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September 10, 2002

D.C. BOARD OF ZONING
2002 SEP 10 AM 9:41

Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W.
Suite 210 South
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Board of Zoning Adjustment:

I write to you as a neighbor of the property on MacArthur Boulevard and Ashby Street, N.W. and a concerned citizen. I am totally opposed to St. Patrick's School using this property as a Junior High School for several reasons.

First, the entrance to the property on Ashby Street is not suitable for the high traffic volume of a Junior High School. Teachers, parents and students create a lot of traffic. I do not believe St. Patrick's bus alternative is a viable option and is a naïve solution at best. A first hand visit to the Ashby Street property is all that is needed to see that it is unsuitable, and I encourage you to visit the site.

Second, the property is located in a residential neighborhood that is well served by good public schools – Key Elementary, Hardy Middle School and Wilson High School. The Palisades neighborhood does not need another private Junior High School. The Palisades needs good resident citizens who use the facilities and pay taxes to the district government. St. Patrick's needs a Junior High School, the neighborhood does not.

Third, housing in the Palisades is reasonably priced and we are therefore a target of those who do not intend to contribute to the residential quality of our neighborhood but rather to serve their own needs. I believe St. Patrick's School and St. Patrick's Church are not concerned so much about the impact on the residential quality of the Palisades neighborhood but rather on the moneymaking aspect of the school. It's a business.

Fourth, I think it is important to look at the Palisades community and see how much the neighborhood can absorb and still remain residential. There are currently

BZA
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District of Columbia
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eight schools in approximately a three-mile radius. (George Washington University on W & Foxhall; St. Patrick's School on White Haven Parkway; The Lab School on Reservoir Road; Our Lady of Victory on MacArthur Boulevard; Georgetown Day School on MacArthur Boulevard; Key Elementary School on Hurst Terrace; The Field School on Foxhall Road; the Rock Creek International School on Foxhall Road; and the River School on MacArthur Boulevard.

I did not realize that the hearing had been cancelled today. I went to the District Building today so that my voice could be heard only to find that hearing has been rescheduled for October 8. It is not likely that I will be able to attend the hearing on October 8 since I work at the Supreme Court and the Court is sitting that day. I wanted the Zoning Board to hear what I had to say.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lael Yudain