March 20, 2002

Chairman Geoffrey Griffis
Board of Zoning Adjustment
Bureau of Zoning and Adjustment
441 4th Street NW, Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

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re: Case 16852 (ANC 3D)
4925 MacArthur Boulevard special exception for use of property
requested by St. Patricks Episcpal Day School

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As a resident in the neighborhood surrounding the 4925 MacArthur Boulevard property, I am writing to ensure that you are aware that the proposed special exception would lead to both dangers from traffic for children and residents living near the property and major disruptions of residential use of the neighborhood. I object to the granting of the special exception in order to preserve the safety of neighborhood children and all residents in the vicinity of the property.

The establishment of a school on the property would cause safety hazards from traffic of buses and cars to and from the school. The sidewalk network in the neighborhoods near the proposed site is incomplete. For example, along 49th Street, where I live, most of the street does not have any sidewalk. Parts of Ashby do not have a sidewalk. A number of routes leading from Foxhall or Whitehaven, where St. Patrick's is located, do not have sidewalks. As a result, those who stroll children, walk dogs, or walk to the neighborhood commercial districts or parks must walk along the sides of the streets.

The neighborhood streets are not very wide. If two cars are parked on the sides of the street, only one car can safely pass through them if there is a pedestrian present. Passage of a bus, in particular, would leave insufficient room for a pedestrian (especially one with a stroller) on the road. Since there are blocks or portions of blocks without sidewalks where residents must walk on the street, the transit of buses to the 4935 MacArthur property would be hazardous. Although a lesser concern, the pollution of the buses passing immediately next to pedestrians would also be unhealthful.

With establishment of a school at 4935 MacArthur Boulevard, any of the possibilities for managing traffic would involve traffic through the neighborhood by both buses and cars. Even if the plan is to bus students from St. Patrick's school, children will inevitably need to arrive late or depart early for a variety of reasons, and will be necessarily dropped off and picked up by cars. These cars will pass through the neighborhood. Also, there will be additional cars parked within 2-3 blocks of the school since parents will need to go to the school to attend meetings and participate in school activities.

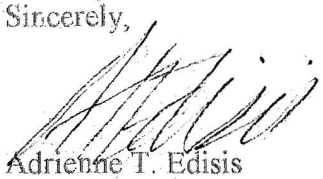
BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 34

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.34

Every day, about twice a day, I stroll my 18 month-old child along 49th Street towards the commercial district or towards the neighborhood parks. Incidentally, I often do so at times when school would be beginning or ending for the day. These are common times for pedestrians to be out in the neighborhood. I will no longer be able to safely take these walks if the special exception were to be granted for 4925 MacArthur Boulevard. It will be too dangerous with the additional parked cars on the sides of the streets, the buses, and the car traffic. I know that my family is far from being the only one that will be similarly affected. There are at least 9 families with stroller-aged children within a 3 block radius of the property. Plus, numerous other residents walk dogs or walk to the neighborhood stores and restaurants along the transit routes to this property. The inability to safely walk through the neighborhood will disrupt community interactions, as well as negatively affecting individual residents.

I have so far supported many of the efforts of schools and universities to develop in the Palisades area. I welcome the educational community and students in our community. I wish St. Patrick's well in its endeavor to create a middle school. The residential property at 4935 Mac Arthur Boulevard, however, is not an appropriate location for a middle school due to negative impacts on safety and enjoyment of the neighborhood. I am sure that with some further time and effort, St. Patrick's will find a suitable location. Although a difficult decision, I hope that the Board of Zoning Adjustment will see fit to reject the special exception, and that St. Patrick's school will move on successfully in pursuing other options in developing a middle school.

Sincerely,



Adrienne T. Edisis
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