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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016

June 17, 2002

Board of Zoning Adjustment
D.C. Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

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In matter of BZA Case #16852 (St. Patrick's School)

To the Board:

I would like to add my voice to those of many neighbors in strong SUPPORT of the application of St. Patrick's School to operate a middle school at a site on MacArthur Blvd., Northwest, in the Palisades neighborhood.

I have lived in ANC District 3D for over 30 years--all of my adult life. I have no personal ties to St. Patrick's. I base my support for the school simply on these three grounds:

-- It has always been a considerate neighbor.
-- It is a valuable civic asset to D.C. and to our neighborhood.
-- It is seeking to occupy a building that has already been in institutional use for many years, and perhaps should be entitled to this related use without a special exception.

I have observed with sadness the long, bitter fights that have surrounded virtually every plan of outstanding educational institutions to build new facilities in upper Northwest D.C.--the Levine School of Music, Edmund Burke, Field School, Washington International School, and more.

Invariably, when the dust settles and the school prevails--after great delay and expense--it turns out to have been a tempest in a teapot. The institution continues to be a good neighbor, the neighborhood is not adversely affected, and life goes on.

Our city needs fine private schools, just as it needs excellent public schools like Key and Horace Mann elementaries in our neighborhood (the latter of which my own children attended).

I believe the best interests of ANC-3D and the District of Columbia would be served by granting St. Patrick's a special exception, so that it can proceed with a well-conceived and responsible plan for a middle school on this site. I urge your favorable consideration of this application.

Very truly yours,

/Knight Kiplinger

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 289

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.289