1900 Irving St., N.E. #202
Washington, D.C. 20018
September 4, 2001

Mrs. Sheila Cross -Reid, Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 - 4th St., N.W. #210
Washington, D.C. 20001

16723

Dear Mrs. Cross-Reid:

The enclosed letter is sent for your information regarding the application of the McKendree-Simms-Brookland church/private school.

Members of the community will be at the hearing on September 11th but we will have no one to represent us because our ANC-5A10, Mrs. Ruth Goodwin, has chosen to take sides with the school against her single member district. For that reason, it would be impossible for her to speak in the community's behalf.

Sincerely,

Imogene P. Stewart

Enclosure (1)

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BZA
Case No. 16723
Exhibit No. 41

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16723
EXHIBIT NO.41

1900 Irving St., N.E. #202
Washington, D.C. 20018
August 30, 2001

Mrs. Norma Broadnax
Chair, ANC-5A
4702 6th Place, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017

Dear Mrs. Broadnax:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the application of the McKendree-Simms-Brookland church/private school. I want to state very clearly up front, that I am neither for nor against the school. But I am very concerned about the process.

This application has been flawed from the beginning. The apparent attempts to manipulate it has caused me even greater concern. That the community should become aware of this application almost by accident is alarming. Had not several members of the community attended the May ANC monthly meeting, this would have been a done deal without the community ever having had a voice. The ANC-5A10 did not attend that meeting, although she did send a letter in favor of establishing the school. This letter implied (if not actually saying) that she was speaking for the community when she was speaking her personal desire. Not only is the community concerned that the ANC-5A10 tried to imply approval of this application was community based but that the matter was on the meeting agenda when it was known that the required single member district meeting had not been called. The petitions that were supposedly from the community were comprised mostly of signatures of persons who do not live in SMD -5A10. For that reason, they were ineligible even though they may have been persons with an interest in the school.

When we left that meeting, we had the understanding the single member district meeting, which somehow had been overlooked, would be held before the next monthly meeting.

No meeting was held!

At the June meeting of the ANC's, the ANC-5A10 came prepared to push through the vote on this application. Again, had not concerned members of the community attended, she might have succeeded.

When the single member district 5A10 meeting was finally held in July, about 10 or 12 persons attended. That was not an unusually low attendance for a SMD meeting. Advance flyers went

out but if people chose not to attend, that was their personal choice. A legitimate vote was taken at that meeting. The ANC-5A10 has refused to accept that vote because it went contrary to her wishes. She has continued to try and manipulate this matter both at the July ANC monthly meeting and even at the Zoning Board Hearing.

The church/school members are angry at the community, but their anger is mis-directed. It should be aimed at whomever they sought for guidance and who mis-guided them in the process. Had the proper steps been followed initially, we would not be where we are today.

Members of the community will be at the September 6th meeting to observe and witness to be sure there are no further attempts at manipulation. The conflict and confusion that has been caused is utterly senseless. This is the same confusion the ANC-5A10 tried to create among the community members concerning the Isles Go-Go Appeal (although this is not an ANC matter). She did not succeed there and her antics will not succeed here.

However this comes out in the end, we in the community want to be able to say, without any reservations, the proper process was followed.

I attended the Zoning Board Hearing. The Chair, I think, was somewhat taken aback by two ANC's appearing in opposition to each other. But the Chair was clear in stating she wanted the ANC's to vote again on this matter and a more detailed letter to the Board explaining the result of the vote.

Sincerely,

Imogene P. Stewart

Imogene P. Stewart

CC: ANC-5A01
ANC-5A03
ANC-5A04
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