ALFRED L. GOLDSON, M.D.
AMY R. GOLDSON
4015 28th PLACE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20008

March 29, 2001

RECEIVED
D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2001 MAR 30 PM 1:03

District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, NW Room 210
Washington, DC 20001

RE: BZA Application Case no. 16611: Proposed Edmund Burke School Expansion

Dear Board Members:

I am writing in support of the Edmund Burke School's (EBS) application for a variance. I have been a resident of the District of Columbia for 27 years. I live one block from Burke. My daughter is presently a student in the 6th grade at Edmund Burke.

EBS is the kind of school that this City needs. It is diverse, nurturing, on a metro line and most importantly, it provides educational opportunity within the City. As a parent who has just assisted a rising 9th grader through the highschool application process, there is not an abundance of private schools in D.C. The private school admissions process is tough and I am therefore glad to have Burke in my neighborhood.

The traffic and congestion added by Burke's presence is minor and indeed the expansion will improve traffic flow. The flow of traffic during drop off and pick up has always been well-managed from my perspective as an immediate neighbor.

I recall when my neighbors also made a big fuss about Howard University Law School and Levine School. This neighborhood is far better off with these institutions of learning in our community. Each has successfully endeavored to control traffic and congestion and there is no reason to stop EBS' progress. EBS needs to grow and this growth deserves our support for the overall good of education in our City. Moreover, the EBS students are ages 12-18. Many are able to use public transportation. The proximity of EBS to Connecticut Avenue makes it ideal as a learning institution in D.C.

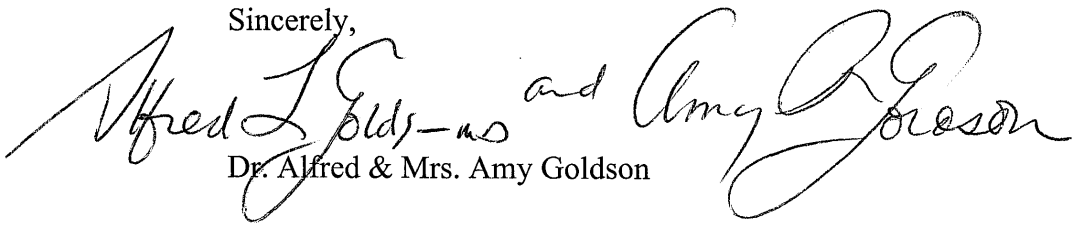
Progress always brings with it some concessions and the inconvenience that will result from new construction at EBS is outweighed by the benefits to our community. I am directly impacted since I reside one block over from Upton. However, I am delighted and hopeful that EBS has chosen to not only remain in our neighborhood but will improve the facility.

BZA
Case No. 16611
Exhibit No. 135

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16611
EXHIBIT NO.135

Our efforts should be directed to assisting Burke in its expansion efforts.

Sincerely,



Dr. Alfred & Mrs. Amy Goldson

cc: Councilmember - Kathy Patterson
Linda Cropp
Harold Brazil
Phil Mendelson
Carol Schwartz
David Catania
Edmund Burke School

P.S. We had been very supportive and involved with D.C. Public Schools until they did not open, as scheduled, 2 years in a row. As a result, we placed our daughters in private schools. We consider that it is a necessity for this City to facilitate the growth and viability of private schools in the District. If good private schools were not available in D.C., we would have no choice but to move to the suburbs.