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GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF PLANNING

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Zoning Adjustment

FROM: JLS for Andrew Altman, Director

DATE December 2, 2002

SUBJECT: BZA Application 16944
4200 Davenport Street, N.W. – **Georgetown Day School**

APPLICATION

The applicant is seeking a modification of a previously approved special exception, BZA Order #14278, approved on May 1, 1985. The applicant requests a change in the condition limiting the number of students and faculty outlined in Conditions 2 and 3 of the order.

Additionally, the applicant has adjusted its original application to include requests to modify two other conditions relating to its traffic management, including Conditions 8 and 13. The Conditions read as follows:

2. The number of students shall not exceed 410, and shall be limited to grade nine through twelve.
3. The school shall have a maximum of sixty (60) full-time equivalent faculty and staff members.
8. All pick-up or drop-off of students shall occur on the school grounds.
13. During special events, which increase the demand for parking beyond the number of spaces available on the lot, parking for additional vehicles shall be provided on the playing field to minimize parking by visitors to the school on neighborhood streets.

The applicant requests that the conditions be modified as follows:

2. The number of students shall not exceed 465, and shall be limited to grade nine through twelve.
3. The school shall have a maximum of 95 full-time equivalent faculty and staff members.
8. Limited drop-offs and pedestrian access will be permitted at the 42nd Street entrance.
13. ***Delete***

BZA
Case No. 16944
Exhibit No. 32

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16944
EXHIBIT NO.32

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

Office of Planning **recommends approval** of the modifications to the conditions and prescribes the following:

2. The number of students shall not exceed 465, and shall be limited to grade nine through twelve.
3. The school shall have a maximum of 95 full-time equivalent faculty and staff members.
8. Pedestrian access only will be permitted at the 42nd Street entrance.
13. During special events, the school will provide shuttle bus service to and from Metro to minimize potential overflow parking on neighborhood streets by visitors to the school.

SITE AND AREA DESCRIPTION

The subject property is located on the parcel formerly known as the Harry Tract which fronts on Davenport Street to the north, 42nd Street to the east, Chesapeake Street and River Road to the south and southwest, and 43rd Street to the west. 43rd Street provides access to the school from the north and Davenport Street provides access from the east. It is an irregularly shaped property, improved with a three-story school building, an athletic field, and a 90-space parking lot.

The site is located at 4200 Davenport Street in an R-2 zone District, and abuts residentially zoned and developed property on its north (in R3 and R-2 Districts), east and south sides (R-2 District). The subject property is located adjacent to the Safeway grocery store on the north in the C-2-A District and is one block from Wisconsin Avenue. The site is convenient to the District's transportation systems, including the Wisconsin and River Road Metrobus routes, as well as the Tenlytown Metro Station two blocks away from the subject property.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

By BZA Order No. 14728, which became final on May 1, 1985, the Board granted approval for the establishment of a private high school for a maximum of 410 students and 65 faculty and staff. The approval was subject to 18 conditions (Attachment 1)

The applicant initially sought an amendment to Conditions 2 and 3, regarding:

"[T]he number of students shall not exceed 410, …, and

"[T]he school shall have a maximum of 65 full-time equivalent faculty and staff members."

GDS is requesting modification of this section of the condition to accommodate the increase in students and faculty in response to the changing academic needs of the student population. The changes in high school educational requirements have resulted in changes to necessary curriculum offerings. The school must respond accordingly. Such changes are reflected in the number of students per academic offerings and the resulting class sizes in an academic year.

GDS would also like the Board to reconsider the limitations on the pick-up and drop-off of students on school grounds only, to also include limited pick-ups and drop-offs at the school's rear entrance on 42nd Street. Additionally, Condition #13 limits overflow parking for the school's events to the soccer field. The field is located behind the

existing Safeway, to the west of the school, adjacent to River Road. The school would like to discontinue this practice, since it recently installed a storm water management and sprinkler system on the field.

