2145 36th Place, S.E
Washington, D.C., 20020
December 22, 2000

Government of the District of Columbia
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210
Washington, D.C.., 20001

Re: Application Number 16657

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to Section 3106.2, I am requesting party status concerning the application of Christian Praise Church (16657) to open a child development center at 3626 Alabama Avenue, S. E. My name is Barbara B. Ashby. I am the owner of the property at 2145 36th Place, S.E. I will appear as an opponent of the application. I do not have legal counsel.

Why I feel that I should be granted party status:

1. I have had previous adverse experiences with a similar program that Christian Praise Church operated out of this same property a few years ago. (I do not know if the previous center was licensed but it was called Fun Camp (see photos). The previous center run by Christian Praise Church, provided day care as well as before and after school care for students attending Anne Beers Elementary School, which is located at Alabama Avenue and 36th Place, S.E.)

2. My property includes a garage which is on the alley directly behind the backyard of the proposed center at 3626 Alabama Avenue S.E. This alley was the entrance for the previous center run by Christian Praise Church. Parents dropped off and picked up thier children from the alley entrance.

My garage has an apron that will accomodate 3 parked cars. Parents from the previous center run by Christian Praise Curch would frequently park on my garage apron and double park in the alley. A few parents, who were in a rush, would actually put their cars in reverse and back up the alley with excessive speed because the front of the alley was blocked by other parents' cars.

When I would request that parents not block the alley or park in my driveway, they were

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frequently rude to me and I felt intimidated. On several occasions, I talked with staff at the previous center about the fact that I could not get my car out of my own garage and that if I had a life threatening emergency, I would be completely blocked in. Despite my requests for the center to solve the problems, the problems continued until the previous center closed a few years ago.

3. The proposed child development center will exacerbate existing negative traffic conditions. Our neighborhood is already congested with parents picking up and delivering children 3 times a day from Anne Beers school due to the fact that Anne Beers School has regular drop-off and pickup plus afterschool programs that end at 6:30 p.m.

The congestion caused by the Anne Beers parents is due to the fact that there is no parking in the front of the school, which is on Alabama Avenue. There are also no available parking spaces on the side of the school, which is 36th Place, S.E. Most parking spaces on 36th Place are taken up by staff and teachers from Anne Beers School.The other two sides of the school contain a playground and wooded areas, so there is no parking there.

When Anne Beers parents drop off or pick up children, they create a long line of idling cars in the middle of 36th place (the front of my house) and they also park in the alley behind Alabama Avenue, (the side of my house and the backyard area of the proposed child development center).

The proposed child development center would make those problems worse.

4. The front of 3626 Alabama Avenue, the proposed child development center, is located on a very busy, dangerous thoroughfare located on a steep, curving hill. Therefore, the previous center run by this church encouraged parents to pickup and deliver children from the alley in back of the center, which is directly across from my garage.

I have enclosed a photograph of the sign from the previous center, instructing parents to use the rear alley as an entrance to the "Fun Camp".

As stated above, the back alley pickups, caused traffic jams as well as unsafe conditions to children who live and play in the neighborhood. Use of the alley as an entrance also impeded people in the neighborhood from free access to the alley during times of pick up and drop off.

5. There is inadequate parking in the neighborhood for the 6 staff of the proposed center and for parents dropping off or picking up children. As stated earlier, most of the free parking spaces surrounding the proposed center are taken up by teachers and staff from Anne Beers School.

In conclusion, I love children and I am not opposed to child centers, but this is not the right location for such a center. This location will add to existing parking and congestion problems in my neighborhood. In addition, the proposed center would increase unsafe conditions for neighborhood children who walk and play in the alley behind the proposed center.

For me, personally, it would mean the return of the nightmarish situation that I lived a few years ago when Christian Praise Church operated a childcare center out of this same property.

Sincerely,

Barbara B. Ashby

Enclosures: Six (6) Photographs

****Additional photographs will be delivered on December 26, 2000.

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#1

Rear of

3626 Ala., Ave, S.E.

(See sign from previous Day Care Cnter "FUN CAMP ENTRANCE ⇦"



#2

Rear of 3626 Ala., Ave, S.E. Parking Area for perhaps 2 or 3 cars



#3

My garage + apron with 3 parking Spaces. Located in alley directly across from rear of 3626 Alabama Avenue.





#4
Alley in rear of proposed center and on side of my house. Anne Beers school is in the background. (Free access during non-pickup + delivery of school chdn.)
left side = my property
right side = Church property



#5
Cars of Anne Beers parents lining up after school in alley.



#6
Anne Beers' parent's car parked in alley directly behind proposed center AND in front of my garage area

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PHOTO #7
Cars parked on both sides of 36th Place during school hours. Anne Beers School



PHOTO #8
View of parked cars showing Rear of 3616 Alabama Avenue, S.E. (Proposed Child Care Site)



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ASHBY