# URGENT --- HEARING IS TODAY

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Tuesday, Dec. 3rd, 2002

TO: Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman, Board of Zoning Adjustment, FAX # 727-6072
FROM: Alice Stewart, Palisades resident (5031 Eskridge Terr., N.W.)FAX # 364-3216
RE: Application # 16852 by St Patrick's School

Although I am very supportive of St. Patrick's wanting to extend their program and to use the property at 4925 MacArthur Boulevard for their Junior High School, I am writing to ask you to oppose their current application on the grounds that the building is not large enough to accomodate 60 students of that age.

I taught 7th and 8th graders for 20 years, and I know what their physical and space needs are. I have inspected the inside of the property with care, drawn up a rough floor plan of each floor, and tried to imagine the use of the space. In my view, the space is not adequate for the needs of that many students, and the adults that will serve them. I can imagine a smaller student body (perhaps 30 to 35 or 40 students at the very most) fitting in there comfortably, and am currently developing a plan for the space at my own initiative which I hope will be helpful to the school.

I think the school has been very creative and willing to accomodate the objections of the immediate neighbors, and should be encouraged to modify their plan further in order to be able to move ahead.

Please call me if you have any questions regarding this statement. My telephone # is 364-1505. I would be happy to elaborate concerning the space needs of 13- to 14-year old children. And I regret not having written sooner on this matter, but I did not want to take this position until I was actually able to go into the building. While I had a hunch all along that the building was too small for 60 students, I wanted to see the interior before going "on record" asking you to oppose the application. My visit to the building confirmed what I thought to be the case.

*Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.*

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 349
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.349