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Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th St., NW
Suite 210
Washington, DC 2001

Re: BZA Application No. 16852 – St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School

Dear Chairman Griffis,

We are writing in support of the above-captioned Application of St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School to establish a 7th and 8th Grade in the building at 4925 MacArthur Boulevard. Our children currently attend St. Patrick's and are potential occupants of the building.

As residents of American University Park who share a property line with American University, we are very aware of the tension that can exist between educational and residential property uses. Most recently, we have been involved in protracted negotiations with American University concerning its plans to construct a major new building to house an Arts Center behind our home. As the result of dozens of meetings and a hearing before the Zoning Commission, we have reached an accommodation that we believe will serve the interests of both the neighbors and the University. The lines of communication remain open and the University is taking the neighbors concerns very seriously and responding as necessary. We fully expect that they will continue to do so once the building is open and operational. Moreover, we expect the Arts Center will be a positive, cultural addition to our neighborhood.

This experience has shown us that through negotiation and compromise, potentially competing property uses can indeed coexist and, in fact, prove mutually enriching. We believe strongly that a similar situation exists regarding St. Patrick's plans to establish a 7th and 8th grade at 4925 MacArthur Boulevard. St. Patrick's has demonstrated that it is sensitive to the concerns of the neighborhood and is willing to negotiate and compromise to alleviate potential problems. The school has addressed the neighbors' traffic, trash, and parking issues with alternative proposals that offer concrete solutions. We also believe that establishment of a small middle school will have a positive impact on the neighborhood, offering new educational options to families.

Throughout its tenure in the neighborhood, St. Patrick's has demonstrated its good faith in adhering to its commitments. One need only to observe the energy that the staff of the school (including the headmaster) puts into afternoon carpool to conclude that the school takes its neighborhood obligations very seriously.

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 158

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.158

Ironically, in this new millenium, social observers have noted that our society is becoming increasingly antagonistic to children and youth. We hope that the opposition to a small, neighborhood middle school is not a part of this disturbing trend. We further hope that the agencies of the District of Columbia will continue to implement policies that promote the education and well-being of the next generation as well as protecting the property interests of homeowners.

Yours truly,

Jane and Paul Khoury