TESTIMONY OF VIRGINIA WORTHINGTON
EDMUND BURKE SCHOOL
BZA NO.16611

Rec'd.
JUL 10 2001

I, Virginia Worthington, live at 2830 Upton St. N.W., directly across from the Howard playing field. I am speaking in opposition to the proposed expansion of the Burke School, and I agree with all of the objections that have been already presented.

I would like to speak about three things that are troublesome to people on my part of Upton Street. These are safety, noise and parking. The first of these is traffic and pedestrian safety. Burke students and students from other schools, who are attending Burke functions, often walk down the street using the roadway since there is no sidewalk on the north side of the street. There is a blind curve on the street that makes this situation particularly dangerous. Another cause for concern is that the Burke students who drive are young, inexperienced drivers in a difficult driving situation. There have already been accidents on Upton Street involving young student drivers, and no one wants more of them.

A second issue is noise. I live across the street from the Howard playing field used for Burke gym classes. I and both of my immediate neighbors work out of our homes. The students make a considerable amount of noise and generate a certain amount of offensive language that can be heard from inside the house. More students means more of this.

The third issue is parking. There is some Burke-related parking on our block during weekdays. But, It is the evening and weekend events that are really killing us. Burke makes a significant contribution to this problem. It is hard to see how the proposed garage would alleviate the current conditions. In today's world, mother could be coming from one direction in her car; father from another in a second car; and junior, himself, may have driven to school so that one child

BZA
Case No. 16611
Exhibit No. 188

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16611
EXHIBIT NO.188

could generate three cars. Also older children from other schools drive themselves to basketball games and other after-school events. Furthermore, a parent may find the proposed lot too cramped for the family SUV and opt for street parking. Both the limited number of spaces and the design of the lot make us feel that the proposed addition with the increased number of students will make our parking situation worse.

In addition, at the present time, there are 3 schools, 3 embassies, a museum, the art barn and several apartment buildings that contribute to our evening and weekend parking problems. There is another large apartment building under construction one block away on Tilden Street. The number of events has increased dramatically in the past 5 years. Several institutions sometimes have events at the same time. I should add that we are not notified of these events. As a consequence, it is hard to invite a few guests over and know that there will be any parking available.

For these reasons and those already presented, I oppose the proposed expansion of the Burke School.