Linda Brackett 1544 44th St. NW DC 20007

March 14, 2002

#16855

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
DC Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW - # 210 S
Washington, DC 20001

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Dear Mr. Griffis and Board Members

I, and many members of my neighborhood, have been affected negatively in many ways by the Rock Creek International School, now in its third year of operation in our community.

The most troubling to me, as a volunteer at the adjacent DC Parks and Recreation Center, is the attitude of entitlement which the school repeatedly manifests toward these public, tax supported facilities. The school is a tax exempt institution, yielding no income to the city. It has no play space for any of the children in its grades 1 - 5, but relies on Hardy Recreation Center for its outdoor program, both during school hours, for its after school program, and for its summer camp program.

This is at the expense of the public, particularly after 3:00 p.m. during the school year, when neighborhood children come to play on the playground equipment, and on the basketball court. The accompanying photograph indicates more than words can, that the school (which leases, not owns the building) feels entitled to preempt the public space. The "grounds," depicted under the title "Our New Building and Grounds" belong to the federal government (tax payers) and not to the school.

The expansion of the school to include sixth grade (a middle school grade with even greater needs for outdoor space than the younger children have) is not compatible with the needs of the residents of the immediate neighborhood or the residents in other areas of the District. We urgently request that the requested variance be denied by the Board of Zoning Adjustment so that the tax payers can enjoy the facilities for which they pay..

Sincerely,

Linda Brackett

Linda Brackett 202-337-1544

Attachment

BZA
Case No. 16855
Exhibit No. 40

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16855
EXHIBIT NO.40

Linda Brackett 1544 44th St. NW DC 20007

Case #16855 March 9, 2002

Rock Creek International School, in 3 years, has violated the neighborhood in both large and small ways through its attitude of entitlement and related failure to consult with the community on matters of common concern. These include:

1. Removal of the bus stop in front of the school on Foxhall Road, depriving, among others, a handicapped citizen of his most convenient stop.

2. The placement of large cutout colored animals on the school fence on Foxhall Road, creating what some community members consider "visual pollution."

3. The placement of a large sandwich board sign advertising school activities on the public sidewalk in front of the school without a permit. (photo)

4. The habitual use by staff members of the neighboring alley for smoking and littering with cigarette butts.

5. Group use of play equipment at the expense of neighborhood children, who have been told that it is unavailable to them.

6. The allowing, by staff, the school children to damage the plants and borders of the gardens.

7. The regular parking of fourteen or fifteen cars in the lot restricted to ten cars. (photo)

8. The use, by parents, of neighborhood alleys to wait for their children to be dismissed, blocking the alleys in the process.

Accompanying such activities has been the consistent evasiveness and avoidance on the part of Mr. Hollinger in responding to the community's inquiries (FCCA, BZA ordered meetings, Partners for Problem Solving) regarding the school's plans to expand. Expansion is of particular concern because the school has no play space for children beyond kindergarten.