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D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
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Board of Zoning Adjustments
441 Fourth Street, N.W., Suite 210-S
Wash DC 20001

Re: Application #16611, Edmund Burke School

Dear Members of the Board:

I have lived in the DC metropolitan area— downtown DC and Takoma Park, Maryland—for twenty-six years. My husband and I have three children and we have operated a small business in these same locations during this period as well.

I write to support Edmund Burke's current school plan for the following reasons:

> The current plan moves the majority of Burke school traffic to Connecticut and off of Upton. This will alleviate long-held traffic issues for parents, students and faculty of Burke and families who live on Upton.
>
> Burke promotes its DC location with great pride, but the ability to offer an excellent academic and physical education program is essential to its success as a business. The additional space for Burke will make it possible for Burke to have an enhanced program in an increasingly competitive private school environment.
>
> The building proposed by Burke will replace run-down properties with a beautiful building and more attractive landscaping and will enhance the neighborhood for all of us.

I would also urge this Commission to consider how the District might improve the process for zoning changes in the future. The current process, (perhaps the ANC component) has encouraged a handful of residents to engage in aggressively offensive behavior, frequently directed at young children, that I believe no person on your Commission would want aimed at a member of your own family. For me, it has felt dishearteningly mean-spirited and divisive. I believe all three of my children will leave Burke with a distorted sense of how a neighborhood and the District deals with change, the unfortunate impression that Upton Street residents actively dislike Burke students, and the sensibility that a lack of civility is an acceptable and effective tool when there are differences of opinion .

We all need a community where people can discuss change without encouraging the most extreme, and often least civil, participants to take over the dialogue.

Thank you.

Terry Clifford

BZA
Case No. 15827
Exhibit No. 16611

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16611
EXHIBIT NO.158

05/15/01 10:39 FAX