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Ms Jerrily R. Kress, Director
The Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

'00 APR 14 P3:58
OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Re Case no. 16559

Dear Ms. Kress:

I live on King Place, near Foxhall Road and the proposed Field School development on the Cafritz estate. I have also attended two meetings on the school.

My impression was that there was near unanimous approval of the Field School proposal, except for the traffic problems that it would/might create. There seemed to be four traffic problems. First, the people on 44th Street did not want an access to the Field School from their street. Second, many people who use Foxhall as a throughway to get in or out of Washington worry about the increased traffic especially traffic that would be stopping to enter the Field School. Third, if to alleviate traffic congestion on Foxhall Road, left turns into the Field School were prohibited it would force traffic onto the side roads making them congested, especially W Street. Fourth, it was generally accepted turns from Foxhall Road would be dangerous.

Any development of the Cafritz site will lead to increased traffic, so in my view the traffic issue should be resolved by traffic experts reviewing the Field School options with two instructions. First and foremost, how can entrance to the Field School be most safely designed so as to ensure student safety. Second, how can the resulting safety design best distribute the inconvenience among the neighbors.

I am not a traffic expert, so I will not attempt to solve the experts problem. But two factors could help them.

First, the school could review carefully who can drive to school. There could be a prohibition on students driving to school or only for honor students. There could be a real effort to force the faculty into car pools or at least a limit on their parking on the school grounds. This could be a condition of approval with the school's plans to be reviewed by a neighborhood council.

Second, the use of 44th Street access should be reviewed. 44th Street has a sidewalk, little traffic and buildings only on

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one side. The experts should consider whether access via 44th Street is not the safest solution even though it would result in a expansion of traffic on that now very quiet street. The Field School's use of 44th Street would end that being in effect a private drive for its few abutters, but I do not see why their inconvenience should be shifted to the whole neighborhood. It may, after consideration, not be the best solution, but it should be an option to be considered in the search for the best solution from a traffic safety point of view.

I hope these views are of some use to you in your consideration of the Field's Schools proposals.

Sincerely,

Charles Higginson

Charles Higginson

cc: Katherine Patterson
Council of the District of Columbia
441 Fourth Street, N.W.
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