Ms. Leigh Sholler
4611 Davenport Place, NW
Washington, DC 20016

March 28, 2002

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

Re: BZA Application # 16852, St. Patrick's School – 4925 MacArthur Blvd.

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

I am writing to urge you to grant St. Patrick's zoning application for a special exception to use the property at 4925 MacArthur Boulevard to house its 7th and 8th grade program. I live in American University Park, and do not have any children. I am however, concerned about issues relating to schools and the environmental impact of density and development within the District.

First, the property has been used for educational purposes for over forty years. St. Patrick's use of the site is utterly consistent with the property's history. A public school could operate there as a matter of right. Second, I understand that many DC residents opt to send their children to independent or parochial schools. Those schools become increasingly more desirable and difficult to get placement into in the 7th and 8th grades as more public school students seek to feed into them. Therefore, I can appreciate that St. Patrick's is trying to meet the needs of its own 6th graders as well as the demands within the community.

Second, it has become apparent to me even in the few years that I have lived here, that DC has experienced a substantial developmental boom, one which has affected residential neighborhoods as well. Trees, lots and open green spaces are being replaced by new construction and larger homes. St. Patrick's is going to preserve 4925 MacArthur Blvd., -- the house and its open lot.

In summary, St. Patrick's is seeking to use the property for its academic programs. The school is committed to ensuring that its presence will have no negative impacts on the community, and is preserving the property. The school's expansion into 7th and 8th grade will benefit District children, and more specifically neighborhood children who can attend school close to home. These points are all consistent with keeping DC and the neighborhood a desirable place to live. I do not find objectionable conditions resulting from the approval of St. Patrick's application. Therefore, I enthusiastically offer my support to this application.

Sincerely,

Leigh Sholler

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 104
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.104