Nancy Sidamon-Eristoff
4633 Garfield Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Board of Zoning Adjustments
Chairman Geoffrey Griffis
441 4th St., NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

August 27, 2002

Re: BZA Application No. 16915
Barbara Schriever Allan – 2828 Hurst Terrace, NW

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

I am writing to you to express our support for Barbara Allan's application to continue to run her school, Barbara's Montessori School, at 2828 Hurst Terrace, NW.

My family and I have been residents of the Palisades area for ten years now, and all three of our children attended Barbara's School. I cannot tell you how wonderful an environment the school is for children. Barbara and her team give their students an amazing start in their education which leaves them loving school and eager for more.

But I strongly support Ms. Allan's application to continue to operate her school not only because of the school's excellence, but also because of its necessity to the Palisades area. Barbara herself has told you that the number of applications she receives is more than double the number of students she can take. She has seen the actual number of applications to her school each year jump from about 30 to 60 in just the last five years. The Palisades area needs her school, permanently, and even more like it, to handle the number of young families residing here. The issue of her school is partly an issue of what type of neighborhood we want the Palisades to be ten years down the road, one which is attractive to young families or one which shuts them out.

Traffic has been of great concern to several nearby residents. But many of the traffic problems have stemmed from the extensive construction project undertaken by Key School, across the street. This project is expected to be completed in the fall. The Key School's entrance will move from Hurst Terrace to Eskridge Terrace which will greatly reduce these traffic problems.

I understand that several of the residents opposing the school's application sent their children to Barbara's Montessori School in the past. Now that their children are older, they no longer want the school around. Many people would think the unbelievable hypocrisy of that position would be sufficiently embarrassing to prevent these residents

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from taking a position against the school. Sadly, it seems these residents are incapable of being embarrassed, and of understanding that other families want the same type of educational opportunities for their children as they had.

While reviewing this permit application, please do not overlook the feelings and beliefs of residents of the Palisades who feel that Barbara's school should be allowed to continue its excellent work in the neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Nancy and Simon Sidamon-Eristoff

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