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January 11, 2002

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By Hand Delivery

Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
441 Fourth Street, N.W.
Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: BZA Case No. 16844, Minor Modification of Child Development Center Special Exception, St. Columba's Episcopal Church

Dear Chairman Griffis:

I am writing on behalf of St. Columba's Episcopal Church to request an expedited hearing on the above-referenced application.

As explained in detail in the application, St. Columba's does not propose any change in the approved limits on operating hours, staffing or number of children allowed on site at its child development center. In response to neighborhood requests, St. Columba's wishes to add an afternoon class consistent with those parameters. Since the language of Special Exception Condition 3 reflects current operations of a morning-only class, the afternoon class cannot be implemented without a minor change to this Condition.

A completed application was filed with the Board on January 9, 2002. This was a nonsubstantive revision to a December 2001 request for the same relief, in the form of a letter from the undersigned to be Board. Staff returned that letter to the undersigned with the request that it be resubmitted in the format now employed for modification to existing and approved Special Exceptions. A copy of the December letter was provided to ANC 3E, which noticed the matter for hearing in its agenda for January 10, 2002. Before that hearing, the applicant provided the ANC 3E Chair a copy of the revised application, and the hearing took place as scheduled. No opposition to the application surfaced at the hearing. There was strong support of the application, both from the public and the ANC members. The ANC voted unanimously in favor of supporting the application.

BZA
Case No. 16844
Exhibit No. 23

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16844
EXHIBIT NO.23

St. Columba's appreciates that the Board must look carefully at the likely impact of any material operational change in an approved Special Exception. These matters are addressed in the application and will be covered again in such detail as the Board may desire at the public hearing. We nevertheless respectfully submit that this application is a good candidate for expedited consideration, because the record will show that the change is desirable, noncontroversial, and unlikely to have any adverse impact on the neighborhood.

Expedited consideration is especially important because even though the afternoon class being planned will not begin until the fall, enrollment applications and decisions for this program must necessarily take place the previous spring. St. Columba's needs to be able to tell the parents of prospective students as soon as possible whether it has approval for the afternoon class. Hence, St. Columba's requests that the Board include this matter in the agenda for the earliest possible hearing date.

I look forward to hearing from the Board as to when this matter will be heard by the Board. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

David W. Brown