4901 Ashby Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007-1046

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2002 MAY 7 AM 9:08

BZA Case Number 16852
St. Patrick's School/MacArthur

Dear Mr. Griffis;

Our home, at the above address, is within 200 feet of 4925 MacArthur Boulevard N.W. and within direct view.

In reviewing the materials submitted to the BZA on this matter, I came across a letter dated April 11, 2002 from a Mary Ann Reed, 4841 W Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20007; Ms. Reed is clearly an advocate for St Patrick's request for the special exception in question. During the debate on this matter, before several forums, some erroneous statements have been made, but this letter is an egregious misstatement of the facts and needs rebuttal for your record.

I refer specifically to paragraph one of this letter, where Ms. Reed alleges that those circulating a petition contrary to St. Patrick's petition were spreading misinformation, referring to St. Patrick's students as "hoodlums" and used tactics of intimidation and coercion. I am one of those who circulated the petition, a petition signed by more than 200 immediate and nearby neighbors of the premises in issue. A copy of the petitions is attached.

I did not engage in any such tactics because I wouldn't for <u>any</u> cause. In this case, convincing neighbors of the importance of maintaining neighborhood integrity was an easy sell.

I defy Ms. Reed, or any one else, to cite one instance in which I made any misstatement of fact, engaged in any act of intimidation or coercion or used the word "hoodlum" in describing St. Patrick's students in my generally successful effort to obtain signatures. Since I know that she cannot do so, she needs to expressly retract these ill-conceived, hysterical charges and apologize to me personally, in a similar public forum.

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District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.268

In a broader sense, the BZA should know that, very early in this debate, the immediate neighbors' leadership group decided that our sole issue in the debate was that 4925 MacArthur Boulevard NW was the wrong site for St. Patrick's Junior High School. We have no argument over the value of the school, the need for a junior high school or the quality of St. Patrick's students. The issue is solely one of site.

After inquiries, I have learned of no instances where others who circulated this petition engaged in the acts alleged by Ms. Reed. It is clear then that in addition to a retraction for me, she owes all of us immediate neighbors a public apology for her unsubstantiated, defamatory charges.

And she owes the BZA an apology for cluttering up the record with this nonsense.

Ms. Reed says that our alleged actions prove our desperation. One reading of her intemperate letter clarifies on which side of the debate the desperation lies.

Sincerely,

Douglas S. Ormerod

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis, Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street N.W. Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

cc: Ms. Mary Ann Reed
4841 W Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007