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March 21, 2002

Board of Zoning Adjustment
Chairman Geoffrey Griffis
441 4rth Street, N.W.
2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: BZA No. 16852

Dear Chairman Griffis,

I am writing on behalf of my husband, John Mann, and myself to our express support for the expansion of St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School into the building at 4925 MacArthur Boulevard.

We are the parents of a second grade student at St. Patrick's, as well as of three year old twins, who currently attend the Community Preschool of the Palisades, and will attend either St. Patrick's or the Key School in the coming years. We have lived in the Palisades for almost fifteen years, and are dedicated to the community, as well as to the constantly improving the District more generally.

We strongly believe that St. Patrick's contributes to the community, not only by providing a much needed, high quality, primary school option (and now hopefully a middle school one as well), but also by being a productive, considerate, and vibrant contributor to community life. As parents and Palisades community residents, we would much rather see our community develop in the direction of more and better educational options than in that of commercial real estate and/or excessively large residential construction, a trend which has, sadly, already begun.

The neighborhood is justifiably concerned about additional traffic and the consequences of yet further stages of expansion. We are fully confident that the St. Patrick's management, given its strong past performance as a considerate contributor rather than a detractor to the community, will take the neighborhood's concerns and opinions in mind as it develops its new middle school.

Finally, as a member of the Brookings scholarly community, which has contributed extensively to the debates on both school choice and the reform of the District of Columbia, I feel that the proposed St. Patrick's expansion makes positive contributions on

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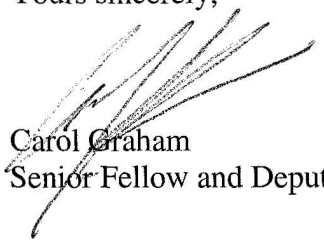
Economic Studies Program

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
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EXHIBIT NO.85

both these fronts. It does so by enhancing the educational options available in the District, and by contributing to the revival of the District as an efficient provider of public and private services. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202)797-6022.

Yours sincerely,



Carol Graham
Senior Fellow and Deputy Director