March 18, 2002

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

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Re: BZA Application No. 16852
St Patrick's School – 4925 Mac Arthur Blvd.

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

I am writing to offer my support for St Patrick's School's application to place its middle school at 4925 Mac Arthur Boulevard.

My wife and I have been resident of Washington D.C. for 13 years. We have two young children who are students at St Patrick's Episcopal Day School. Our ability and willingness to continue living in Washington directly relates to the availability of good schools in the District, notably after sixth grade. As you know, there is a growing shortage of middle schools in the District. While the causes of the problem are systemic and will take time and effort to overcome, I firmly believe that St Patrick's objective to establish a middle school in the District, and its proven dedication to expand access to its educational program to financially less fortunate students through its generous scholarship program, represent a powerful step towards closing a shortage unbefitting to the nation's capital.

My call for your support is also strengthened by St Patrick's plans and efforts to meet the needs of the community at large with those of the residents of Palisades. I am proud of St Patrick's plans to preserve the existing house and the open space on this site. I am particularly pleased to see that St Patrick's is offering a strict set of conditions that will avoid any negative impacts on the neighborhood, such as the shuttle service and other arrangements that will limit traffic congestion in general, and in particular on Ashby Street.

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

Sincerely,

B. Blarel

Benoit Blarel
1961 Biltmore St, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20009

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 133
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.133