SUSAN B BENTON

2926 UPTON STREET, NW · WASHINGTON, DC 20008

Government of the District of the Columbia
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20001

'00 OCT 10 P3:03
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Request for Party Status
Regarding Application Number 16611
(Burke School Expansion – Workman, Straka and Richmond)

BZA
Case No. 16611
Exhibit No. 36

The information as required by 11 DCMR 3106.2:

Susan Benton
2926 Upton Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008
202.364.7389

- I hereby request to appear and participate as a party of Application Number 16611.
- I will appear as an opponent of the application.
- I will appear on my own behalf.

Written Statement for Party Status

The property that is affected is my residence 2926 Upton Street, NW.

I am the homeowner.

My property is approximately 140 feet from the school and the property that is the subject of the application before the Board. My home is east of the school.

Impacts

Increased traffic congestion and safety concerns. The Burke School expansion will provide significant traffic congestion on Upton Street and the streets and alleys that immediately surround the school. This is a small neighborhood which is tightly defined by Connecticut Avenue, Tilden Street, and Rock Creek Park. Upton Street is already overwhelmed by traffic traveling to and from four major institutions within the neighborhood -- the Howard University Law School, the Levine School of Music, the Hillwood Museum and the Embassy of the Netherlands. Cars, vans and buses clog the street currently, and it is not unusual to see vehicles traveling in excess of the speed limit.

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16611
EXHIBIT NO.36

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#36

Additionally, the public alley next to the school is used by many residents on Upton Street, and most importantly it is the only form of egress for six residence that are east of the school on the north side of Upton Street. The parking garages for these residences are located in a dead-end alley.

Increased parking congestion. The majority of homes on the south side of Upton Street use the street for parking. The school's students, administration and teachers use the street for parking. During the school's academic year, it is often impossible for residents to find parking on their street. This will only become more acute should expansion occur.

Increased Noise. Burke's expansion will significantly increase the noise in our residential neighborhood. We are not a 'high density' neighborhood as stated by the school in their expansion documents. The school expansion also forecasts a greater noise level in the evening.

Environmental. The Burke expansion plan calls for the grading and removal of approximately 4,000 square feet of green space to create a side yard for parking and car queuing. This is a threat to mature trees that are not on the school's property, including a giant oak tree on a City right-of-way that adds shade and environmental benefits to the street. Of serious concern, the side yard abuts an Upton Street home. There is a shared mature tree on the property line and the owner has not given permission for the tree's removal to create the parking and side yard.

Additionally, traffic queuing by cars, vans, and buses add significant air pollution to the street.

Other Relevant Matters. The Burke School operates under direction violation of the 1983 BZA today. There is little confidence that the school will act as a good neighbor in the future.

Please provide me with confirmation regarding my status as a Party in the above referenced case. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Susan B Benton

Weisman, Julie

From: Walter_Ailes@eburke.org
Sent: Friday, October 06, 2000 10:54 AM
To: JAWeisman@SWIDLAW.com
Subject: BZA rescheduled

Dear Julie,

An update on the BZA schedule. As of yesterday, I was told that the BZA has postponed our case until Nov. 15 at 1:00pm. This was done in response to the concern about the amount of time the neighborhood has to respond to our application. Hopefully, this allows time for the community to find common ground with Burke. I have not heard any particulars from the neighbors since I have put out the packet. If there is work to be done, I now imagine that will happen after the Oct. 11 meeting and prior to the Nov. 15 BZA hearing. Hope all is well.