April 15, 2002

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

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
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RE: BZA Application No. 16852
St. Patrick's School – 4925 MacArthur Blvd.

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

As a teacher at St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School and a resident of the District of Columbial, I write to offer my support of the proposed use of 4925 MacArthur Boulevard by St. Patrick's School. Over the course of my **seven** years of teaching at St. Patrick's School, I have seen first-hand the need for further educational opportunities for children in the District of Columbia grow. Many talented, bright young students I've had the pleasure to teach have reached the Grade 6 level and found themselves with limited options.

St. Patrick's is a school with a clear mission to instill in young people the values associated with caring for a community and recognizing their place as vital, contributing members of that community. In line with that mission, I am pleased to see that St. Patrick's is offering a strict set of conditions to avoid any negative impacts on the neighborhood, and that the Grades 7 and 8 program will include a strong community service component.

Adolescence is a particularly vital stage for young people, and St. Patrick's has developed a program that provides adolescents with a strong sense of community and purpose. Such a program should be welcome in Palisades, which has always existed as a vital, dynamic, and welcoming home to families, schools, and community-minded individuals. I urge you to approve St. Patrick 's application.

Sincerely,

Helen Gasperetti,
Pre-Kindergarten Teacher, St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 247

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.247