GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Policy and Planning Administration

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jerrily R. Kress, FAIA
Director
Office of Zoning

FROM: Kenneth G. Laden
Associate Director for Transportation Planning

BZA
Case No. 16915
Exhibit No. 92

DATE: September 13, 2002

SUBJECT: BZA Application No. 16915 – Application for Special Exception for the Continued Use of a Child Development Center Located at 2828 Hurst Terrace, NW, Lot 12, Square 1420

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has reviewed the subject application and material for the above site. This memorandum addresses the transportation aspects of the proposal.

The applicant, Barbara's Montessori School (Montessori School), proposes to continue to use a portion of the subject site as a child development center. The Montessori School, located in a residence, has been in operation at the site for the past 18 years. The BZA approved the special exception for a period of three years in 1984. BZA renewed the school's approval status for a period of five years in 1987, and for ten years in 1992. In the summary order dated September 30, 1992, the application was granted with the following conditions: approval shall be for ten years, enrollment shall be limited to a maximum of 23 children, the maximum number of employees shall not exceed three (3) including one (1) teacher and two (2) aides, the hours of operation are limited from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, and a staff person shall assist in the discharge and pick-up of children to the facility by escorting children to and from vehicles and the facility. As stated in the previous DDOT report dated September 25, 1992, the off-street parking requirement of one (1) parking space for every four (4) staff is not required for this site, however we note that the applicant has a driveway leading to a garage that can accommodate two (2) vehicles.

Hurst Terrace, NW is a two-way one –lane local road with residential parking restrictions on both sides. South of the subject site, non-restrictive curbside parking is provided, limited to 15 minutes on school days. Across the street, and slightly south of

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the subject site, is the Francis Scott Key Elementary School (Key School). The Key School, currently under renovation, used Hurst Terrace, NW in the past to drop-off and pick-up school children. Once renovation of the Key School is completed a new parking facility will be provided for teachers with access located on Hurst Terrace, currently the entrance is used exclusively for construction traffic. The Key School provided notification to the immediate neighborhood outlining the changes to the circulation at the school in a memorandum dated April 20, 2002. The following statement was included,

> "While the existing building is being renovated after the start of the next school year, all pick-ups and drop-offs will need to switch from Hurst Terrace (where they all occur now) to the new school entrance on Eskridge Terrace and to the new stairs on Dana Place. This means new traffic patterns and new opportunities for confusion. We are beginning to think ahead to this challenge and to try to apply some of the lessons we learned last year from our experience on the Hurst Terrace side."

The applicant submitted an Arrival and Dismissal Plan that was provided to parents and caregivers using the Montessori School. The Arrival and Dismissal Plan's aim is to minimize the impact on the immediate area by providing strict guidelines for the drop-off and pick-up of children. Nor more than three vehicles are allowed to queue in front of the site, children are removed and placed in vehicles by staff of the facility, blocking a neighbor's driveway is strictly prohibited, and those who violate the rules more than twice will be dismissed from the School.

DDOT staff met with several members of the immediate community who expressed concern that the Montessori School creates objectionable traffic conditions, including the stacking of vehicles, primarily during special events occurring at the School. DDOT staff conducted several site visits to observe drop-off and pick-up activities at the site. The conditions outlined in the Arrival and Dismissal Plan were fully complied with by parents and caretakers upon observations. Additionally, drop-off activities for the Key School occurred only on Eskridge Terrace and Dana Place, as proposed in the memorandum sent to the community, and establishing the parking facility for teachers and staff will alleviate some of the parking congestion on nearby streets.

The proposed continuation of the subject site as a child development center will not have a negative impact on parking supply in the immediate community, or create dangerous or objectionable traffic conditions. In the case of special events where parents may want to attend, for example graduation, the applicant should make arrangements with parents, caretakers, and neighbors to minimize any potential conflict in the community. Accordingly, DDOT has no objection to the application.

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