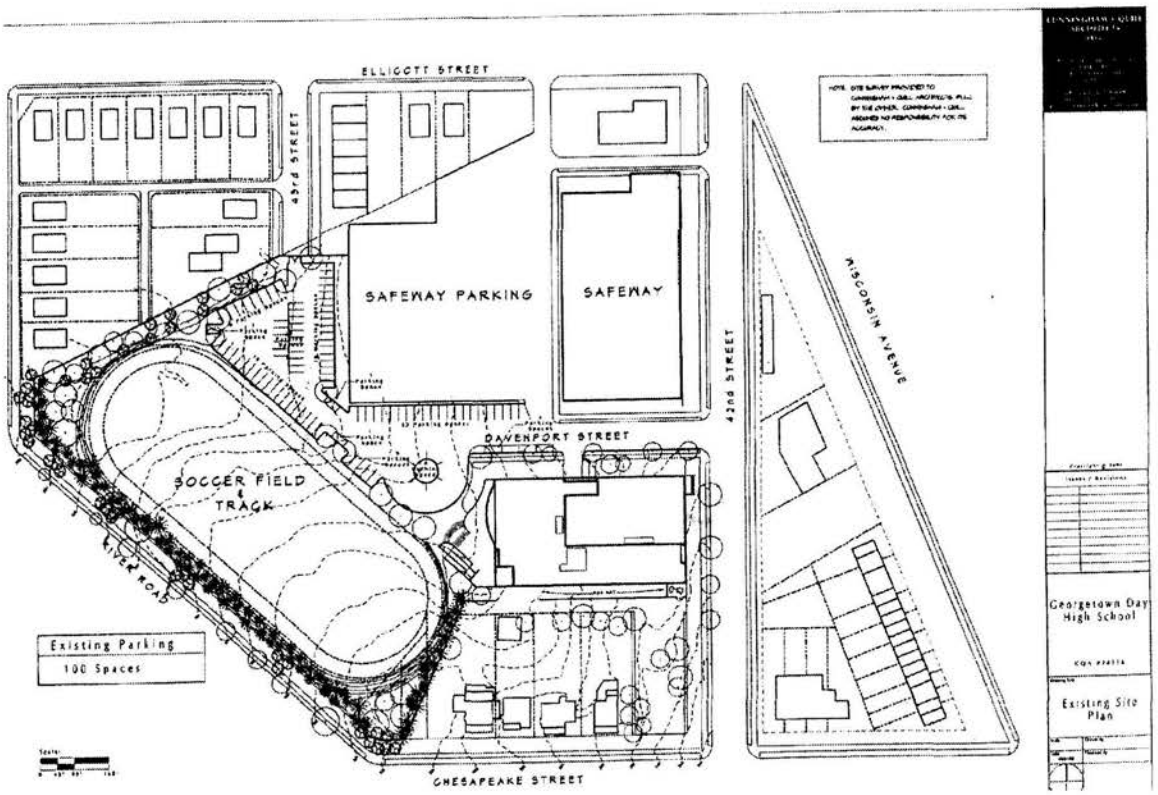


Figure 1

ZONING REQUIREMENTS

The site is zoned R-2-B. Pursuant to Sections 205 and 206, a private school is a special exception use in this District if approved by the Board of Zoning Adjustment. The request for a special exception to modify the order is submitted pursuant to Section 3104.1 of the Zoning Regulations that states …

"Pursuant to authority contained in the Zoning Act, the Board is authorized to grant special exceptions, as provided in this Title, where, in the judgment of the Board, those special exceptions will be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning regulations and Zoning Maps and will not tend to affect adversely the use of the neighboring property in accordance with the Zoning Regulations and Zoning Maps…"

ANALYSIS

Georgetown Day School operates a private school/high school in the American University/Tenlytown neighborhood for students in grades nine through twelve. The following outlines the BZA conditions, which govern the operations and traffic management at GDS.

Number of Students and Faculty and Staff; Operations

1. Approval shall be limited to the Georgetown Day School.
2. The number of students shall not exceed 410, and shall be limited to grade nine through twelve.
3. The school shall have a maximum of sixty full-time equivalent faculty and staff members.

Traffic Management

7. All traffic to and from the site, both pedestrian and vehicular shall use the entrance off of Davenport Street.
8. All pick-up or drop-off of students shall occur on the school grounds.
9. All students permitted to drive to school shall be provided with a parking space on-site. Students who do not have access to an on-site parking space shall be prohibited from driving to school. Students shall be prohibited from parking on neighborhood streets. Violation of that prohibition by students shall result in disciplinary action by the school.
13. During special events, which increase the demand for parking beyond the number of spaces available on the lot, parking for additional vehicles shall be provided on the playing field to minimize parking by visitors to the school on neighborhood streets.

The table below summarizes the requested relief, including the original conditions, the existing situation.

Condition	Granted Approval	Existing Situation	Requested Relief
Student Enrollment	**410**	**450**	**Increase to 465**
FTE	**65 Staff**	**81 Staff**	**Increase to 95 FTE**
Parking Spaces	**61 (minimum)**	**98 on-site (+ 8 spaces in public space)**	**No Change**
13. Vehicular access	**Via Davenport Street Only**	**Via Davenport Limited access via 42nd Street**	**Via Davenport with Limited access via 42nd Street**

(Taken from Traffic and Parking Impact Assessment - O.R. George and Associates, 2002)

Table 1

The request for modifications will be reviewed according to its operations and traffic management.

Number of Students and Faculty and Staff

The Office of Planning did not object to the original number of proposed enrollees (OP's report April 10, 1985), since it was not likely to become objectionable to adjoining and neighboring property. However, the school's program has since exceeded its enrollment at various times as shown in the table below.

High School Enrollment: 1993-2003

Year	Enrollment Number
1993-1994	452
1994-1995	450
1995-1996	457
1996-1997	465
1997-1998	456
1998-1999	460
1999-2000	465
2000-2001	458
2001-2002	453
2002-2003	450

The table shows the fluctuation in the school's enrollment, since 1993 to present. The average enrollment over the ten-year period is approximately 457, or 47 students over the maximum allowed (410). The new enrollment request (465) represents an increase of 8 students above the average enrollment, and 55 students above the official enrollment cap. OP was informed that the intent of the school is to stay at 450 students.

