April 10, 2002

Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

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

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen of Washington D.C. and resident of Potomac Avenue in the Palisades. The purpose of this letter is to state my overwhelming support of PCA's endorsement of St. Patrick's middle school and as a resident of the Palisade's, provide a strong recommendation that St. Patrick's application be accepted.

I am seriously concerned that the special interests of a relatively small population of the Palisades could threaten a new educational opportunity for countless families in this area for many years to come.

Not all issues have followed due process when seeking change in the Palisades community. Our family lives across the street from the new Manning bike path built last summer. Most of the families directly affected by the path learned about building of the stairway days before construction began and realized that issues such as increased traffic and parking were going to be dealt with after the fact. We opposed the construction simply to request a fair process, but it was too late. In the case of St. Patrick's, there has been a very thoughtful process and several opportunities to debate and negotiate. Through this process the school has made many concessions and they are seeking minor changes to the existing building. They have offered to shuttle students, have off-street parking for teachers and cap enrollment at 60 students, to name just a few.

The city must place a high priority on supporting new educational opportunities to families *in their neighborhoods* so a greater number of children have access to quality schools without busing or driving a considerable distance. I firmly believe that the immediate neighborhood and community as a whole will benefit from having St. Patrick's middle school at the proposed location. Please, do not let the special interests of a few citizens challenge the long-term value to so many families for generations to come.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue.

Becky Quinn

Patrick and Becky Quinn
5709 Potomac Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20016

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 183

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.183