GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Office of the Director

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Memorandum

TO: Board of Zoning Adjustment

FROM: Andrew Altman, Director
Office of Planning

DATE: February 27, 2001

SUBJECT: BZA Application #16657 (Christian Praise Church - The Power to Become Child Care Center)
3626 Alabama Avenue, S.E.

At the public hearing for BZA Application 16657, the Power to Become Child Care Center, held on January 9, 2001, the BZA requested that the Office of Planning observe and make a report concerning the traffic movements along 36th Place, Alabama Avenue, and the alley off 36th Place N.E. which are associated with the Anne Beers Elementary School.

The Ann Beers Elementary School core school hours are between 8:45 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. In addition, there are other programs operated by the school or by private entities from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The school has three entrances/exits, two along 36th Place and one along Alabama Avenue. At the intersection of 36th Place and Alabama Avenue there is a traffic light and a school crossing guard who monitors this intersection at the beginning and end of school to help students cross Alabama Avenue. Parking is allowed on both sides of 36th Place except for a "No Parking between 8:00 am and 4:00 p.m." restriction on the lower portion of 36th Place (left side only).

The requested observations took place at the following times:

- Wednesday, February 14, 2001 from 2:40 p.m.-3:45 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.-6:40 p.m.
- Thursday, February 15, 2001 from 7:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. and 2:40 p.m.-3:45 p.m.
- Friday, February 16, 2001 from 7:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.

BZA
Case No. 16657
Exhibit No. 35

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16657
EXHIBIT NO.35

Generally, at all times of observation, the traffic situations were consistent and are summarized below.

1. Students arrive and depart by Metro bus, walking or are dropped off or picked up in a private vehicle. Most of the students walk or use the Metro buses. Most students arrive between 8:30 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. and depart between 3:15 p.m. and 3:40 p.m. These are times when the traffic is most problematic.
2. In the mornings, parents who take their children drop them off along 36th Place without parking. A few parents with small children park along 36th Place and take their children into the building.
3. In the afternoons, parents start arriving at approximately 2:55 p.m. and park along 36th Place and Alabama Avenue. When the students are dismissed at 3:15 p.m. some parents went into school to pick up smaller children; other children walk out to the waiting parent.
4. Some parents park along Alabama Avenue, mostly along the area south of the 36th Place/Alabama Avenue intersection. This parking did not inhibit traffic movement along Alabama Avenue.
5. All three entrances/exits are used but the majority of students enter/exit on Alabama Avenue.
6. A large number of children awaited Metro buses going in both directions along Alabama Avenue or walked home. The smallest number of children were picked up by car.
7. With vehicular traffic stopping to pick up children, there is a slowing of traffic along 36th Place. However, it was observed that along 36th Place most of the vehicles were picking up or dropping off students and were not other pass through traffic.
8. 36th Place is back to normal by 9:00 a.m. in the morning and 3:40 p.m. in the afternoons.
9. Teachers park along 36th Place.
10. There is no parking on the school property.
11. No vehicle dropping or pick up students parked in the alley during the times of observations.

Conclusion

From our observations, traffic is at its worst along 36th Place between 8:30 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. and between 3:15 p.m. and 3:40 p.m., which are the times when most of the children arrive and leave school. These times do not coincide with the periods when most of the children will arrive and leave the proposed day care center. Therefore, the small increase in traffic generated by the day care center will not affect or make the traffic situation along 36th Place any worse.

No parking was observed along the alley. However, to preclude parking along the alley, the applicant and neighbors may want to investigate the possibility of placing "No Parking" signs at the entrance to the alley.