Rock Creek International School
Board of Zoning Adjustment Hearing
March 26, 2002

Good morning Chairman Griffis and members of the Board. My name is Alma Gates. I am Chair of the Traffic Committee of the Palisades Citizens Association Board and am a member of the Ward 3 Traffic Policy Committee. Rock Creek International School is within the Palisades boundaries, however the school has not informed the Palisades Citizens Association of its expansion plans. Should the school decide to inform Palisades of its plans the association will furnish an opinion. In the absence of an opportunity to give full consideration to the merits of the Rock Creek International School proposal, the Palisades feels it must oppose the proposal at this time.

School expansions are not a new phenomenon to the Palisades area which is home to Georgetown Day, Lab School, St. Patrick's, Our Lady of Victory, Field School, River School, Key Elementary School and Rock Creek International School. The Mt. Vernon campus of George Washington University also lies within our boundaries. Many of these schools have just completed expansions, are under construction or have filed for a special exception with the BZA. While each expansion brings its own set of problems, the one problem that is common to all expansions is traffic.

Rock Creek International School, former home of Hardy Middle School, lies along the southern part of Foxhall Road. It is bounded by Foxhall Road and Q Street, which connects MacArthur Boulevard and Foxhall Road. It is important to situate the school because Foxhall Road and MacArthur Boulevard are very busy corridors that are used to reach Canal Road to the south and Reservoir Road and Nebraska Avenue to the north. There is never a time during the day when

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there are not a substantial number of cars and buses on Foxhall Road. The latest count from DDOT notes that over 17,000 cars use Foxhall Road every day.

It is easy to say that 12 or 13 more Rock Creek International School students won't make a difference to Foxhall Road. A few more students mean a few more cars. Mt. Vernon College is running over 130 shuttle buses in two directions past Rock Creek International School every day. St. Patrick's has 440 students who must reach Whitehaven Parkway via Foxhall Road every day. The Lab School has 310 students who come from Washington, Maryland and Virginia and many of them come by school bus along Foxhall Road. And Georgetown Day School contributes another 710 students to MacArthur Boulevard. A few more and a few more students and we are in trouble. The community cannot use its own streets. STOP signs and DO NOT ENTER between the hours of---- signs are popping up all over the community because a few more and a few more students were added.

The lower parking lot at Rock Creek International School is indicative of what a few more and a few more students really mean. What was meant to be a parking lot for a maximum of 10 staff cars is now a parking lot for 15 or more cars on a regular basis. They are school staff who are needed to support a few more students.

As a person who deals with traffic in the community on a daily basis I am asking the Board of Zoning Adjustment not to add a few more students at Rock Creek International School. Even though the school is within its student cap a few more students will have a negative impact on the community. Thank You.