Khaniqahi Nimatullahi
4931 MacArthur Blvd. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007
April 16,2002

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Jerrily R. Kress, Director , Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th St. N.W.
Suite 210-S
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re; Application of St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School, pursuant to 11 DCMR , 3104.1, case #16852

Dear Ms. Kress:

By way of introduction, we are the present resident/ custodians of Khaniqahi Nimatullahi. Known as the House of Sufism (by it's signage), it serves as the meditation center for Nimatullahi Sufis in the D. C. area. The attendance at our evening meetings is from 8 to 15 adults. Our meeting house was established at the above address over twenty years ago. We live within 200 feet of the proposed St. Patrick's school at 4925 MacArthur Blvd., specifically, the third house North of Ashby St., on MacArthur Blvd.

We have listened and read with interest of the plans for the renovation of said property for use by St. Patrick's and likewise listened to and read of the objections of our Palisade's neighbors to this proposal. We support and agree with the other immediate neighbors (to the building at 4925 MacArthur) that this is not an appropriate location for a middle school or junior high school , for these reasons :

The additional traffic from student delivery and pick-up on MacArthur and side streets will add noise, pollution, and congestion to a boulevard which is already inundated with these conditions. Many commuters already use MacArthur Blvd. as a route to and from 270 and 495. School buses and/or private vehicles idling, parking, and making U turns in this vicinity will cause traffic tie-up and possible auto accidents during peak rush hours. It seems likely that during inclement weather, when a family is running late, or a child is a little sick, that parents would be inclined to forego using the (proposed) school shuttle bus and drop off their child by private vehicle. It would be difficult to enforce use of shuttle buses or for residents to prove that they are not being used.

Many drivers on MacArthur go 35 to 45 in a 25 mile an hour zone. The stretch of road between the lights at V St. and at Dana Pl. is like open territory for cars, trucks and metro buses to speed, despite the fact that police ticket motorists regularly. The proposed school on Ashby and MacArthur is within this speed stretch .It does not seem like a safe place for children to be walking to use other facilities in the neighborhood, during or after school hours.

All in all, it seems that the location is not appropriate and the size of the property and its parking lot would not be adequate for 60 students, faculty, volunteers, guests etc. And, judging from the past, the school's possible desire for additional expansion in the future is not being taken into account in their present plans.

We are unable to attend the B.Z.A. hearing for case #16852 on April 16, 2002, and therefore request that this letter be included in the formal record . Thank you.

Sincerely,

Hossein Kashani and Bambi Kashani
Mr. Hossein Kashani and Ms. Bambi Kashani

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 250

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.250