RECEIVED
D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2001 MAR 12 PM 12:01

March 8, 2001

District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment
Washington, DC 20001
RE: BZA Application Case No. 16611; Proposed Edmund Burke School Expansion

To whom it may concern:

We are writing to support the planned enhancement of the Edmund Burke School. As a DC resident for more than 20 years, I think that it is critical for the city to continue to provide incentives for young families to move back into the city. Schools such as Burke which serve the community and actively seek a diverse student body are an essential ingredient to the future success of the District.

David Shapiro, the head of the Burke School, is committed to maintaining good relations with the community. His students have worked in homeless shelters , sponsored food drives, and helped in the clean up of the C&O Canal and Rock Creek Park, among other initiatives. Mr. Shapiro has invited Washingtonians from all parts of our community to share their experiences with his students. Burke holds a unique and truly important place in the Washington community. It provides a critical service---educating our young people. The planned addition will include a much-needed new library and better class rooms for students.

In an effort to improve relations with the neighborhood and mitigate traffic congestion, Mr. Shapiro has hired off-duty DC police officers to direct traffic and has rented off-site parking spaces for school vehicles. Since these initiatives have been in place, there have been no traffic problems in the neighborhood.

It's time now for the neighbors to extend an olive branch, to recognize the value of having Burke as its neighbor—after all, Burke has been in the neighborhood for 27 years—much longer than the majority of the neighbors themselves.

Sincerely yours,

Susan Cooper

Tom Duesterberg

cc. Councilmember Kathy Patterson

BZA
Case No. 16611
Exhibit No. 125

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16611
EXHIBIT NO.125