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April 1, 2002

Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

Re: BZA No. 16852

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board,

We are writing to express our support for the expansion of Saint Patrick's Episcopal Day School into the building at 4925 MacArthur Boulevard.

As residents of Washington for over 30 years, it has been especially encouraging to see the improvement in the condition of our city and the resurgent vibrancy of many of our neighborhoods. It is widely understood that a paramount factor in expanding the prosperity of our city will be its ability to attract and retain families, which in turn will depend on our ability to offer a quality education to our children.

One of the most pressing challenges facing both public and private schools in Washington is the lack of suitable, affordable facilities available for the education of our children. In the Palisades community as in many other neighborhoods, there is a critical need for middle school options.

We are familiar with the proposed site for St. Patrick's middle school. We believe that having a school in the site will be of tremendous benefit to the neighborhood. We are pleased to see that St. Patrick's is offering a strict set of conditions to avoid any negative impacts on the neighborhood. We are especially pleased at the shuttle service and other arrangements that will limit traffic congestion in general, and particularly will avoid congestion on Ashby Street.

In sum, we think that the proposed use is a benefit to the children of the District of Columbia, particularly those of Palisades. We also think the school will be a wonderful addition to the neighborhood. We strongly urge you to approve St.Patrick's application.

Sincerely,

John Valanos

Vasiliki Valanos

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 96

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.96