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

Re: BZA Application No. 16852

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

I am writing to offer my support for St. Patrick's School's application to place its middle school at 4925 MacArthur Boulevard. I am pleased that St. Patrick's plans to preserve the open green space, and maintain one of the original Victorian buildings in the Palisades, while at the same time offering quality education to our children, and enhancing the community of Foxhall-Palisades.

Not only will St. Patrick's be preserving beautiful spaces in the neighborhood, but the school will also be offering a vital resource to the Foxhall-Palisades community. Today, more than ever, education needs to be a priority in all of our communities. Students need to learn and grow in an environment where they feel safe, loved, and comfortable. What better place for this to happen than in their own neighborhoods? More than 200 of St. Patrick's students live in the Foxhall-Palisades neighborhood, and many more live within the District of Columbia, and they deserve to be made welcome, not pushed further and further away from their homes.

The trustees of St. Patrick's have worked hard to hear and respond to neighbors' concerns. All the members of St. Patrick's Church, School, and community have pledged to do all that they can to make the relationship between the school and the community a positive, mutually beneficial one. They are creating strict guidelines to ensure virtually no negative impact on the community, and are setting a precedent for cooperation in the future.

No one would argue that quality education for our children is essential. A school like St. Patrick's provides children with skills to be productive, active members of their communities, and the wider world. I urge you to approve St. Patrick's application, and support education for our community's children.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Simmelink

Jennifer Simmelink
3509 Center Street, NW
Washington, DC 20010

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 237

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.237