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March 9, 2001

Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW Room 210
Washington, DC 20001
BZA case number: 16611, proposed Edmund Burke School Expansion

Dear Board Members::

I am writing in support of the Edmund Burke School's application for a zoning variance. I am a 27 year resident of the District (mostly and currently in Ward 3) and my children have attended both DC public schools and Edmund Burke. My youngest child still attends Edmund Burke.

Several neighbors of the school are opposed to its request for a variance. From what I have seen posted on signs in neighbors' front yards the thrust of the opposition is that "Their traffic is strangling our streets." Burke has been on Upton Street for 27 years; many of the neighbors have not. What did they expect when they bought their homes? A school spawns traffic during certain hours. For that matter, so do major cities. The Upton Street traffic situation pales in comparison to the Dupont Circle area I lived in 25 years ago when I would drive around for 20 minutes or more trying to find a parking place at night.

Burke officials have listened to the neighbors and responded to their concerns. The proposed new facility will provide off-street parking for teachers and students, almost tripling current parking spaces. Most of drop-off and pick-up will shift off of Upton Street. Metro usage and car-pooling have been encouraged. Burke has already implemented the use of off-duty police officers to direct morning and afternoon traffic at the school, a costly undertaking. Students and faculty have been prohibited from parking on restricted sections of Upton Street. This has not been a deaf ear response to concerns that were hardly voiced when the Levine School of Music or the Howard University Law School moved to the neighborhood, but a positive, neighborly action on the school's part to remain what it has been for 27 years - a good neighbor.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Berry

BZA
Case No. 16611
Exhibit No. 124

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16611
EXHIBIT NO.124