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Chairman Geoffrey Griffis
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W., 2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Support of St. Patrick's School's application for middle school expansion

Dear Chairman Griffis:

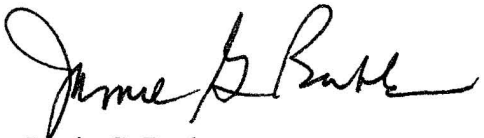
I am writing as a parent who has resided in Washington, D.C. for 21 years and who has school aged children. I have one child who attends a D.C. Public School and another who attends a private school in Maryland. I urge you to support St. Patrick's request to expand the school to include seventh and eighth graders since there is a critical need for middle school opportunities.

As a strong proponent of public schools, I also recognize the significant limitations of DCPS in serving the needs of all children who reside in the District of Columbia. We must provide options for parents that will enable them to remain in the District rather than leaving for the suburbs because of limited school options.

I learned from this week's Northwest Current that the Palisades Neighborhood Association has just voted to support St. Patrick's expansion. For all that I have read and heard on both sides of the issue, I am convinced that the expansion of the school will be an enhancement to the neighborhood. The arguments made against school expansion by a relatively small number of residents appear to be selfish concerns about property values viewed from a very narrow and faulty perspective.

In summary, St. Patrick's request for expansion is desirable not only for the Palisades neighborhood but also for the entire District. I urge you to support the school's request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jamie G. Butler

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 240

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.240