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19 March 2002

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

RE: BZA Application No. 16852
St. Patrick's School - 4925 MacArthur Boulevard

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

I am a long time resident of the Palisades community -- since 1975. I am also a parent, although my children have completed high school. However, I recognize the need for educational opportunities for children in the Palisades neighborhood. Therefore I write in support of St. Patrick's School's application to place a program containing grades seven and eight on the property at 4925 MacArthur Boulevard, N. W.

Palisades has always been a community with a strong tradition of education. Many schools in the community have been here for decades. These include Key Elementary, Our Lady of Victory, St. Patrick's and until recently Hardy Middle School. The relocation of Hardy Middle School to the old Gordon Junior High School building on Wisconsin Avenue has left the Palisades neighborhood with only OLV providing seventh and eighth grade programs. As a parent, I would like to see that tradition continue. I believe the St. Patrick's seventh and eighth grade program would be a benefit not only to the children in the neighborhood, but also to the Palisades community as a whole.

I am also impressed with how far St. Patrick's is going to ensure there are no negative impacts on the neighborhood as a result of the change in use. I believe the proposed shuttle arrangement will avoid any traffic congestion on Ashby Street as if the change would actually produce a traffic problem. I lived on Ashby Street for five years when I first came to the Palisades, just across MacArthur Boulevard from 4925; and I welcome the change from the evening use by the Psychoanalytic Society to the daytime use as a middle school.

I am also glad to see that St. Patrick's will be preserving the existing building and open space on the site. I believe this is vastly preferable to the alternative of several large homes on a subdivided lot.

For all of the above reasons, I am delighted to offer my support to St. Patrick's application.

Sincerely,

C. A. Stillions

copy: P. Barrett

Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 99
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.99