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OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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

BZA Application Number: 16611

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to strongly support the application of Edmund Burke School for approval of a special exception for an addition to an existing private school at 2955 Upton St. N.W. pursuant to Section 206 of the zoning regulations.

Improving Edmund Burke School will help the District of Columbia because schools in general and Edmund Burke in particular improve the city in several ways. They give citizens options for education. They attract families back to D.C., thereby improving the quality of life, tax base and diversity of the city.

Burke is a good school for the city. Over several decades, the school has provided an excellent education for hundreds of children who have gone on to help the city in many ways. The school fosters a diverse student body, drawing students from various backgrounds in a mutually supportive urban learning community.

Edmund Burke also has built an admirable record of community service, by fielding its students throughout the city in projects to provide meaningful assistance to various sectors of society that have benefited from students' volunteer programs. The school's strong financial aid program allows students of varying social and economic backgrounds the opportunity to prepare for successful postsecondary careers, including achievement at our country's finest Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Edmund Burke School's mission of educating responsible and involved citizens as well as excellent scholars has produced many adults who have gone on to serve the city and the world in careers that bring credit to the school, its students and leaders, and Washington D.C. as a whole.

Current parents such as myself look forward to a more comprehensive plan that allows for a safer and less congested traffic pattern. The improvements to the school will allow for more program space for the arts and a new library for the children.

BZA
Case No. 16611
Exhibit No. 76

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16611
EXHIBIT NO.76

Washington D.C. does not function as a "gated community" where passersby on the street, tourists, motorists, schoolchildren, or the general public are excluded by the dictate of the residents. I wouldn't want to live in such an exclusionary community. As a D.C. native and a current District resident who attended the D.C. public schools and graduated from George Washington University, I have always enjoyed the fact that the streets of Washington, and its sidewalks, are open to all. Edmund Burke School has developed a responsible, effective plan to reduce traffic congestion and improve safety.

I strongly urge the Board to quickly approve Edmund Burke School's application for a special exception, because the school's plan is good for the city and makes a positive improvement in the community.

Sincerely,



Wilson P. Dizard III