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Washington, DC 20007

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April 9, 2002

Chairman Geoffrey Griffis
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Re: BZA Application No. 16852
St. Patrick's School – 4925 MacArthur Boulevard

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

As residents *who have lived within one city block of 4925 MacArthur Boulevard for more than 10 years*, we are writing to you in support of St. Patrick's School's proposal for a special exception.

We represent the growing tax base of young families who have contributed so significantly to the District's effort to reclaim vibrancy. Our two young children attend St. Patrick's School specifically because it is in our neighborhood. We have more than doubled our capital investment in our residence over the past 10 years and do not want to be forced to send our children outside the District for middle school. The lack of available middle school spaces in the District is critical. If we could not find space for our children, we would move from the District.

Ashby Street, the site's cross street, is one of our cross streets (W Street being the other.) We find nothing objectionable with St. Patrick's traffic plan. St. Patrick's proposed shuttle service would even reduce the existing traffic and nightly non-residential street parking usage generated by the current institutional use of the site.

The site fronts MacArthur Boulevard, a busy and noisy city artery, used by many commuters, buses, trucks and emergency vehicles every day. The noise generated by 60 students and their respective teachers would be negligible. In fact, we would welcome the sound of more children's voices during the day in our residential neighborhood.

MacArthur Boulevard is the "Main Street" of Palisades. It contains scattered pockets of commercial zones interspersed with residences. The Discovery Creek Museum (historically a one-room schoolhouse) is across MacArthur from the site. St. Patrick's proposal does not vary from this tradition. An additional school would enhance the unique community sense of one of the city's great family neighborhoods.

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 171

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.171

We strongly welcome St. Patrick's plan to preserve the 100-year old Victorian mansion, its gracious stone wall, open space and towering trees. The alternative would be low quality, high-density development of the site.

We have no objections to St. Patrick's proposal. The site is in our neighborhood, and we welcome both its proximity and the educational option its plan would provide for our community.

Respectfully,

Meredith S. Hughes

Christopher D. Hughes