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THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Department of English
Washington, D.C. 20064
202-319-5488
Fax 202-319-4188

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March 9, 2001

District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th St., N. W., Room 210
Washington DC 20001

Re: BZE Case # 16611 (Proposed Expansion of Edmund Burke School)

Dear Board Members,

As a resident in Ward 3 since 1980, and a friend of the Edmund Burke School, I am writing to support Burke's application for a zoning variance to enable expansion of their facilities, a matter which will soon be coming to the attention of the Board.

My daughter Nora graduated from Burke in 1999. Like many Burke students, she was a scholarship student, a point I make not to boast but simply to underscore the attention Burke gives to ensuring that students of high caliber will be able to afford attendance; my daughter had a vastly greater experience of diversity there than she would have had in most other independent schools. For Burke is a "city school," without a campus.

Or, rather, the city is its campus. Inevitably this means that Burke students have an impact on their neighborhood, though compared to many other schools, Burke is much less disruptive. And if Burke is to continue to play its part in the educational life of Washington, it has to expand, and its plans are sensitive to the needs of the surrounding community. Of course there are significant concerns about parking (though a great many Burke students commute by Metro); in fact, however, the expansion plans call for much more off-street parking than the school has at present. Some neighbors are also apparently concerned about noise and disruption; but I venture to say that the enlarged facilities will keep many more of the students indoors than occurs at present during lunchtimes, for instance, since the building now lacks a lunchroom or cafeteria.

I hope you will approve Burke's expansion plans. Thanks for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Mahony
4808 Brandywine St. NW
Washington DC 20016
mahony@cua.edu

BZA
Case No. 16611
Exhibit No. 126

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16611
EXHIBIT NO.126