Table 2

The staffing at GDS also increased above the cap (65) to accommodate the enrollment. The school currently has 81 employees. The justification for increases in student enrollment and faculty include:

- Flexibility in cases of unexpectedly large freshman classes. The school, along with other private schools has experienced competition in freshmen enrollment. Start-up operations at GDS in 1987 offered 35 to 40 available enrollment slots. However, as early as 1989, 80 applicants competed for those slots in the ninth grade. The school has since received 250 applications for the ninth grade slots in the past year. Additionally, the current enrollment is between 110-115 per grade level. An increase in faculty is necessary to support the increased demand for student enrollment.
- With over a decade of operational experience, GDS is now able to more effectively anticipate and control the average enrollment for an academic year and to improve the quality of offerings. Class sizes are controllable and academically challenging for students, since more staff may be assigned to administer similar courses, reflective of student demand. The current number of students per grade level is also ideal for GDS to support its upper-level and extra-curricular programs.

OP has no objection to the modification of the original order for an increase in the enrollment cap for students and corresponding increase in faculty and staff. OP believes that GDS's management has a better understanding of the requirements for optimal class sizes in relation to demand, as early as the ninth grade, and to support upper level courses, since it has been in operation for over a decade.

Traffic Management

OP believes that the analysis should consider the impact the requests may have on traffic management in the immediate vicinity of the school, including parking, drop-off and pick up, and over-flow parking for special events.

Parking

According to the applicant, 57% of enrollees reside in the District of Columbia, with 27% residing in Ward 3. Many students who drive have Zone 3 parking stickers. The school

provides 98 parking spaces for students and faculty. Only 86 spaces are required, according to current regulations. Since its inception, the applicant has agreed to work with the community to address any concerns with respect to student parking in the neighborhood. The school has parking policy guidelines outlined in the school's handbook and at the ANC meeting held on June 3, 2002 they outlined additional measures the school would be taking in the new academic year:

- Each student must register his or her car with the school.
- The school will promote car pools by rewarding students with on-site parking.
- The school will subsidize metro fares for non-DC residents.
- The school will lease off-campus parking for students with hardships that require them to drive to school.
- A letter will be sent to the parents of each student quoting the school's policy of on-site only parking.
- Students and parents will be notified of the parking regulations now in place.
- The school will hire someone to patrol surrounding streets to take note of policy offenders.
- Students who break the policy will be fined and/or suspended.

The School has worked extensively with members of the community in creating an acceptable Traffic Management Plan ("TMP"). Under the School's proposed plan, no student will be allowed to drive to school unless there is an assigned, on-site parking space for the vehicle. All students must register their vehicles, indicate where the vehicle will be parked and obtain a school sticker prior to the beginning of the school year. School employees will be trained at the beginning of each semester to implement and enforce the TMP. The school will employ security personnel to patrol the streets surrounding the campus to ensure that the TMP is implemented. In addition, students cannot park on neighborhood streets, even if they have a Zone 3 sticker.

The school also indicated that they will lease parking spaces in a nearby commercial facility, and the school will provide a shuttle bus to and from the facility. GDS will encourage public transportation by making reduced-fare Metro passes available to all employees and students. The GDS Traffic Management Plan will become part of the enrollment contract between the school and parents, and parents will be informed of the penalties for non-compliance. (See GDS Traffic Management Plan attached). The school's eventual goal is to meet real parking needs on-site.

The Impact Assessment Summary (Traffic Study, Exhibit A) concluded that the increase in enrollment and faculty is not likely to become objectionable because of traffic or parking. GDS currently provides parking spaces (98 on site and 8 on adjacent public space which is not adjacent to any residential use), well in excess of the 61 spaces required by the 1985 Order. The Study demonstrates that the current demand for the spaces is only in the range of 80% (Page10). Thus, approximately 20 spaces remain vacant daily. These observations were made under the current conditions of an enrollment of 450 students and 81 faculty and staff. The school is requesting an additional 15 students and 14 faculty and staff to what currently exists. The Traffic Study concluded that such an increase is likely to result in only 6 additional vehicles accessing the site, with a corresponding additional demand for fewer than 5 parking spaces – still leaving 15 excess spaces. Thus, GDS currently provides more than adequate parking to

accommodate the requested increase in students, faculty, and staff.

OP believes that the proposed increases are unlikely to become objectionable to the neighborhood because of traffic. As previously mentioned, the Study projects an increase of six vehicles accessing the site during the morning and afternoon peak arrival periods. Under current conditions (of students, faculty and staff), the level of service at nearby intersections during the morning and afternoon peak hours is at least "B" on a scale of A-F, with A being the most favorable. The site is well served by public transportation, with over 40% of students, faculty, and staff utilizing public transportation or walking to the site (Exhibit A, Table 3, at 9).

OP believes that the school has made a good faith effort in devising its Traffic Management Plan to support the neighborhood's concerns about parking and general traffic control in the immediate area. In discussions with OP, DDOT has also indicated its support of the school's Traffic Management Plan.

Drop-Off and Pick Up - Conditions 7& 8

Condition 8 of the original Order requires that all pick-up or drop-off of students occur on the school grounds. The Traffic Study observed parents picking up and dropping off students at the 42nd Street entrance. It concluded that the current usage levels, with appropriate monitoring and supervision, should not result in any adverse impacts on the area. It also concluded that the use of this entrance might be beneficial in relieving congestion near the main entrance and facilitating access to the School.

