Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3-D
P.O. Box 40846
Palisades Station
Washington, D.C. 20016

September 13, 2001

16559

Mr. Michael Johnson, Chair
Zoning Commission

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
RECEIVED
2001 SEP 14 P 4:13

Re: Construction and planned devastation of trees along southern side of property of Field School

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 5, 2001. Proper notice was given of this meeting in a local newspaper and by posting signs throughout the neighborhood.

Several immediate neighbors of the Field School brought to our attention the fact that although the Field School had promised to preserve trees along the southern border; they no longer are planning to live up to their agreement. May I refer you to Page 15 paragraph 56 of the BZA findings which states: Given the large size of the property, its steep slope, the design of structures to follow the terrain, the lighting plan and the landscape plan, including the substantial buffer along the southern property line, the proposed private school would not result in a significant visual intrusion for neighboring property owners."

For the past two years, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D has closely watched the purchase of the Cafritz Property by the Field School, its proposed plans for development and its promised agreements to meet with the neighbors on a regular basis to discuss construction activities for the following months. (See # 7 of Resolution attached to 4/24/00 letter to BZA).

ANC3D had originally opposed the construction and development proposed by the Field School (see our letter dated 3/14/00). The Field School then came before us again with modified plans that the Commission approved the attached Resolution, which supported the Field School's application subject to conditions shown on the Resolution.

BZA
Case No. 16559
Exhibit No. 488

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16559
EXHIBIT NO.488

The Commission was therefore dismayed to learn on September 5, that the School intends to destroy 13 mature evergreen trees that are located on the southern side of the property, which now screens neighborhood residences from the School. The drawings, which we were shown last year at two of our meetings, clearly indicated that these trees would be preserved. If we had been aware that there would have been any doubt about

The preservation of these trees, we certainly would have included this as a condition in our resolution concerning the Field school.

We feel that Field School has not lived up to their agreement with the neighbors and with the ANC3D or the BZA order. Not only do they provide shade, privacy and beauty they also prevent the serious and very real threat of a terrible erosion problem.
We ask that the Zoning Commission give great weight to our request that the Field School follow the direction of the BZA Order #16559.

Thank you..

Sincerely

Eleanor Roberts Lewis
Chair, ANC3D

Cc: BZA