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November 7, 2002

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

RE: Application #16852

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 338

Dear Mr. Laden:

One of the reasons for writing today is to say how pleased we are to have Colleen Smith working with Ward 3. She is an excellent choice for the Neighborhood Transportation Planner given her extraordinary ability to grasp the scope and nature of transportation-related problems faced by communities and her superb innate people skills. Colleen visited Palisades this morning to observe the results of the parking trial implemented by DDOT on Whitehaven Parkway for St. Patrick's School.

Colleen toured Whitehaven Parkway, 47th, 48th, and 49th Streets, Hutchins Place, V Street above and below Reservoir Road, the CVS parking lot and the Safeway lot. She stopped in to visit the Safeway because it was obvious the number of cars in the lot far outnumbered the customers in the store. Colleen had an opportunity to speak to Assistant Manager, Al Barbosa, who told her that there are times when customers say they can't find parking in the store's very large lot. He also expressed concern about people being able to park and shop during the holiday season which is about to begin.

There is only one solution to the problem of parking displacement on Whitehaven Parkway and it is to put the parking back on Whitehaven and get it off neighborhood streets and out of retail parking lots. The recommendation for a parking trial, made in DDOT's report to the BZA, needs to be terminated immediately given its serious impact on the residents of surrounding streets, two

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national retail chains and a number of small retail businesses that have agreements to use those lots. As a result retailers are being forced to turn away business.

Parking on Whitehaven is not the problem. However, its removal is a suggested solution in the Palisades Traffic Impact Study. The real problem, not addressed in the study, is the number of cars coming to St. Patrick's every morning and traffic back ups onto Foxhall Road. The number of cars coming to the school is the school's problem, but the proposed solution has become the community's problem. There has been no commitment on the part of the school to fully implement its traffic plan, including reduced levels of traffic, reconstruction of the pickup/drop off lane and the hire of two off-duty police officers for mornings and afternoons. Rather, teachers continue to direct traffic and cars continue to block Foxhall Road. The removal of parking on Whitehaven has not prevented back ups but it has impacted the surrounding streets and retail businesses.

The parking trial imposed by DDOT to alleviate back ups caused by St. Patrick's should be terminated immediately. The trial is not working and is placing undue burden on the community.

Sincerely,

Alma H. Gates

Alma H. Gates
Palisades Traffic Chair

cc: Dan Tangherlini
Kathy Patterson
✓ Jerrily Kress
John Finney
Erik Gaull