ST PATRICK'S
Episcopal Church &
Day School

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
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April 15, 2002

Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

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

Dear Board Members,

We are writing on behalf of our fellow officers, the Vestry, and the congregation of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church to support the application of the St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School for a zoning adjustment at 4925 MacArthur Boulevard. This is a matter of great importance to all of us in the area and has engendered a wide base of support throughout our parish community. In fact, the very first act of the recently elected Vestry was to vote unanimously to approve the financing for the purchase of the building at the corner of MacArthur and Ashby.

St. Patrick's Church has been a contributing member of the Palisades neighborhood and DC community for over 90 years. The church buildings on Whitehaven Parkway have served as a meeting place for many local activities and non-church related purposes as wide-ranging and diverse as AA meetings as well as exercise classes for the elderly. We provide access to music lessons as well as host musical concerts. Our day school students and families, in addition to our parishioners, make sandwiches for Grate Patrol, serve meals at SOME breakfasts, collect food for St. Philip's Church in Anacostia, offer rummage sales and clothes drives in support of outreach activities in the greater community. In short, we serve as one of the many beacons of light in the Palisades community and in the District to help make our city and world a better place.

For over 45 years much of the guiding spirit of St. Patrick's has been focused on the character education of young children. Instructing this broad and diverse group in the lessons of honesty, respect, kindness, friendship and service to the wider community has been a hallmark of the elementary education program. We had initially determined to keep our focus on elementary children, but reevaluated our decision regarding expansion in response to the demand within our community as well as in the DC public school system. In fact, fully one-quarter of our current seventh grade class came to us from DC public schools.

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 230

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.230

4700 Whitehaven Parkway NW Washington, DC 20007 202 342-2800 Fax: 202 342-2802

Our attendance at the ANC meetings and the meetings sponsored by St. Patrick's has made us aware of many of the concerns that have been expressed, and we recognize that potential change often creates fear. We note, however, that the proposed use in this case represents a continuation of educational use and only small changes to the existing building. The school has addressed traffic and noise concerns in a specific way. In addition, the school's offer to cap enrollment provides assurance that the school will not expand on this site. We believe that as conditioned, the use will benefit the neighborhood and broader DC community.

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church is committed to the District. We humbly ask the Board's assistance in allowing St. Patrick's School to provide this community with the greater benefits of an enhanced educational program. We thank you in advance for your consideration and ask the Board to approve the St. Patrick's petition.

Respectfully yours,

Richard Houstoun
Senior Warden

Jane Vanneman
Junior Warden

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