INCREASE TO 440 STUDENTS

APPLICATION NUMBER 15374

MR. LYONS: The next application is numbered 15374 of the Vestry of St. Patrick's Church, pursuant to 11 DCMR 3108.1, for a special exception under Section 207 to increase an existing private school from 390 to 427 students and from 51 to 61 staff, for the alteration and repair of an existing church and private school in an R-1-B District at premises 4700 Whitehaven Parkway, Northwest, Square 1372, Lot 817.

All persons wishing to testify in this application, please rise to take the oath.

[All persons wishing to testify in the afore-mentioned matter were duly sworn by Secretary Lyons.]

MS. PRINCE: Good morning, members of the Board. My name is Allison Prince and I am here today on behalf of the applicant. St. Patrick's Church has been operating a church, a child development center, and an elementary school on the subject site since 1976. The site is located at 4700 Whitehaven Parkway in the Palisades area.

The last approval of this Board was in 1983 when St. Patrick's acquired two acres of property from Mount Vernon College on the other side of Whitehaven Parkway. That property was converted at that time into playing fields and a

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02) 546-6666

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District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.276

32-space parking area. At the same time, the school sought an increase in enrollment from 280 students to 390, and 390 remains the maximum enrollment today.

Today's case involves an increase in the square footage of the existing school building. Currently, there is a grade-level open parking deck area that they are seeking to enclose in order to create 5,400 additional square feet of classroom space.

In addition, St. Patrick's is seeking an increase in enrollment from 390 students to an absolute cap of 440 students. I should note that the hearing notice reflects a cap of 427 students. That is the average enrollment over the next six-year period, and I had put that in the Form 2 when I filed it and that's why it was advertised that way. I should have also added the absolute cap that we're seeking of 440. That represents a 12-percent increase in enrollment. St. Patrick's is also seeking an increase to an absolute maximum staff and faculty of 60. The hearing notice reflects 61, but 60 is actually all that's needed.

Through our witnesses today, we will establish that the proposed changes will not create any adverse impacts because of traffic, noise, number of students, or other