March 20, 2002

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

RE: BZA Application No. 16852
St. Patrick's School – 4925 MacArthur Blvd.

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

As an administrator at St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School, I write to offer my support of the proposed use of 4925 MacArthur Boulevard by St. Patrick's School. Over the course of my four years of working at St. Patrick's School, I have seen first-hand the need for further educational opportunities for children in the District of Columbia grow. As an admission officer I have found, along with other admission colleagues in the area, that there are simply too many great candidates and too few spaces at Independent Schools. By providing a seventh and eighth, St. Patrick's is meeting a city-wide need.

St. Patrick's is a school with a clear mission to instill in young people the values associated with caring for a community and recognizing their place as vital, contributing members of that community. In line with that mission, I am pleased to see that St. Patrick's is offering a strict set of conditions to avoid any negative impacts on the neighborhood, and that the Grades 7 and 8 program will include a strong community service component.

Adolescence is a particularly vital stage for young people, and St. Patrick's has developed a program that provides adolescents with a strong sense of community and purpose. Such a program should be welcome in Palisades, which has always existed as a vital, dynamic, and welcoming home to families, schools, and community-minded individuals. I urge you to approve St. Patrick's application.

Sincerely,

Erica G. Thompson
Assistant Head of School

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 98
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.98