Henry F. von Eichel
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Washington, D.C. 20007

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5. Februar 2002

Kathreen B. Bradley/Chair, Board of Trustees
&
Peter A. Barrett/Head of School
St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School
4700 Whitehaven Parkway, N.W.
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Mrs. Bradley, dear Mr. Barrett,

Thank you for your letter of January 23, 2002. I appreciate receiving your package in the mail but must tell you that as a resident at the end of Ashby Street, I am surprised at how long it took you to contact us, the effected neighbors, with your slick package.

By your slow response or notification of the neighborhood, you have created an enormous amount of ill-will amongst us who will be very much effected by your plan. But quite apart from that, I find your proposal to buy 4925 Mac Arthur Boulevard as a permanent site for your school's emerging grade 7 & 8 program totally unacceptable.

Our neighborhood already suffers from an increasing traffic flow from an increasing traffic flow caused by the many schools in the neighborhood which seem to be growing like a cancer and never halt their expansion.

I find your sentence that it is the goal to develop a plan that enhances the character of the neighborhood a statement of arrogance toward a neighborhood that we like very much the way it is. I am sure that you will have noticed that the Palisades neighborhood knows how to take care of its houses and streets quite nicely.

We are glad to read that you are a good neighbor although this statement would be doubted by a number of us who are effected by the ever increasing traffic jams which are caused by your expansion projects. When it comes down to the real issue, as you so rightly stated, it is the zero sum of parking restrictions. Neighborhoods means people visiting, friends, families, and as you might have noticed, there are not many driveway parking possibilities. The idea that Ashby would become a no-parking zone is absolutely unacceptable to anyone living here. We have people helping us maintain our houses, repair people and, of course visitors who would now be forced blocks away to find parking which is presently easily available.

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BZA Case # 16852

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 43

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.43

In sum, we think the location of a school with as many as 60 students is totally unacceptable in a purely residential area. The Washington Psychoanalytical Society was a very low key user of the building and not interfering with the character of our streets and neighborhood. Your proposal would be utterly destructive and as we have seen before, just the beginning of additional construction and expansion.

My family and I will do everything possible to prevent you from going through with your purchase and ultimate opening of your school. I know that you will find more suitable space elsewhere and hope that you will not spend too much time and waste your and our energy with pursuing this project. I wish you would take an example of Disney's ill-fated venture in Northern Virginia where they saw the light but also I think ultimately to the detriment of their reputation.

Sincerely Yours,

Henry von Eichel

Henry von Eichel

cc. Harry Gates, 4911 Ashby Street NW
Kathleen Patterson, Ward III Council Representative, DC City Council, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 107, WDC 20004