Deborah E. McFarland
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Washington, DC 20016

March 15, 2001

Board of Zoning Adjustment
of the District of Columbia
441 Fourth St., NW
Room 210
Washington, DC 20001

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
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re: BZA Application No. 16611
Proposed Edmund Burke School Expansion

Dear Friends:

With great pleasure I wish to support strongly the application of the Edmund Burke School for a proposed expansion. Quite simply, I support and applaud Burke's effort to provide better facilities for its students while reducing the parking and traffic conditions in the neighborhood. And, let us be clear, that is the effect of this application -- better facilities for students and better parking and traffic for the neighborhood.

Burke's proposal will, first of all, reduce parking and traffic problems. Parking will be provided on-site and drop-off and pick-up will be moved away from the front door on Upton and also will be on-site. The school will continue to encourage the use of Metro by using benefit incentives and will also continue prohibiting faculty and students from parking in specific sections of Upton and Tilden Streets. Burke has already hired off duty Metropolitan Police to direct traffic during the drop-off and pick-up hours at a significant cost (over $20,000/year) and has secured off-site parking for its activities vans ($3,600/year). In the 27 years that The Edmund Burke School has been located at 2955 Upton, there have undoubtedly been difficulties with traffic and parking. One would expect that responsible neighbors who have been negatively impacted in the past would be delighted with this current plan. Indeed, some are. A number of neighbors have continued to work with the school as its plans have been refined, assuring an outcome advantageous to all. The Burke proposal offers a positive advance, a genuine improvement, over the current parking and traffic conditions with which the school and the neighborhood have lived over the past 27 years.

BZA
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Aside from the parking and traffic issues, Burke is just the type of school that this city should be supporting and celebrating. Burke, after all, has a tremendous commitment to Washington and its citizenry. It probably has the

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most extensive community service program of any school, having an on-going service relationship with over 50 service sites for the elderly, working poor, homeless, under served youth, disabled, and many others. Burke provides over $600,000 in financial aid to more than 22% of its students annually and enrolls over 20% students of color. It is just such schools that encourage families to remain in or move to our city by providing needed educational opportunities. Just as Burke keeps families in the city, I suggest that we should be doing all in our power to keep such schools as Burke in Washington, making needed facilities possible when the school has presented a rational and reasonable proposal, as is this application.

I encourage you to approve the Burke application. I encourage you to support this vital institution and valuable city asset which has presented a responsible proposal that will alleviate parking and traffic issues which have effected the neighborhood for at least 27 years. This is an opportunity I hope you will not pass by.

Sincerely,

Deborah E. McFarland

Deborah E. McFarland

cc: Hon. Kathy Patterson
Council of the District of Columbia
441 4th Street, NW
Room 709
Washington, DC 20001

Edmund Burke School
2955 Upton St., NW
Washington, DC 20008