RECEIVED
D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2002 APR 12 PM 3:44

April 9, 2002

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

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. My husband and I moved to the area when I was offered a position at the school. Because I had earned a PhD and wanted to return to full time teaching, I had a number of options when I sought employment. All that St. Patrick's had to offer as well as the opportunity to work in a city neighborhood pushed my decision toward St. Patrick's and away from appealing offers in the suburbs of other large cities.

Over the course of my 3 years of teaching Grade 6 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 of my talented, bright young students found themselves with limited options at the time of outplacement.

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,

Beth R. Cole, PhD
Grade 6 teacher, St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 200

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.200