5829 Chevy Chase Parkway, N.W.
Washington, DC 20015

March 7, 2000

Board of Zoning Adjustment
Government of the District of Columbia
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Application No. 16561

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board:

This is a supplement to my letter of March 1 to note two points for the record.

First, objectionable nighttime noise from the multipurpose room/gym of the Roach Center on the parish's site is a problem for all of the residences in the immediate vicinity of the site, as is reflected in the written petitions submitted separately to the Board (copies enclosed).

Second, the Pastor of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament and I have discussed the nighttime noise problem in a meeting he and I have had and by way an exchange of letters, copies of which are enclosed. Msgr. Duffy is sensitive to the problem, as you can see in his letter of February 25. Both I and other neighbors sincerely appreciate his understanding of the problem and his good will.

I am confident that an effective solution can be found. At the same time, I am equally confident that the Board of Zoning Adjustment can play a key role by requiring the parish and its architect to effectively address and solve the problem.

Again, I urge the Board to set such a requirment as a condition for approval of the request for a special exception.

Sincerely,

Clay H. Wellborn

Encl.

cc:
The Reverend Monsignor Thomas M. Duffy
Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament

'00 MAR -8 P12:45
OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BZA
Case No. 16561
Exhibit No. 29

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16561
EXHIBIT NO.29

5829 Chevy Chase Parkway, N.W.
Washington, DC 20015

'00 MAR -8 P12:45
OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

February 11, 2000

The Reverend Monsignor Thomas Duffy
Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament
6001 Western Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20015-2423

Dear Monsignor Duffy:

This is a follow-up to our conversation when you came to my house to discuss the plans for your $8 million renovation and rebuilding of parish facilities. First, my thanks for your visit, which I very much appreciate. Second, I would like to reiterate my most serious concern about the lack of adequate sound proofing of the multipurpose room in the Msgr. Roach building of the parish school. I strongly urge you to use this opportunity to applying a portion of the $8 million to correct the neighborhood noise pollution problem.

The information submitted to the DC zoning board before the extension to the parish school was built calls the noisy space a "multipurpose room." In fact, it is used as a gymnasium and as a large hall for musical and social events, and for Masses on Sundays. Noise that excapes from the room is varied: loud electric horns and buzzers, police whistles used by basketball referees, the thump of basketballs on the floor, ear-splitting electrically amplified rock music, the electrically amplified voices of disk jockeys and announcers, as well as the normal noises of large groups of people.

The windows of the multipurpose room/gymnasium, if all are kept tightly closed attenuate the noise of normal, unamplified human conversation. But-as you know-they are entirely inadequate to contain any of the other intense, artificially amplified noises.

You said that you would discuss the problem with your architect. I would be happy to make myself available to you and to him to review the dimensions of the problem and to explore ways this truly serious negative neighborhood impact could be corrected.

I would also appreciate his exploring alternate ways that access for delivery and trash collection trucks might be provided so as to reduce their disproportionate impact on my residence.

Sincerely,

Clay H. Wellborn

BZA
Case No. 16561
Exhibit No. ____

SHRINE OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT
6001 WESTERN AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20015-2423
(202) 966-6575

February 25, 2000

Dear Mr. Wellborn,

This is to acknowledge your thoughtful letter of February 11.

This past Tuesday I met with the architect and the project manager of the building program. They are going to look over your letter, and they will explore possibilities of lessening noise from the gym. I realize that the very nature of the activities in the gym sometimes makes for a considerable amount of noise. After they have had a chance to explore the situation, I will get back in touch with you.

As to the access for delivery and trash collection trucks, as well as the drop-offs of the children, we are again exploring the situation. The traffic pattern is being studied by a committee. Again, I will be back in touch with you.

Please give my warm regards to Mrs. Wellborn.

Sincerely,

Father Duffy

Rev. Msgr. Thomas M. Duffy
Pastor

Mr. Clay H. Wellborn
5829 Chevy Chase Parkway, NW
Washington, DC 20015

'00 MAR -8 P12:45
OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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