Ms. Jerrily R. Kress, Director
The Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW, # 210
Washington, D.C. 20001 RE: Case No. 16559

5 March 2000

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF ZONING
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Dear Ms. Kress:

The proposed Cafritz Foundation/Field School project in the R-1-A district at 2301 Foxhall Road, NW will have a severely adverse impact on the neighborhood by increasing the already congested traffic conditions on Foxhall Road and its side streets, especially during commuter hours. If anything, the traffic survey performed by the school underestimated impact as it was taken during the atypically light traffic conditions of spring break 1999. Further, traffic congestion will only increase as all of the several schools and institutions now expanding reach full operating capacities.

There are simply too few arteries in this residential area serving too many users at key periods each day. Why compound the problem and bring the congestion of the suburbs into the city? The MacArthur, Foxhall, and Reservoir arteries offer the only way for residents here to go into the City. How many schools -- all of which involve extensive twice-daily automobile delievery and pickup -- should one neighborhood be expected to absorb? Twice daily line-ups for dropping off and picking up students will result in damaging fumes from idling cars -- a problem inherent in the nature of the institution. A school is not the best type of institution for that site.

We are also concerned about the adverse impact of proposed construction on the watershed and environment of the adjacent park. Park planners in the District have always tried to protect the valley areas from development on the heights above. These longstanding values should be honored in any project allowed to proceed along Foxhall.

A final thought. There is some possible mitigation to institutional development of the site through relatively modest road construction proposed on earlier street maps of the District. The 2301 property could be accessed from 44th Street. That approach should be required before approval is granted to any proposal that would generate increased traffic to the site. Traffic would be directed toward the streets north and east of the school rather than those to the south and west which are already bearing the brunt of increased institutional development in the neighborhood.

Under no circumstances should the city allow a project that will increase pressure on Foxhall, W, and adjacent streets. We urge you reject the proposal for a school on the site.

Sincerely,

Douglas E. Evelyn Martha M Evelyn
2318 King Place, NW
Wash. DC 20007

cc: Katherine Patterson
DC City Council

BZA
Case No. 16559
Exhibit No. 63
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16559
EXHIBIT NO.63