DDOT indicated to OP that there was no objection to allow pedestrian access only to its entrance at 42nd Street. However, DDOT believed that there was no indication in the Traffic Study as to how the school would actually monitor or enforce "limited drop-offs and pick-ups" at this entrance. They noted that vehicles slowing down to pick up or drop off students at this entrance would have a negative traffic impact along 42nd Street in both directions, since the street is single lane only in both directions, hindering other drive-through traffic along the street. OP concurs with DDOT's opinion in this regard, and supports the 42nd Street entrance as access for pedestrian traffic only.

Over-Flow Parking - Condition 13

Finally, OP believes that relief from Condition No. 13 of Order No. 14278, requiring overflow parking for special events to be provided on the School's soccer field should not become objectionable to neighboring properties.

The applicant contends that due to the installation of the storm water drainage and sprinkler systems under the field, parking on the field is infeasible, since it is not equipped to handle the weight of vehicles. The system, installed in response to the District of Columbia Stormwater Management Regulations requirements and neighborhood concerns, would be damaged by the weight of the vehicles.

The applicant has indicated that to date, there have been no complaints of "spillover" or overflow parking into the residential neighborhood during special events. The Traffic Study further determined that parking is adequate for special events (Exhibit A at 11). DDOT discussed this condition with OP and determined that while they agree that over-flow parking should not be located on the soccer field, they recommend that GDS

provide shuttle buses to and from Metro to minimize over-flow parking. Therefore, OP supports the school's request to remove of the requirement that the School provide over flow parking on the soccer field and DDOT's recommendation to provide shuttle buses during special events. OP recommends the modified Condition #13 be read as follows:

13. <u>During special events, the school will provide shuttle bus service to and from Metro to minimize potential overflow parking on neighborhood streets by visitors to the school.</u>

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

ANC 3E voted unanimously to approve the request to increase the number of students and faculty as requested, conditioned with the adherence to the current parking and traffic management plan administered by the school.

OTHER AGENCIES

The request, including the applicant's Traffic Study was submitted to DDOT for review and comments. The Office of Planning had discussions with DDOT concerning the Study and included their recommendations in the report. DDOT's report dated December 3, 2002 is attached.

CONCLUSION

The Office of Planning does not anticipate any negative impacts if the school is allowed the flexibility to increase its student enrollment and faculty within the stated hours of operation and in conformance with the other conditions in the previous BZA Order #14278. The requested modifications will cater to the adjustment of academic course offerings and faculty availability, which may fluctuate across academic years. OP believes that the requested increase in the student enrollment and faculty cap (55 more students, and 30 staff) is minimal and should not have an adverse impact on the use of neighboring property.

Additionally, the requirement for parking on the soccer field (Condition 13) should be eliminated, due the damage of the underground storm-water management system. Based on the applicant's traffic study and DDOT's confirmation, OP believes that the school has sufficient on-site parking for special events held during non-school hours. However, OP also supports DDOT's recommendation that providing shuttle bus services to and from Metro during special events at the school will minimize potential overflow parking.

OP noted the Traffic Study's recommendation to the school's management to consider working with DDOT to restrict metered parking along the north side of Davenport Street, during the morning period 7:00 am – 9:am on weekdays, and to provide an "Advance School Sign" along 42nd Street, north of the school. DDOT supports the recommendation for limited parking along 42nd Street, as a potential to further mitigate any negative traffic impact and as a safety consideration for the school.

The school currently operates in conformance with the remaining conditions. The applicant is not requesting a change in the overall hours of operation (not to exceed 6:00 p.m.).

It is OP's opinion that the school has operated in harmony with the general intent of the Zoning Regulations and Map. The Office of Planning is satisfied that modification of the previous order will not change the material facts upon which the Board made its earlier decisions by allowing the school to operate. OP therefore **recommends approval** by the Board of Zoning Adjustment of the applicant's request to amend the conditions # 2,3,8 and 13 as follows:

2. **"The number of students shall not exceed 465, ..."**
3. **"The school shall have a maximum of 95 full-time equivalent faculty and staff members."**
8. **"Pedestrian access only, will be permitted at the 42nd Street entrance."**
13. **"During special events, the school will provide shuttle bus service to and from Metro to minimize potential overflow parking on neighborhood streets by visitors to the school."**

ATTACHMENTS
1. Site Location Map
2. Board of Zoning Adjustment, Summary Order, Application #14278, May1, 1985.
3. Exhibit A – Traffic Study (Produced by O.R. George and Associates, Inc, Nov. 18, 2002)
4.DDOT's Report (December 3, 2002).
5.GDS Traffic Management Plan.


R-3
Safeway
Soccer Field
Georgetown Day School
R-2
R-4
Elliott St NW
Chesapeake St NW
Feature Key
Zoning Boundaries
Square Index
Board of Zoning Adjustment
Application No. #16944
DC Office of Planning
December 3, 2002
Scale 1:1000
Attachment 1

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

Application No. 14278, of Lewis E.S. Parker, Trustee, Harry Family Trust, pursuant to Sub-section 8207.2 of the Zoning Regulations, for special exceptions under Paragraph 3101.42 to construct a private high school with an athletic field and under Sub-section 7203.6 to permit a reduction in the number of required parking spaces in an R-2 District at premises 4200 Davenport Street, N.W., (Square 1672, Lot 813, Square 1673, Lots 1, 2, 808-813, 816, 817 and 819, and part of Davenport Street to be closed).

