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April 15th, 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 9-year resident of the Palisades community, I am pleased to offer my support of the proposed use of 4925 MacArthur Boulevard by St. Patrick's School (SPS). St. Patrick's has played a major role in the Palisades community for many years. Many Palisades residents are members of the church and many Palisades children have been educated at the school. Institutions like St. Patrick's form a critical part of the fabric of the Palisades community and make this community appealing to prospective residents.

I am familiar with the building that is the subject of the application and its long history of non-residential use. The proposed change in use from a school for adults to a school for children will not have any negative impacts on the neighborhood. I understand that this school is willing to agree to highly restricted use of the site including a shuttle bus drop off arrangement, as well as a severe restriction on any night or weekend activity. The current use involves numerous night meetings monthly which result in parking congestion on Ashby Street. While the proposed use will involve more activity on the site during the day, the impact of this use at night will be nonexistent. The schools and other institutional uses in Palisades form a critical and historical part of our community. Many schools in our community have been here for decades including Key Elementary, which is now being expanded, the former Georgetown Day School building that is now owned by the River School and St. Patrick's, which has been located on Whitehaven Parkway since the late 1970s. I do not view schools as an encroachment but rather an invaluable part of our community.

Finally, I would like to note that the subject proposal represents an opportunity to preserve and restore the existing building and maintain the existing open space. There has been significant residential development along MacArthur Boulevard in recent years. I welcome the opportunity to preserve significant open space on the avenue with this proposed use.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this application.

Very truly yours,

Robert & Daphne Murphy
4656 Garfield St NW, 20007

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 212
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.212