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By Fax

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
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Mr. Geoffrey Griffis
Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

RE: BZA Order #16852

Dear Chairman Griffis:

The hearings involving St. Patrick's School Junior High School ended earlier this month, but because of the similarities in the plans developed by the DDOT for Field School and St. Patrick's I feel I must inform you that the plan developed for Field School is not working. In both cases there is a shuttle bus loop that travels far beyond the school to avoid the use of residential streets. Field School has been operating for two months and shuttle bus irregularities are regularly occurring. These same infractions will occur when the shuttle buses from St. Patrick's are faced with a loop that goes as far from the school as the intersection of Arizona Avenue and Loughboro Road. The school has made promises to the community in the past regarding the number of cars coming to the school but when I addressed the car pool with Headmaster Peter Barrett he informed me that nothing could be done. I feel strongly that as the shuttle bus loop becomes a regular inconvenience for St. Patrick's bus drivers, they will also use residential streets for short cuts.

Ken Laden stated in his report to the BZA on the St. Patrick's case that one of his concerns was human nature and I feel the Field School case has demonstrated that "necessity is the mother of invention." Almost immediately after Field School opened its doors in September, I began receiving daily calls regarding irregularities in the modified traffic plan that was approved by the BZA on August 6th. It appears that the Field School buses either cannot make the designated loop back to the school within the time needed to do so, or the drivers find the prescribed route so cumbersome they are not using it. They are using residential streets to make up time and shortcut the prescribed loop back to the school. This is precisely what will happen with the shuttle buses proposed for St. Patrick's Junior High School.

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 333

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.333

I was out of town when the Field School case came before ANC 3D and again on August 6th when it came before the BZA, but had I been there for discussion of the modified traffic plan, I would have suggested this might happen. Field School has been visited by John Finney, chair of ANC 3D, and notified of these irregularities. Alma Gates, chair of the Palisades Traffic Committee, has called the school to report the same. Yet, this morning Reston Limousine Service bus #4611 was observed twice on Garfield Street.

I ask that this letter be placed in the St. Patrick's file and carefully considered prior to issuance of any order. I also ask that you review the letter submitted by ANC 3D again. The educational abilities of these institutions are not being questioned or denied, however, their ability to control and monitor school shuttle buses is being questioned. Field School has demonstrated this cannot be done and that the school is unwilling to commit the necessary time or resources to ensure compliance. I ask that you deny Application #16852 of St. Patrick's for a Special Exception and not place further burden for monitoring and reporting school generated traffic problems on the community.

Sincerely,

Ann F. Heuer
ANC 3D06