HEARING DATE: April 17, 1985
DECISION DATE: May 1, 1985

FINDINGS OF FACT:

1. The subject site is located on a tract of land fronting on Davenport Street to the north, 42nd Street to the east, Chesapeake Street and River Road to the south and southwest, and 43rd Place to the west. Forty-third Street provides access to the site from its northernmost point. The site is known as premises 4200 Davenport Street, N.W. It is located in an R-2 District.

2. The site abuts residentially zoned and developed property on its north (R-3, R-2 Districts), east, and south sides (R-2 District). The site is located adjacent to a Safeway grocery store and parking lot on the north in the C-2-A District. The site is one block from Wisconsin Avenue.

3. The site contains 4.6 acres of land area. The site is irregularly shaped. The site is known as the Harry Tract. There are three single family structures located on the east side of River Road which are owned by members of the Harry family. The remainder of the site is unimproved.

4. The contract purchaser, the Georgetown Day School (GDS), plans to construct on the Harry Tract a first class high school building with gymnasium, theater, library, arts and classroom space, plus faculty offices and student and faculty lounges. Also included will be a regulation-size soccer field and a running track, and parking spaces for at least sixty-one cars. The proposed lot occupancy is 13.8 percent and the floor area ratio (FAR) is 0.36.

5. The GDS is seeking special exception relief to locate a private high school on the Harry Track, and to reduce the amount of required parking spaces by not more than twenty-five percent.

6. Paragraph 3101.42 of the Zoning Regulations permits with BZA approval through a special exception, a Private school, but not including a trade school, and residences for teachers and staff of a private school, provided that the school is so located that it is not likely to become objectionable to adjoining and nearby property because of noise, traffic, number of students, or otherwise objectionable conditions and that ample parking space, but not less than that required in Article 72 of these regulations, is provided to accommodate the students, teachers, and visitors likely to come to the site by automobile.

7. Under Sub-section 7203.6, the BZA is authorized to reduce the amount of parking spaces required for nonresidential uses by Sub-section 7202.1 provided that:

A. The amount of required parking spaces shall not be reduced by more than twenty-five percent.

B. The Board shall give consideration to:

1. The nature and location of the structure;

2. The maximum number of students, employees, guests, customers, or clients who can reasonably be expected to use the proposed building or structure at one time;

3. The amount of traffic congestion existing or which the building or structure can reasonably be expected to create in the neighborhood;

4. The quantity of existing public, commercial, or private parking, other than curb parking, on the property or in the neighborhood which can reasonably be expected to be available when the building or structure is in use; and,

5. The proximity to public transportation, particularly Metrorail stations, and the availability of public transportation service in the area, or a ride-sharing program approved by the District of Columbia Department of Public Works;

6. If the applicant relies on a ride-sharing program, the applicant shall demonstrate to the Board that the program shall continue as long as the use continues; and

7. Before taking final action on an application, the Board shall refer the application to the District of Columbia Department of Public Works for review and report.

8. GDS was established in 1945 to be the first desegregated school in the District of Columbia. GDS is a nonprofit, co-educational, nonsectarian school, governed by a Board of Trustees of parents elected by the parent body and administered by an appointed Director. Over eighty percent of the students are residents of the District of Columbia.

9. GDS high school was established in 1969. Since that time, the school has been located in makeshift space. GDS is presently located in a former office building at 4880 MacArthur Boulevard, which it purchased and converted for use as a high school. GDS has been seeking an appropriate location for a new home in the District of Columbia which is designed for its own use, conveniently located for its student
population, in close proximity to public transportation, and which will include an outdoor recreation field and adequate on-site parking. The Harry Tract was identified by GDS as a prime location for the school, given the fact that it satisfied all of the criteria listed above.

10. GDS initiated contact with the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) and the Friendship Tenley Citizens Association (FTCA) concerning the proposed high school in late 1983. This was followed up by a community-wide meeting held in January, 1984, with GDS representatives to discuss the proposal. Subsequently, an Ad Hoc Committee composed of neighborhood representatives was appointed by the ANC and FTCA for the purpose of articulating community concerns to GDS during the design of the project. GDS then began site planning for the school and selected the architectural firm of Keyes Condon Florance (KCF) in mid-March. During the latter part of March and the month of April, KCF commenced work on the project, developing conceptual plans and layouts. During that time, the Ad Hoc Committee met and formulated the general issue areas which they felt must be addressed by GDS. GDS responded to those issues, and the ensuing meetings and discussions during the following twelve months formed the basis for refinement of the neighborhood concerns and the GDS proposals.

11. The discussions between GDS and the Ad Hoc Committee culminated in a thirty-one paragraph Draft

Agreement with the Ad Hoc Committee which governed the development of the site and the proposed operation of the school, including the number of students and faculty; construction and school operation schedules; traffic and transportation access; fencing, buffering, and landscaping; security; land use; neighborhood input during construction and operation of the school; water drainage; parking; community service projects by GDS; future uses of the site; student discipline; and use of the building and grounds by the community. The said agreement is attached hereto and incorporated in this Order.

