16852

Subj: **Statement for the Board of Zoning Adjustment**

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From: Christine_Alvarez@discovery.com
To: AHG71139@aol.com

Max and I would like to comment on St. Patrick's proposal to establish a school on the corner of Ashby Street and MacArthur Boulevard.

My experience and how St. Patrick's takes into consideration their neighbors and neighborhoods has not been a pleasant one. Currently St. Patrick's uses space at the River School. Our garage and the back of River School share the same alley.

During the fall, I was confined to crutches as a result of major foot surgery and could not enter the front of my home due to the stairs, so it was necessary for me to enter through the rear garage. On a number of occasions, when St. Patrick's parents were dropping off and/or picking up their children for evening functions, their cars completely blocked the alley. Cars were parked and unattended in front of some of the garages. In addition, cars were entering from both sides of the alley, creating complete congestion and gridlock. As a result, I was forced to climb the hill up to the alley so I could get close enough to my garage and enter my home.

Access to our homes should not be a privilege. It is a legal right.

Those parents who insist that they are performing a civic duty by urging the Palisades community to allow the conversion of a residence into an additional school location for St. Patrick's have demonstrated both ignorance and insensitivity towards the neighbors and the neighborhood. I am appalled that St. Patrick's parents who are vehemently seeking the establishment of this school on MacArthur Boulevard have, through arrogant and manipulative tactics, completely disregarded parking regulations and laws when using the roads and alleys of the neighborhood when the school has another location.

If St. Patrick's is unable to control simple traffic flow in an alley, I firmly believe it will not be up to the challenge of dealing with heavy traffic and parking situations on MacArthur Boulevard. This is to say nothing of the fact that this private school will be removing public parking spaces in the process. While the school may boast of dismissing students whose parents do not use the shuttle, I am hard-pressed to believe they will enforce this.

We must take into account that these are the parents who are also major sources of revenue for St. Patrick's, and it is doubtful that the school will do anything to alienate its critical funding sources!

We urge the Zoning Board to deny the request for a school at a location that is clearly not been zoned for school use and at a building that was not designed to accommodate a schooling situation from either a space or safety perspective.

Respectfully,

Christine and Max Alvarez
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