WILLIAM H. SPENCER IV

April 12, 2002

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Mr. 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 Boulevard

Dear Mr. Griffis and other members of the board:

I am writing you to offer my strong support of the proposed use of the property at 4925 MacArthur Boulevard by St. Patrick's School as a junior high school. As a resident of the Palisades for more than ten years, I believe that the presence of the school at 4925 MacArthur will improve the quality of life for all Palisades neighbors.

I understand that this building was once the home of the German School, and that currently the building is used for sessions of the Washington Psychoanalytic Society. I am convinced that a school there will not have any negative impact on the neighborhood, and that the presence of an educational institution in the Palisades can make our neighborhood an even more desirable choice for new families. Saint Patrick's, both as a school and as a church, has made an enormously positive and popular contribution to life in the Palisades.

Over the years, I have noticed the steady creep of condominia and "McMansions" in our neighborhood - built by developers who are not afraid to clear-cut lots or sacrifice architectural landmarks. The building at 4925 MacArthur was one of the first in the Palisades, and St. Patrick's will preserve both the building and its green space. Maintaining buildings like this helps the neighborhood, much more than the residences built by real estate developers seeking to maximize their return.

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 233

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.233

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide my views on this application. Approving St. Patrick's request will provide tangible benefits for the Palisades, as well as build better education options here in the District. I strongly urge you and the board to support St. Patrick's use of the property.

Sincerely,



William Spencer
2825 49th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007