Wednesday, April 10, 2002

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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. Over the course of my fifteen 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've had the pleasure to teach have reached the Grade 6 level and found themselves with limited options.

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. As technology teacher, I see so many skills and talents that this age group has. I am able to see them growing in confidence and the ability to express themselves and communicate in many dimensions. 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,

Conway Barker,
Technology Teacher, St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 207

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.207