30 January 2004

Mr. Peter Barrett, Head
St. Patrick's School
4700 Whitehaven Parkway, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

Chairman Geof Griffis
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: St Patrick's School 4925 MacArthur Blvd. BZA Application No 16852 -
Request for Clarification/Modification of Order

Dear Mr. Barrett and Chairman Griffis:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that we do not oppose St. Patrick's proposed use of a portion of the basement of 4925 for a music room. We have resided at 4922 Ashby Street for the past 20 1/2 years and the full depth of our property directly abuts the 4925 property. There is only one other abutting property and our house is located closer to the 4925 building than any other house. From our standpoint, the basement is the best location for the music room because of the natural sound buffering associated with the space. It is subterranean with only one small window located within the turret. The original music room - and the back-up music room now being used - contained large windows which, if opened, would allow the music to permeate the neighborhood. Sharon recently toured the building and discovered that the new music room is quite small and does not create a regular classroom space. It is a pass-through to an egress that has great acoustics for music.

During the course of the BZA proceedings, we were members of the organization representing several neighbors in opposition, Neighbors United Trust. Because of NUT's opposition to the location of the music room in the basement, we have withdrawn from NUT. We prefer the location of the music room in the basement. NUT no longer represents our interests as one of the most immediately affected property owners.

We do not agree with allegations that St. Patrick's School has been deceptive in its plans to locate the music room in the basement. St. Patrick's informed the community about the proposed location of the music room months ago at one of its monthly neighborhood meetings, which Sharon has been attending regularly. Now we hear allegations from neighbors that this space constitutes an illegal fourth story and that it will result in more students in the building. We disagree with this view.

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 384

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.384

St. Patrick's School has gone to great lengths to communicate with the community about every facet of construction, including the use of this basement space as a music room. It is time to move on and forge a positive working relationship with the school.

Charles J. Houy
4922 Ashby St. N.W.
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Sharon A. Houy
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