4911 ASHBY STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20007

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Mr. John W. Finney
Chair, ANC 3D
5275 Watson Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007

RE: BZA Application #16852

Dear Mr. Finney:

Shortly after the birth of our son 33 years ago, my wife and I purchased a home at 4911 Ashby Street, NW in the Palisades area of Washington, DC. We live within 150 feet of the site St Patrick's School has purchased for its junior high school. We strongly oppose the location of the school in this residential area of the Palisades and seek the support of ANC 3D.

As you know, I have been a very active member of the Palisades community and am expressing the opinion of two residents who have managed to raise and educate responsible, self-sustaining children who are contributing to the welfare of our country. The notion that this residential community should sacrifice its quality of life for the children of St. Patrick's Elementary School who cannot find the placements they want for junior high school is absurd. The fact St. Patrick's cannot place its students where the parents expect them to be placed is not our concern. But it is our concern when the school seeks to remedy its inability to place students by buying property that is zoned R-1B to ensure its students' continued education at the expense of my family and my community.

While it is true that the Washington Psychoanalytic Society has owned the property for the past 40 years, the use of the property has not proven to be a hardship on the community. Classes were held for physicians on Saturday mornings and one night a week. During the day the building was occupied by administrative staff and an occasional physician using the medical library. Community impact was often less than that of normal family comings and goings. This will not be the case with 60 pubescent students and faculty members using the building and grounds on a daily basis. Also, the psychiatrists held no classes or activities during the summer.

The selected site is inappropriate for school use. It contains no buffer and will have significant impact on the adjoining neighbors as well as the residents within earshot of 60 students. To create an effective buffer would require the proposed school to sacrifice half of its parking spaces and thus place school related cars on neighborhood streets. There will be considerably more Mr.

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 35

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.35

traffic on this street as teachers, parents and visitors file in and out of the parking lot. The school bus will be shuttling students between Whitehaven, MacArthur Boulevard and Ashby Street.

Human nature and experience tell us parents will not be willing to drive to Whitehaven and sit in line to drop off students in the mornings when students can easily be dropped off on MacArthur, 49th or Ashby Street. The lack of athletic facilities on site will necessitate students being bused after school to locations around the community for sports activities.

The community is being asked to absorb a significant number of students in a very small space, endure noise, school related parking and traffic, share public parks and sacrifice property values so St. Patrick's parents are assured placement in a school of second choice. This is not a valid reason for the community to sacrifice its quality of life and support the placement of St. Patrick's Junior High School in the middle of a settled residential community on MacArthur Boulevard at Ashby Street.

Alma and I ask the ANC to vote against this school expansion for the reasons listed above as well as the fact the school cannot meet the requirements under section 206.2 of the zoning code.

Sincerely,

Harry F. Gates

Harry F. Gates

cc: Jerrily Kress
Erik Gaull