2230 – 49th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007
April 6, 2002

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Jerrily R. Kress, Director
District of Columbia
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 – 4th Street, NW
Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Director Kress:

I am writing concerning Application No. 16852 for Square 1393 Lot 823. While I am within 200 feet of the property, I did not receive the notice that a hearing was going to be held by the Board of Zoning. I would like to go on record as opposed to the requested special exception.

As a property owner in the immediate vicinity of the subject property, I am very concerned that the special exception requested would have profound adverse effect upon the neighborhood, if granted. I believe that the record established clearly indicates that the public interest requires that the request be denied. Following are some of the highlights:

- There is overwhelming opposition to the granting of the requested exception. Almost 100 per cent of the property owners within 200 feet are in opposition to the granting of the requested exception.
- The subject property is not adequate for the requested purpose. Major modification to the existing property would be necessary. There exists the likelihood that the series of events that caused the extinction of the residential life on Whitehaven Parkway would occur in the immediate neighborhood.
- The proponents of this special exception have exhibited an inability to provide adequate long-range planning. Their plans change almost as much as the Washington weather.
- The proponent appears to have been attempting to modify zoning de facto and preempt the Board from engaging in informed long-range planning.
- The proponent has demonstrated its inability to control the traffic situation at its present location on Whitehaven Parkway. The area has become a disaster, stopping traffic not only on Whitehaven Parkway for prolonged period in the morning and afternoon but also on Foxhall Road. The St Patrick's traffic has made it unsafe for pedestrians to cross Whitehaven Parkway in the crosswalks while walking along MacArthur Boulevard or for motorists to drive on MacArthur Boulevard during the hours that the students are dropped off or picked up. I personally had many near misses as cars with St Patrick's pink car pool numbers entered the traffic onto MacArthur Boulevard in dangerous patterns and show little deference to pedestrians or vehicle traffic on MacArthur Boulevard.

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CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.156

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Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 156

- In addition, major parking problems have been regularly created by those attending activities at St Patrick's Whitehaven location with participants blocking driveways and even parking on private property without permission.

The immediate neighborhood is composed of modest income working families that have lived in the District of Columbia for many years. Some residents have lived here for about fifty years. I would estimate the average resident has been in the neighborhood for about 20 years. These citizens of the District of Columbia believe in the District and have supported the government with taxes for many years. In addition, a number of the neighborhood residents have been active in a variety of volunteer activities that benefit the District. Some of the activities that neighbors have engaged in include working with the Palisades beatification project, assisting PCA in various capacities, and supporting our local public schools. We are asking that our neighborhood be preserved and not permit outsiders to come in and upset this lovely area that we have called home for many years and which we would like to call home for many more years.

As the authority to either grant or deny the requested special exception lies with the Board, I beseech you to deny the request. Granting the special exception would adversely change the nature of a quite residential area and most likely it would destroy this pleasant part of the District for the benefit of wealthy individuals most of whom do not live in the neighborhood or even in the District nor do they support the District government with taxes but rather cause a drain upon the City's limited resources. Granting the exception would also create a very unsafe situation for not only the current residents but for the potential students who would be in a much less than ideal location and facility. There just are too many negatives and unknowns to approve this application for special exception.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John N. Paolella