4819 Indian Lane, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

March 18, 2002

Board of Zoning Adjustment
Chairman Geoffrey Griffis
441 4th Street, N.W., 2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

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Re: BZA No. 16852

Dear Chairman Griffis,

I am writing to support the efforts of my former elementary school, St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School, to create a school for 7th and 8th students at MacArthur Boulevard and Ashby Street. The people who are working so hard to make this happen are doing so because of me and four of my friends, who found ourselves without a position for 7th grade two years ago. Through no fault of our own, because there were more students than spaces at schools in our neighborhood, we were left with options only at schools outside of Washington, D.C.

I understand that residents of the Palisades neighborhood do not want my school as neighbors, which I find very sad. Three of my friends who had no place to go for 7th grade lived in the Palisades, and one of them actually had to leave this area to find a school. The people at St. Patrick's are good neighbors. They quickly responded to the needs of their community of children to make sure that all their students would have a place to continue their education. I think that they are doing a good job of making their middle school a desirable place for students in our neighborhood.

Residents of the Palisades should put this idea into perspective. My goal is to guarantee that my brother and his friends, current 6th graders at St. Patrick's, have a place for school next year in our neighborhood, and don't have go through what I went through. Keep in mind that this could happen to anybody, whether they are at the top of their class or not, and St. Patrick's is trying to provide an excellent opportunity close by.

People in the Palisades say that they want no growth in their community. Growing families with young children who want schools in their neighborhood should be advised not to move into the Palisades, because people there seem so unwilling to help area children. As a former St. Patrick's student and a current middle student, I recommend them to you. We are honest, responsible, kind, and respectful, and will be a wonderful addition to the Palisades community. People in the Palisades need to think not only about how their neighborhood should fit their needs but how it can also meet the needs of their local children.

Sincerely,

Juliette Castiel

Juliette Castiel (age 14)

cc: Peter A. Barrett

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 126
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.126