12. The site plan for the high school has been developed so that the school building is located as far to the east as possible on the site, adjacent to the Safeway supermarket, and across 42nd Street from the car wash, the rear of the Volvo sales and service facility, and the Central Pension Fund office building. The school parking lot, which will not be lighted at night, is located adjacent to the Safeway parking lot, and will be landscaped to screen it from adjacent dwellings. The athletic field, located along River Road, will be heavily landscaped along its perimeter. The dwellings to the south of the site will be screened by a heavy landscape buffer. The Board finds that school building is thus located in such a manner that it is buffered from the surrounding residences by the grass playing area and/or landscaping.

13. GDS presented a written report and expert testimony by an accoustical engineer that any noise generated by the operation of the school will not exceed the ambient noise levels of the neighborhood, which is located adjacent to the Wisconsin Avenue and River Road corridors, and that the design features incorporated into the plans will serve to buffer the transmission of any noise from the site. He concluded that the proposed high school will have no significant noise impacts on the neighborhood, and that any noise generated will be similar or less objectionable than that generated by a residential development on the site. The Board so finds.

14. GDS presented a written report and expert testimony by a traffic engineer. The report contained an analysis of booth vehicular and pedestrian travel to and from the site. The traffic analysis was based upon surveys and figures of the D.C. Department of Public Works (DPW) augmented by studies and observations made by the traffic expert. The traffic expert found that there is excellent public transportation access, with ten bus routes adjacent to the site and the Red Line Metrorail station approximately three blocks to the southeast. Surveys of transportation mode choice were taken of DGS students and faculty, and were compared with surveys of another private school. At the present school location, with limited public transportation

access, four bus routes, forty-three percent of the students use public transportation. The transportation analysis for the new site, with ten bus routes and a metrorail station in close proximity, along Wisconsin Avenue and River Road, uses a conservative estimate of forty-five percent public transportation users. The Board so finds.

15. All traffic to and from the site, both vehicular and pedestrian, will access the site via the Davenport Street entrance. The traffic report analyzed peak hour traffic volumes, and found that the AM traffic volumes are more critical because they coincide generally with GDS arrivals. GDS departures are spread over a three hour period in late afternoon, prior to the evening rush hour. The traffic study concluded that the directional morning peak period traffic volumes will increase on Davenport and 42nd Streets by approximately 160 cars, or less than three cars per minute per hour. This additional demand is well within the existing street capacity. Parents who drive their children to school will be instructed to pick-up and drop-off students on school grounds, which will not interfere with traffic flow. As compared with a matter-of-right development of residential units, the daily trip generation will be approximately the same for the proposed school. Existing traffic at affected intersections currently operates at level of service "B" or better, with no change expected as a result of the development. Parking demand at the present site is low. Currently, twenty-four spaces serve a school population of 382 students faculty and staff. Not all of these spaces are used all the time, although they are open, free and secure. The proposed site will have at least sixty-one spaces for 456 students, faculty and staff. Thus, with a future increase in school population of nineteen percent, and a future increase in parking supply of 157 percent, the traffic expert found adequate parking to serve the daily needs of the school. Any additional parking needs for special events can be accommodated on the playing field area. There are also metered parking spaces along Davenport Street and 42nd Street that are available for public use. The Board so finds.

16. All GDS faculty, staff and students who are permitted to drive cars to school will be provided a parking space on site. Any student who does not have both permission to drive to school and a place to park on site will be prohibited from driving to school. Students who drive to school and park in the neighborhood will be subject to disciplinary action. The school will prohibit authorized use of the parking lot at night. The lot will be secured at night, and a security service will be employed to prevent authorized parking and other unauthorized use of the school site during non-operating hours. During special events at the school, if the parking spaces on site are inadequate to

meet the parking demand, excess parking will be accommodated on the playing field area to minimize the necessity of school visitors' parking in the neighborhood. The athletic field area has been designed with a curb cut and a cinder track to facilitate this parking. There will be an emergency entrance to the site from 43rd Street. This access point will be secured by a gate which will be locked at all times and used only by emergency vehicles. GDS has met with DCDPW representatives during the design phase of the project and has incorporated their comments into the final site plan. The applicant has also consulted with DCDPW to discuss operational issues as well. The Board so finds.

17. The future total enrollment at the school will be no more than 410 students. The philosophy of the school includes the teaching of respect for the rights and property of one's fellow citizens. DGS students are required to complete sixty hours of community service during their tenure at the school. A partial list of student community service projects was submitted for the record. Students are instructed not to trespass on neighboring property, not to litter, and not to engage in any otherwise objectionable behavior either at the school, or in travelling to and from the school. Students who do not follow these rules will be disciplined by the school. The Board so finds.

18. GDS has presented two alternate plans for parking, one of which meets the strict requirements of the Zoning Regulations, and one of which requires special exception relief. The calculations for both layouts for zoning purposes was based solely upon the number of required spaces on private property. However, when the number of new parking spaces to be created on public space by GDS are included in the calculations, both alternative plans exceed the number of spaces required under the Zoning Regulations.

