Susan Lange Smith
2835 Hurst Terrace, NW
Washington, DC 20016

September 1, 2002

Geoffrey Griffis
Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

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

Dear Chairman Giffis and Members of the Board,

As a homeowner and resident of Hurst Terrace, I am writing to you in opposition of Barbara Allan's application for a renewal of her special exception permit to operate a Montessori school at 2828 Hurst Terrace.

In June 1999, I sold my home in Montgomery County, Maryland and bought my home on Hurst Terrace, NW. I searched for more than a year before I chose Hurst Terrace. My decision was based on a short two block long residential tree lined street, a quiet neighborhood that had the convenience of added amenities nearby on MacArthur Blvd and other more traveled streets. At the time I purchased my home I was unaware that a private school existed across the street, as they were out of session for the summer.

As a single professional woman working in DC, I frequently come home mid-day to walk my dogs. On numerous occasions I have had difficulty getting to my driveway due to the caravan of vehicles waiting in line up Hurst Terrace wrapping around the corner on to Garfield Street. More than once, the drivers of the vehicles are out on the street, with doors wide open, socializing as they wait to advance in the pick up line. Between the parked cars of the resident's and the line of idle cars my driveway has literally been blocked for me to access. I am hopeful that you can imagine how frustrating it is to endure this situation.

I was fully aware that Key Elementary existed when I moved into the neighborhood. I also believed that all that surrounded the Key School were residential homes. I don't oppose a public school that serves the immediate local community. It does not impact me as I leave my home early in the morning and return in the evening when school is out. In fact, I rather enjoy taking my young nephews to the school's park on the weekends.

Further, I do not oppose successful private schools as long as they are in an appropriate location with adequate off street parking along with other business entities. Many of the students come from other sections of DC, Maryland and Virginia. This is evidenced by license plates and one of my office colleagues, who resides in Bethesda, sent his two boys to Barbara's school. At the July 17th ANC hearing, Barbara Allan stated that the school has enormous demand and has grown tremendously over the years. I applaud her success in developing her business. The issue is that it is a business and takes from the residential integrity and character that the homeowners of Hurst Terrace deserve to enjoy.

BZA
Case No. 16915
Exhibit No. 61

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16915
EXHIBIT NO.61

If Barbara Allan's special exception permit is renewed and the school continues on Hurst Terrace, the needs of resident's of other communities will be served before the tax paying homeowners of Hurst Terrace. It would be unfair to support the profits of one individual and their business venture at the expense of the quality of residential life for the balance of the homeowners on Hurst Terrace.

I urge you to evaluate the impact (financial and qualitative) of Barbara's school on our street. I for one would **never** have purchased my home had I known of the school. If it remains, I will give serious consideration to another location. The school is not an amenity to the neighboring properties and limits resale potential.

I am hopeful you understand and will act upon my concerns as I hope to be a long time resident of Hurst Terrace. A place that I hope to one day raise a family of my own.

Sincerely,



Susan Lange Smith