BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 300

BY FAX

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WASHINGTON, DC 20007

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August 13, 2002

Mr. Kenneth Laden
Associate Director for
Transportation Planning
DC Department of Transportation
2000 14th Street, NW
Seventh Floor
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Laden:

As the month of August reaches the mid-point and the opening of school approaches, it seems prudent to contact you regarding DDOT's plans for the necessary road work on Whitehaven Parkway associated with St. Patrick's School (BZA Case 16852). Hearings on the expansion of St. Patrick's School and the required car pool plan have extended over a four month period. As the Palisades Traffic Chair, I am requesting a timetable for the implementation of the required third lane, taper lane and changes to the diagonal parking spaces on the upper section of Whitehaven. DDOT recommended that these changes be made whether or not the BZA application for the school expansion is successful. When will DDOT implement the changes?

I would also draw your attention to the Parking Trial that was to begin on July 1st and run through October 31st. To date, temporary No Parking Signs have been installed on Whitehaven Parkway. However, even if your plan is to erect temporary signs until the end of the trial period, there has been no follow up to ensure that proper signs were installed. In your report to the BZA on page 8, which outlines the parking trial, it states that parking is to be banned from "7:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday." It does not say, "On School Days," however, that is what the signs state that have been posted on Whitehaven. As a result little or no enforcement of the parking ban has taken place from July 1 through today. Mt. Vernon has had construction trucks parked on the street throughout the trial period, and it appears that Mt. Vernon swimming pool members have been using the street for parking as well. The trial that is an integral part of the traffic plan for St. Patrick's School should begin for a four-month period once the proper signs are installed. When will the proper signs be installed?

Board of Zoning Adjustment
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There has been no movement by DDOT to re-stripe Whitehaven Parkway or implement the required changes to the angled parking spaces at the top of the street. Removal of some of the diagonal spaces is also cited in your report to the BZA as a responsibility of St. Patrick's. Teachers return to school the week before Labor Day and school will be open for class the week after Labor Day. When will the changes to Whitehaven take place?

As you know, Whitehaven is one of only two streets in this community that directly connect MacArthur Boulevard and Foxhall Road and it is the closest street providing that access to Engine Company 29 located just around the corner on MacArthur Boulevard. Engine Company 29 is also the designated location for one of the city's ambulances displaced by the renovation of the firehouse located at Wisconsin Avenue and Warren Street, NW. Neighborhood notification of pending road construction is imperative for safety reasons. How will the community be notified of the changes and the construction?

The community has waited patiently for over two years for the installation of the traffic signal at the intersection of Foxhall and Whitehaven specified under the Mt. Vernon College Agreement signed by the Mayor. DDOT has fiddled around with excuses to avoid installing the traffic light at Foxhall and Whitehaven Parkway, while on January 28, 2002, the Mayor informed those in attendance at the Ward 3 Traffic Summit that the light would be installed by the end of FY 2002. That date is fast approaching and there is still no light. When will the light be installed?

There are also plans to construct a light at the entrance to Field School. Construction of both lights, at Field and at Whitehaven, will have significant impact on the community and the 17,500 cars that use Foxhall Road every day. The light at Field School is only a few hundred feet north of the Whitehaven location. The $2M Federal appropriation that will cover the cost of installing the light at the Field school was intended for upgrades to Foxhall Road. The light at Whitehaven was assumed by the traffic expert who developed the traffic plan for St. Patrick's School expansion as well as the Palisades Traffic Report and will impact on the Level of Service for all of Foxhall Road, Whitehaven Parkway and the entrance to Field School.

Please furnish a written response by August 20, 2002, that contains information regarding a timetable for the following:

1. Installation of the proper parking signs on Whitehaven Parkway;

2. The dates for the parking trial once proper signs are installed;

3. Award of Contract for both installation of the traffic light and the required lane changes to Whitehaven Parkway;

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4. Installation of a traffic light on Foxhall Road at Whitehaven Parkway;

5. Completion of the required changes on Whitehaven Parkway, including the required lane changes and widening of upper Whitehaven Parkway in connection with the installation of the traffic signal;

6. A traffic plan for the community and school to use while the construction is in progress; and

7. ANC and community notification process for all of the above changes.

As always, Mr. Laden, I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Alma H. Gates

Alma H. Gates
Palisades Traffic Chair

cc: By Fax:
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Carol Schwartz
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