19. The Board finds that the Zoning Regulations require fifty-seven spaces for the proposed use. The applicant has included one proposal which provides fifty-seven spaces on private property, and another eleven spaces on public space, for a total of sixty-eight spaces. The alternative preferred by the Ad Hoc Committee and by GDS, however, is to delete the parking spaces in the Garden Area adjacent to the intersection of 42nd and Chesapeake Streets. This would result in fifty spaces on private property and eleven spaces on public space, for a total of sixty-one parking spaces. This proposal requires special exception relief. Both alternative parking plans include two handicapped spaces adjacent to the school building. Both alternative parking plans have been reviewed and coordinated with the Department of Public Works. GDS representatives testified that they intend to work with Safeway to return the entire Davenport Street to private ownership. If that is accomplished, the

parking spaces which are now shown as being located on public space will revert to private parking spaces at that time.

20. The school will have a future maximum of approximately 456 occupants (students, faculty and staff). Over one-half of the students do not have drivers' licenses, and therefore are not capable of driving. Student drivers to the school will be strictly controlled, as outlined above, and this policy will be strictly enforced. Students will be permitted to drive to school only in extraordinary circumstances, by permission of the school administration, and only if there is a place to park on-site.

21. The Office of Planning (OP), in its memorandum dated April 10, 1985 and at the public hearing recommended that the application be approved with conditions. The OP noted that the project is in compliance with the building height, bulk and yard and lot occupancy requirements of the R-2 District. The OP was of the opinion that the physical layout and design of the three story school building and grounds will minimize noise on surrounding properties. Students will be instructed by the school to respect the rights of others, and objectionable behavior will not be tolerated. Noise generated by outside sporting events on the athletic field will be buffered by distance and landscaping. The majority of the field is separated from other residentially used properties by public streets. The playing field will not be lighted, and all inter-scholastic events will conclude before 6:30 P.M. to maintain the neighborhood's evening hour tranquility. The OP was of the opinion that the number of students proposed to be enrolled in the school is not likely to become objectionable to adjoining and neighboring property. The OP was further of the opinion that the parking and vehicular access to the site is adequate to minimize any adverse impacts. Students will be prohibited from driving to the site unless they have permission to do so from the school, as well as a place to park on the site. There will be no unauthorized use of the parking lot at night. The OP reported that over one-half of the students do not have driver's license, and that the existing twenty-four parking spaces at the school are adequate to serve the daily needs of 382 students, faculty and staff. The OP also reported that the school is within one block of the Wisconsin Avenue and River Road bus corridors and within a short walking distance of the metrorail station. The OP also reported the high percentage of public transportation used by GDS students. The OP reported that the applicant had demonstrated that its proposal has been planned in such a way as to comply with the requirements for special exception relief. The OP concluded that the application be approved with the

conditions as agreed to with the Ad Hoc Committee. The Board concurs with the recommendation of the OP and its reasoning. The Board will condition the grant herein incorporating the concerns of the Committee over which the Board has jurisdiction.

22. The DPW, in its memorandum dated April 10, 1985, reported that as to the surrounding street system Ellicott Street is a local street with a paved width of thirty-five feet. Residential permit parking restrictions are in effect on both sides of the street. Chesapeake Street is also a local street, with a paved width of thirty feet. Residential permit parking is allowed on both sides of the street. 43rd Place is a local street with a paved width of twenty feet near the site. Residential permit parking is allowed on both sides of the street. River Road is a minor arterial with a paved width of thirty-six feet and an average daily traffic volume of 13,400 vehicles near the site. Unrestricted parking is allowed on both sides of the street near the site. 42nd Street is a local street with a paved width of thirty-four feet and an average daily traffic volume of 3,500 vehicles near the site. Three-hour metered parking is allowed between 7:00 A.M. and 6:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. Wisconsin Avenue is a principal arterial with a paved width of sixty feet and average daily traffic volume of 3,500 vehicles near the site. Metered parking is allowed on both sides of the street. Davenport Street is a dead-end local street, with a paved width of thirty feet. Parking is allowed on both sides of the street, but is limited to three hours between 7:00 A.M. and 6:30 P.M. on weekdays, and 43rd Street is a local street with a paved width of thirty feet, which dead ends north of the proposed school site. Residential permit parking is permitted on both sides of 43rd Street. The DPW further reported that the site is 800 feet from the Tenleytown station on Metrorail's Red Line. In addition, ten Metrobus routes, the T2, T3, T4, T6, T7, 30, 32, 34, 36 and 37 routes, stop near the site on River Road and Wisconsin Avenue.

23. The DPW reported that as to traffic because of the site's excellent access to public transit, the DPW estimated that forty-five percent of the student population would travel to the site by public transit, ten percent will walk, and forty-five percent will arrive and leave by automobile. The DPW concurred in the GDS estimate that approximately 273 daily vehicle trips will be generated by the school. Approximately 160 of these trips will occur between 7:00 and 8:00 A.M., during the morning peak hour on the adjacent streets. This volume of additional traffic will not affect the levels of service at intersections surrounding the site.

