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Washington, DC 20015
April 10, 2002

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

Re: BZA No. 16852

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

We are writing to offer our support for St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School's application to place its middle school of no more than 60 students at 4925 McArthur Boulevard -- for 40 years the site of the Washington Psychoanalytic Society. We do so not only as parents of a child in St. Patrick's School but also as long-time, committed DC residents and strong supporters of the highest quality education for all of the children of our city. In support of such education, we have proudly devoted many hours of volunteer time over many years to support DC Public Schools, including Murch Elementary School from which our son graduated two years ago.

We are fortunate and pleased to live in an excellent District of Columbia neighborhood, some miles away from St. Patrick's School, and we wish to preserve the quality of our neighborhood. Therefore, we are sympathetic to the concerns of other DC residents, including those in Palisades, who do not wish their surroundings to suffer degradation due to radical changes in the occupants of nearby properties. Nevertheless, we firmly believe that, with the strong support of its parent and faculty community, **St. Patrick's School has taken extraordinary steps to minimize any significant disruption to the neighbors of the proposed new middle school site.** We are sure that formal materials that the School has provided your Board fully details the steps that will be taken to minimize potential problems to neighbors from traffic, parking and activity at the site.

According to reporting in the April 3rd edition of the Northwest Current newspaper, the Palisades Citizens Association held a meeting on April 2nd during which the remarkably large number of participants, in a straw vote, recommended approval of St. Patrick's occupancy by a nearly two thirds majority of 169 to 99. We were therefore taken aback that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, on the following night, voted 5-0 against the St. Patrick's proposal. We know that your board is rightfully charged with giving consideration to the advice of an ANC, but **this particular ANC seems to have utterly ignored the views of its overall community.**

We believe the proposed middle school will create truly negligible neighborhood disruption, and it appears a significant majority of Palisades residents agree. Therefore, we suggest that denial of the application could tend toward the bad precedent that any zoning decision opposed by a few residents should be denied. We cannot believe that this would be your policy.

Respectfully,

Deborah & Philip DuSault

Deborah and Philip DuSault

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 165

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.165