5104 Warren Place N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
April 11, 2002

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
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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:

As a resident of the Spring Valley neighborhood in the District of Columbia, I am writing to offer my support for the proposed use of the site at 4925 MacArthur Blvd. by St. Patrick's School. The proposal offers DC residents another opportunity to educate their children within the city limits, and helps to ease some of the admission problems recently faced by elementary school aged children in the District seeking to apply to a private middle school. The proposed middle school will enhance the property and the neighborhood, and the school is committed to operating the facility in a manner designed to minimize the noise and disruption in the neighborhood. Parking for the teachers will be provided elsewhere, pick up and drop off will take place elsewhere, and school activities will take place during the daytime hours only. This seems to be the best possible use for the Ashby site; another commercial tenant could have cars and adults coming and going at all times of the day.

I am the parent of one nine year old child who attends St. Patrick's, and I have an eleven year old child who attends another school. As a parent, I have had the unfortunate experience of participating in countless carpool lines -- for schools, camps, and religious schools -- and I can attest to the singular efficiency and orderliness of the St. Patrick's traffic system. I am confident that the school will abide by and enforce its commitment to keep middle school traffic on Whitehaven Parkway and to avoid burdening the Ashby street neighbors with carpool activities. I also think it is very important to point out that while Whitehaven Parkway gets quite busy at 8:00 am and 3:00 pm, it is virtually empty for the rest of the day and perfectly quiet at night.

I would also like to note that the proposal represents an opportunity to preserve and restore a beautiful, historic building and to maintain existing open space. There has been significant residential and commercial development along MacArthur Boulevard in recent years, and in almost every case, the new development was denser and less visually interesting than what came before. I hope the BZA will welcome the opportunity to preserve a lovely building and significant open space on the avenue with this proposed use.

While the ANC did vote to reject the proposal, I believe it can be fairly stated that the ANC vote was colored by the petition circulated by a small number of Ashby street neighbors. While the ANC purported to be swayed by traffic considerations, it did not acknowledge the

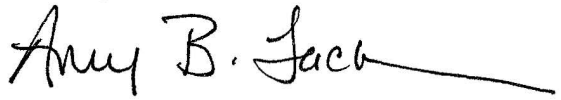
BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 157

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.157

letter submitted by the Department of Transportation finding no adverse impacts, and it did not fairly credit the school's offer of a covenant restricting enrollment or its commitment to moving the traffic to Whitehaven Parkway.

Thank you for taking my views into consideration.

Sincerely,



Amy Berman Jackson