February 24, 2000

Re: Case No. 16559

Ms. Jerrily R. Kress, Director
The Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW., Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Ms. Kress:

This letter is to convey my opposition to the above-referenced application of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation/The Field School for a special exception to establish a private school for a maximum of 320 students and 74 faculty and staff in the R-1-A District at the premises 2301 Foxhall Road, NW.

The proposed use would create extreme vehicular congestion, unsafe neighborhood streets and commuter thoroughfares, and permanent environment impacts, including the possibility of flooding, that would seriously diminish the quality of the environment, reduce the level of service of adjacent neighborhood streets, inflict property damage, and render the Foxhall Road artery impassable in rush hour.

Traffic on Foxhall Road is already seriously congested. In the vicinity of the proposed site, the roadway is narrow and curving, causing frequent car accidents, including the fatality of a neighbor's son. Nor is there a sidewalk or other safe egress for students who would wish to walk to the school.

The roadway is insufficient to accommodate the estimated 320 vehicular turns, a conservative figure put forth by the Field School, into and out of the proposed school, twice each day. The estimate does not take into account midday trips for doctor visits, field trips, lunch, and errands by the school population, and that there are already six other schools, a museum, and embassies challenging the traffic capacity of a two-lane road. Although the school's traffic consultant, Gorove/Slade Associates, performed manual turning counts, concluding that: "traffic levels which can be accommodated by the public street system without adverse impacts," these counts were conducted during the Spring break/ Easter period, March 11 and April 6, 1999, when traffic congestion was well below its normal peak. Any traffic solution short of eliminating these additional vehicles on Foxhall Road in rush hour is unacceptable.

Furthermore, the plans filed with the BZA entail major disturbances to the land and the natural watershed, and underground natural aquifers. No flood control expert has informed the community on how drainage and underground water would be controlled once the property's significant slope is paved for planned parking lots and side buildings. Residences on W Street could be subject both to flooding and hazardous fumes from idling vehicles in car pool queues.

For the above stated reasons, I urge rejection of this application.

Sincerely,

Ellen J. Kolansky

Ellen J. Kolansky
4411 W. Street, N.W.

cc: Katherine Patterson
Council of the District of Columbia

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OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BZA
Case No. 16559
Exhibit No. 38

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16559
EXHIBIT NO.38