STEVEN B. HELLER

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2002 APR 10 AM 9:18

April 1, 2002

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

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

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

I am pleased to offer my strong support of the application of St. Patrick's School to use the existing building at 4925 MacArthur Boulevard for its middle school. I am a resident of ANC 3D, having moved here in 1990. I am also a parent of two children attending St. Patrick. I was attracted to the neighborhood because of the numerous educational options for children, the Palisades Recreation Center, the swimming program at the Lab School and all the other features of the neighborhood that make it a wonderful place to raise a family.

I am familiar with the property that is the subject of the application and understand that it has been used for non-residential purposes for over 40 years. I believe that the proposed middle school use will make a far greater contribution to the neighborhood by expanding educational options for our children than the existing use by the Washington Psychoanalytic Society. I also believe that through a strict set of operating conditions, any potential adverse impacts on the neighborhood can be avoided. For example, I understand that the school has proposed a shuttle drop-off arrangement that will greatly limit any traffic on Ashby Street. I also understand that with the exception of one back-to-school night annually, there will be no night or weekend use of the property. I cannot imagine that the noise associated with 60 middle school students could have an adverse impact on this neighborhood. The site is located on a bus route and is also affected by the National Airport flight pattern. The proposed use is both reasonable and appropriate.

I urge you to consider my thoughts as you decide this application. In its efforts to attract new residents, the city must expand the educational options for our children. I support the enhancement of educational opportunities for middle school students in the District. Having quality education options is an important way to enhance livability in the District and to attract families to live here.

Very truly yours

Steven B. Heller

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Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 146

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.146