entitled to the **quiet and safe** enjoyment of property for which we pay a high premium in taxes, and most importantly as parents of small children who sought a safe community in which to raise them. Our children and many other families will be directly affected by the decisions you will make regarding this application. Our move to Juniper Street was with the full knowledge of the synagogue and activities they sponsor. We accepted these realities and the inconveniences that result because in 1985 they did not present an undue hardship on us. However, this proposed new zoning, if approved, will present an undue hardship in a community that already shoulders the full weight of activities sponsored by the synagogue.

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 our residential neighborhood and compound existing traffic congestion from the current activities at Tiffereth Israel - conditions which we have direct negative experience over the years. In particular Tiffereth Israel at 7701 16th Street has no driveway to accommodate carpools and few parking spaces (less than 7 spaces that when in use the vehicle owners block the alley) to run a school. There is no driveway, parking lot or other significant space other than the public streets and alleys that would allow the proposed private school to run carpools and make needed deliveries. These realities will have an adverse impact on the immediate and surrounding residential communities.

BZA
Case No. 16556
Exhibit No. 57

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16556
EXHIBIT NO.57

- There is no space to create on-site parking spaces for parents and others who will regularly visit the school. Parents and visitors can be expected to park on Jonquil and Juniper Streets, thereby adversely impacting adjoining and nearby property owners.

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.

- 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.

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.

As parents, homeowners and taxpaying residents of the District of Columbia, we rely on you to safeguard our fundamental right to the quiet and safe enjoyment of our property. We urge you to oppose this exception to zoning. We 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, counsel will not represent us.

Sincerely,

Raymond and Barbara Bailey