9 April 2002

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

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RE: BZA Application No. 16852
St. Patrick's School – 4925 MacArthur Blvd.

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

As a teacher at St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School, I write to offer my support of the proposed use of 4925 MacArthur Boulevard by St. Patrick's School. Over the course of my **3** years of teaching at St. Patrick's School, I have seen first-hand the need for further educational opportunities for children in the District of Columbia grow. Many talented, bright young students I have had the pleasure to teach. I would like to see them be able to continue with their education with St. Patrick's past the sixth grade.

St. Patrick's is a school with a clear mission to instill in young people the values associated with caring for a community and recognizing their place as vital, contributing members of that community. In line with that mission, I am pleased to see that St. Patrick's is offering a strict set of conditions to avoid any negative impacts on the neighborhood, and that the Grades 7 and 8 program will include a strong community service component.

Adolescence is a particularly vital stage for young people, and St. Patrick's has developed a program that provides adolescents with a strong sense of community and purpose. Such a program should be welcome in Palisades, which has always existed as a vital, dynamic, and welcoming home to families, schools, and community-minded individuals. I urge you to approve St. Patrick's application.

Sincerely,
Melinda Thaler
Melinda Thaler, Nursery teacher, St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 178

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.178