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4702 Warren Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
April 2, 2002

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Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: BZA Application No. 16852
St Patrick's School – 4925 MacArthur Blvd.

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

I am writing in support of St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School's application for a zoning special exception to locate additional grades at 4925 MacArthur Boulevard.

I have chosen the District as my home for more than twenty-five years: I went to Georgetown University as an undergraduate (living both on and off-campus), lived in Adams Morgan as young professional, and gave birth to my son at George Washington University Hospital. I now work downtown near the MCI Center and reside in AU Park at 4702 Warren Street.

Although our local public school is excellent, because of our religious beliefs and his needs, my husband and I have chosen to send our son to St. Patrick's. We are pleased that St. Patrick's has decided to expand the grades it serves because there are currently few options like St. Patrick's at the middle school level – particularly within this community.

The concerns raised by neighbors to this application are similar to those raised when American University sought to locate its law school in AU Park. Our home is less than a block from the law school and we participated in the debate sparked by that application. The zoning process resulted in numerous accomodations to the neighborhood that made the law school acceptable to the Board. The result here should be the same.

As I understand it, St. Patrick's has agreed to provide similar accommodations to the Ashby Street neighbors. For example, St. Patrick's will prohibit on-street parking for teachers and parents, provide shuttle service for student arrival and departure, and eliminate dumpsters for garbage pickup at the building. With these measures, the school is not likely to harm the neighborhood.

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 18
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.18

Based on our experience with the American University law school, location of St. Patrick's middle school at 4925 MacArthur will not harm the neighborhood: American University's ban on student and faculty on-street parking and shuttle bus service have so far been successful and local residents rarely have to compete with students for parking. Property values have not suffered. In fact, several houses in close proximity to the law school have recently sold at prices comparable to other AU Park properties. Moreover, St. Patrick's should have even less impact on Palisades than the law school has on AU Park since there will be no "night school" at the site.

I urge you to allow this zoning exception. The proposed use will benefit the community at large by filling the need for an additional middle school in this community and, with the concessions offered by St. Patrick's, will not harm the immediate neighborhood.

Sincerely yours,

Cheryl B. Grandy

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