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March 21, 2002

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

Re: BZA No. 16852

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

I am pleased to offer my strong support of the application of St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School to use the existing building at 4925 MacArthur Boulevard for its middle school. I am a resident of Woodley Park and as a parent of two young children that attend St. Patrick's School, I know firsthand of the lack of sufficient middle school educational opportunities for children in the District of Columbia. St. Patrick's School and Church offers a wonderful academic program and opportunities for personal growth. It truly cares about the children it educates and the community it serves. Having quality education options is critical for families and should be a priority for decisionmakers in the District of Columbia.

I have seen the property that is the subject of the application and understand that it has been used for non-residential purposes for over 40 years. The proposed middle school use by St. Patrick's will make a significant contribution to the neighborhood by expanding educational options for our children, while preserving the original Victorian building and the open space on the site. I also believe that through a strict set of operating conditions, any potential adverse impacts on the neighborhood can be avoided. St. Patrick's School has made considerable efforts to address the concerns raised by the residents in the neighborhood and has proposed a shuttle drop-off arrangement that will greatly limit any traffic on Ashby Street. I also understand that with the exception of one back-to-school night annually, there will be no night or weekend use of the property. As a parent of two young children, I cannot imagine that the noise associated with 60 middle school students could be considered to be objectionable, nor could it be considered to have an adverse impact on this neighborhood given the significant

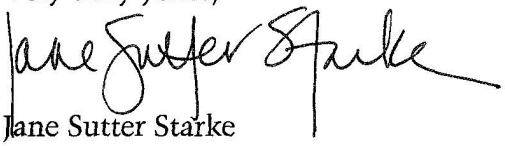
BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 80

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.80

mitigation measures the school has proposed to accommodate the concerns that have been voiced. The proposed use is not only desirable and necessary to meet educational needs, but also reasonable and appropriate.

I urge you to consider my thoughts as you decide this application. Improving the educational opportunities for children should be an affirmative goal of the District of Columbia and St. Patrick's application is a positive step toward achieving that important objective.

Very truly yours,



Jane Sutter Starke

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