Thomas A. Fink

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March 18, 2002

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

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

Dear Mr. Griffis and Members of the Zoning Board,

I am the father of one St. Patrick's student and two other, younger children who I hope will attend St. Patrick's in the future. I am writing to strongly support the proposed used of 4925 MacArthur Boulevard by St. Patrick's.

I have lived in the DC-area for more than 12 years and near MacArthur Boulevard for more than 6 years. The primary reason my wife and I moved into the District and, more specifically, near MacArthur Boulevard, was to live in the strong neighborhood community that can be found in the Palisades. We both were looking for (and found in this community!) many of the features of the smaller towns in which we each were raised.

I am very pleased that this strong neighborhood (including the famous 4th of July Parade) recently has been further improved with the expansion of the Lab School and the improvements to the retail areas. I know St. Patrick's proposed site very well and think that having St. Patrick's there will be yet another great improvement to the neighborhood.

As you may know, there is a strong need for increased middle school options in the District. There simply are not enough choices for parents, in large part due to the lack of suitable facilities. I applaud St. Patrick's desire and willingness to meet that need and think it would be of great benefit to the community to let them proceed.

In addition, St. Patrick's already has shown itself to be a good neighbor in the community. I am familiar with their plans for the site and am more than satisfied with their unilateral efforts to make a minimal impact. In particular, I note that St. Patrick's intends to preserve the site's open space and the Victorian building. Also, their plan for using shuttles and making other changes to limit traffic congestion is highly favorable to the Palisades in general, and Ashby St. & MacArthur Blvd., specifically.

For all of these reasons, I support St. Patrick's application and I urge you to approve it.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Fink
4420 Dexter St., NW
Washington, DC 20007

Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 144

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.144