Sally Fallon
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Mr. Geoffrey Griffis, Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW Room 210-S
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Griffis,

Application #16852 by St. Patrick's School

I am writing to strongly urge a denial of St. Patrick School's application to put a junior high school in the house located at MacArthur Boulevard and Ashby Street.

My concern centers around the inevitable expansion into the rest of the neighborhood that would inevitably occur should St. Patrick's be granted a variance and allowed to put a school in this residential neighborhood. It may very well be that St. Patrick's has no plans at the moment for such an expansion. However, the opportunity to purchase other properties in the block will be a powerful incentive for St. Patrick's to expand in the future. Schools expand--that is their nature--and it would be easy for this school to purchase the modest homes around it, eventually acquiring the entire block. A school of such a size would be a complete nightmare for the entire local community, would reduce property values within a range of several blocks, and would have a major impact on DC property tax revenues.

St. Patrick's argues that they have a right to a neighborhood school. I have four children who grew up in this neighborhood, attending both public and private schools. They did not attend high school in the immediate neighborhood but were no worse off for it. Why should this privilege be granted to a few St. Patrick's parents at the expense of a whole neighborhood?

Sincerely yours,

Sally Fallon

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 335

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.335