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Washington, DC 20016

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April 12, 2002

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 Blvd.

Dear Chairmen Griffis and Members of the BZA:

We are writing in support of the expansion of St. Patrick's Episcopal School into the building at 4925 MacArthur Boulevard at Ashby Street.

We have been residents of Palisades for the past four-and-one-half years and before that of Wesley Heights (Lowell Street) for fourteen years. We are also members of the Palisades Citizens Association. Our children have attended St. Patrick's beginning in 1993. Our older boy is now a seventh grader at the Field School and our younger boy is a third grader at St. Patrick's.

Five years ago, when we decided to invite our boys' one remaining grandparent to live with us, we needed to move to a larger house. We decided to stay in the area and move to Palisades for two reasons. First, we like the community of Palisades very much, and we support the neighborhood merchants and community functions as much as possible. Second, we wanted to maintain our relationship with St. Patrick's and continue to send our boys to school in our community.

Last year, we went through a harrowing process of applying for a placement for our older son in secondary school. The process was difficult for our son and us because there were very clearly fewer slots available than applicants. We were fortunate that he was accepted at Field and we are looking forward to his attending school in our neighborhood beginning this fall. The need for middle school positions in our neighborhood is acute.

After a recent ANC meeting at Sibley Hospital, a resident of Ashby Street asked why we didn't support the local public schools. Actually, we believe the public schools in DC should be as good as they can be, and we don't regret a cent of our DC taxes that go to support the public schools. Nevertheless, we chose to send our sons to St. Patrick's because of the small class sizes and the affiliation of the school with the church. We are sure that the neighbors of 4925 MacArthur will find the church-based community of St.

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 256

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.256

Patrick's School to be a good and value-driven neighbor once the seventh and eighth grades occupy the building there.

We hope that the BZA will approve St. Patrick's application for zoning exception.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce Steinwald

Veronica Steinwald

Cc/ Peter Barrett, Head
St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School