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OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

March 28, 2000

Ms. Sheila Cross Reid
Chairperson
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 - 4th Street, N.W.
Room 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: BZA Application No. 16559
(Field School - Special Exception Request under Sec. 209 of the Zoning Regulations)

Dear Chairperson Reid and Members of the Board:

For the past thirteen years, we have lived in the 4400 block of W Street, N.W. with the Cafritz Estate running along our back yard fence and our only access to Foxhall Road at the top of W Street where stop signs are in place for motorists on either side of W Street, but no light or stop for Foxhall traffic. (The stop sign at W Street currently has been knocked down and has been lying on the ground for months.) During the time we have lived here, we have witnessed or been made aware of numerous accidents, some very tragic, at the intersection of W and Foxhall as well as farther up Foxhall toward Dexter Street. The narrow country style road that is Foxhall has become a racetrack and thoroughfare every morning for thousands of commuters from the District and Maryland traveling into the District, and, now it appears, ever increasingly across Key Bridge into Virginia as the commercial area there is rapidly expanding.

Foxhall Road is also notoriously dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclers since it is only wide enough for two automobiles and has no sidewalks for the majority of the roadway. When our daughter attended elementary school at Saint Patrick's, we quickly had to give up attempting to walk the short distance due to the dangerous traffic situation, and would under no circumstances have allowed her to walk alone and certainly she could never bicycle on Foxhall Road.

When George Washington. University took over operations at Mount Vernon, I wrote the President, Stephen Trachtenberg, to enlist his support for safe access onto Foxhall for those of us on W Street. The volume of traffic has continued to grow with the expanding activities of the schools, car pool line and commuters – with no relief. We never see any traffic patrol on the road with the exception of an occasional officer giving speeding tickets on weekends.

BZA
Case No. 16559
Exhibit No. 350

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16559
EXHIBIT NO.350

I have also written in the past to Mayor Williams asking for better traffic control at the intersection of Foxhall and MacArthur and Canal. This traffic builds up in the morning past Reservoir Road. In the afternoon there is congestion both ways and a car pool line into St. Patrick's packing onto Foxhall.

To entertain any exception to the existing zoning which would allow more density, more traffic and more car pools on this narrow, dangerously sloped road is not responsible. Children at the school, especially teenagers, would be drawn down the road on foot to venture into Georgetown – no matter what precautions the school attempts to make and would be placing them in harms way.

I question whether the city has undertaken adequate traffic studies in order to make an informed and intelligent decision on this matter. Given our experience with the lack of attention to the traffic and pedestrian problems these past thirteen years, I sincerely doubt it. I would urge you to have your own comprehensive studies done before making your decision.

Sincerely,

Ted Stevens

cc: Mayor Williams