March 20, 2001

Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W., Room 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

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BZA Case Number 16611, proposed Edmund Burke school expansion

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to ask your support for the Edmund Burke School's application for expansion. I am a resident of Ward 3, have one son at Burke presently and a second son who will attend in the fall.

Burke is an outstanding school and a valuable community resource. The high quality education it provides encourages many like myself to stay in the District. The school's programs encourage students to participate in their community, and instill in them a life-long ethic of service.

We know that many in the neighborhood oppose Burke's expansion. But it's worth noting that Burke has engaged in an ongoing dialogue with the neighborhood to address residents' concerns, and has done so. The green space to the east of the school will be maintained. Underground and other off-site parking will be provided and steps already have been taken to encourage increased Metro use by students and faculty. The focus of the expansion will be on Connecticut Avenue, and is likely to reduce congestion on Upton Street, not increase it.

I live in the Tenleytown area, little more than a block from the Georgetown Day high school campus. When that school was first proposed, I recall the vehement outcry of many in the neighborhood and fears that the school would prove a disruptive presence. Exactly the opposite has happened. GDS has proven to be a good and relatively unobtrusive neighbor. The school is an asset, not a problem.

While every project is unique, I have every confidence that Burke's expansion will not diminish the quality of life in its neighborhood. The expansion will move the focal point of activity to Connecticut Avenue. It hardly seems reasonable to argue that a modest, well-designed expansion of Edmund Burke will have a significant negative impact on an urban neighborhood located within steps of one of the busiest commercial corridors in the District.

This expansion will allow Burke to better fulfill its mission for its students, families, and its community. I urge you to approve its proposal.

Sincerely,

Michael McCarry
4315 Ellicott St. NW
Washington, DC 20016

BZA
Case No. 16611
Exhibit No. 142

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16611
EXHIBIT NO.142