March 22, 2002

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

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Re: BZA No. 16852

Dear Chairman Griffis,

My husband and I have been residents of the Palisades/Kent neighborhood for the past seventeen years. We purchased our home in this growing area with the expectations and dreams of raising our children here, educating our children here and being part of a community. We have managed to do all three until recently.

Our daughter, Sarah, attended St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School for eight years. She now attends St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Maryland. She takes a bus to and from school every day to join her classmates, most of whom are from the surrounding Potomac neighborhood. Our son, Zachary, is still at St. Patrick's and is presently in the fourth grade. Because of our proximity to the school Zach's classmates are his playmates. What a wonderful way to grow up! I would like to see this continue, not only for Zach, but for all the children in this neighborhood and surrounding ones, whose parents are seeking appropriate options for their middle school education.

St. Patrick's is applying for a special exception for the land that we recently purchased at 4925 MacArthur Boulevard. This exception would allow us to place our seventh (soon-to-be eighth) and incoming seventh grade students in this building. It will be a real plus for the area as the options for middle school are greatly limited in this area.

St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School has been a neighbor and a friend to us all for over forty years. We have proudly graduated over one thousand students. We have stated and live out our mission statement every day of

BZA
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Exhibit No. 79

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the week. We have, and continue, to participate in community services from Martha's Table in Washington, D.C. to our sister school, St. Etienne's, in Haiti. I truly believe our reputation precedes us and it is with this, and all of the aforementioned in mind, that I ask that this special exception be granted so that we may get on with the task at hand---educating our children in a caring, loving environment---their neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Maureen Bell Asterbadi
2726 Chain Bridge Rd. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016