Military Road School Alumni Association

"Building the future on the foundation of the past"

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March 8, 2001

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
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Government of the District of Columbia
Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W. (Suite 200)
Washington, D.C. 20001

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to our attention that the Washington Hebrew Congregation has submitted an application to 11 DC MR 3104.1 353.1a Case No. BZA 16676 requesting special exception zoning to construct 13 townhouses and 29 parking spaces in the 1300 block of Missouri Avenue, N.W.

This particular piece of property is located between two very important pieces of property to the City of Washington, D.C. To the east of this lot is a Victorian style home more than a 100 years old. To the west of this lot is the historical Military Road School. This Italian Renaissance architectural style building, constructed in 1911, was designed by Snowden Ashford, the city's Municipal architect as a replacement for the original 1864 (Civil War) two-room building. The school, as indicted by its name, has a special relationship to the historic battlefield, Ft. Stevens located approximately four blocks away. In 1998, this school was designated a historic landmark in the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites by the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board and is being nominated for the National Register of Historic Places for state and local significance.

Although we are aware of the fact that the proposed development involves only one vacant lot, the construction of townhouses in this area of the community would occur between two existing structures of historical prominence. Such development would, indeed, be out of character and greatly diminish the significance of those sites. The Military Road School building, although presently unoccupied, is to be fully restored and then made serviceable to the City and especially the Ward 4 residents. We, therefore, believe that any future development of the vacant properties should be undertaken with extreme caution.

The special exception zoning being requested for this property represents commercial encroachment and historical compromise to these two properties, the Fort Stevens Battlefield and its environs, and most of all the community of Brightwood.

Therefore, we respectfully submit our opposition to the re-zoning of the property in question and ask that the Application be denied.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Tyson
Secretary

BZA
Case No. 16676
Exhibit No. 33

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16676
EXHIBIT NO.33