Afternoon traffic volumes will be dispersed over several hours; the majority will not coincide with PM traffic peaks on the surrounding streets. All access to the site will be via Davenport Street; vehicles entering and leaving the campus will turn around via a cul de sac on school property. No vehicular or pedestrian access will be permitted from River Road. The emergency access entrance from 43rd Street will be kept locked at all times. . The DPW noted that a channelization scheme has been developed by the DPW to improve sight distances at the intersection of Ellicott Street, 42nd Street, and Wisconsin Avenue. The Department hopes to include funding for this safety improvement in the FY 1987 capital budget.

22. As to parking, the DPW reported that the amount of parking will be sufficient to service the site, especially since eleven new public spaces will be available near the school entrance once the Davenport Street access has been improved by the applicant. Also, the GDS has agreed that only faculty members, staff and students who have been specifically assigned a parking space will be permitted to drive to the site. During special events, such as parent meetings and school plays, the athletic field can be used as a parking area.

25. The DPW reported that the GDS should be required to pay the cost of upgrading the two existing street lights on Davenport Street, and of installing a new light on the north side of Davenport Street, approximately 110 feet west of the existing Safeway driveway. All street light work must be coordinated with the DPW's Street Lighting Branch.

26. The DPW further reported that there is water and sewer service available to the site. The closing of Davenport Street will require a drainage easement and a drainage system for handling stormwater flow across the development. The GDS should continue to work with the DPW to develop and implement such a stormwater management system. The Board concurs in the DPW's reasoning and recommendation.

27. Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3E in a report filed April 10, 1985, reported that by a vote of 3-2 the ANC recommended that the application be denied. The ANC reported as follows:

> Whereas, the site of the proposed development falls within the boundaries of Single Member District 03, the preponderence of whose citizens have expressed concern that the quiet residential character of the neighborhood be preserved, that the traffic flow within the neighborhood continue to allow easy, unhindered passage to and from their residences uninterrupted by commuters entering the neighborhood for any reason, that the intersection at Wisconsin Avenue and 42d Street, N.W.

is poorly designed, dangerous, and inviting an accident, and that River Road, N.W. is already overloaded with commuter traffic,

Whereas, the District of Columbia recently proposed a city-wide land use plan that gives voice to local citizen participation in the planning of the future uses of their neighborhood, and,

Whereas, the proposed Georgetown Day School site:

represents an encroachment on the residential character of the neighborhood,

represents a potential precedent for future, unwarranted development of the surrounding neighborhood,

generates additional unwanted traffic in the neighborhood,

has its most significant ports-of-entry to the site through the intersection at Wisconsin Avenue and 42nd Street, N.W. and via River Road, N.W.

would generate a general disruption to the surrounding neighborhood with its various evening social, cultural and sporting events,

preempts the voice of the local citizenry in its right to determine future planning uses within the area in a thoughtful and deliberative manner, by putting in place a major development that will predetermine future uses before the ward area development plan can be created,

Therefore, be it resolved that

1. ANC 3E oppose the special exception relief Georgetown Day School seeks to construct its proposed secondary school on the Harry Tract.

2. That no development of the Harry Tract be approved that does not fit the residential character of the neighborhood and within the scope of the to-be developed ward area development plan.

3. That no development of the Harry Tract be approved that exceeds the current R-2 zoning of the area and

4. That the residential development of the Harry Tract take into account and complement the overall

development of the Wisconsin Avenue Corridor within ANC 3E.

5. That the citizens of ANC 3E, both for and against the establishment of the Georgetown Day School on the Harry Tract work in a united effort for the establishment of a ward area development plan and a coordinated development strategy of out neighborhood that causes the minimal adverse impact to our residents.

Finally, the ANC voted that, if the BZA grants the special exceptions sought in the application, that such approval should be conditioned upon: (a) the conditions negotiated by the Ad Hoc Committee; (b) a stipulation that a cafeteria be included as part of the school construction; and (c) a stipulation that demolition of the three houses on the east side of River Road be delayed as late as possible in the construction cycle.

28. The Board does not concur with the recommendation of the ANC. The Board is required by statute to give "great weight" to the issues and concerns of ANC that is reduced to writing in a resolution. The Board does not concur for the following reasons:

a. A private school is a use which is predeemed compatible with other uses in the R-2 District, subject to review by the Board for consistency with the requirements set forth in Paragraph 3101.42 of the Zoning Regulations. No variances or zoning changes are requested or are necessary in order to allow a private school to be located on the subject site. Any dispute concerning whether a private school should be permitted to locate on the site by special exception should be addressed to the Zoning Commission, rather than to the Board.

b. This Board has no authority to impose a building moratorium on the Harry Tract until such time that the City develops a Ward Plan for this area. Development on the site is governed by the R-2 zoning, and, as further set forth below, the proposed use is consistent with that zoning.

c. The proposed private school use does not exceed the current R-2 zoning of the site. A public high school could be placed on the site without the need for any relief from this Board.

d. Based upon the evidence and testimony, the Board finds that the proposed school development of the Harry Tract will complement the overall

development of the Wisconsin Avenue Corridor within ANC 3E.

e. This Board concurs with the ANC that the conditions set forth in the draft letter of agreement will help to ensure that there will be no adverse impact from the development and operation of the school on this site. The draft agreement includes provisions concerning the use of the student lounge for cafeteria purposes, and a procedure for determining when the three houses along River Road will be demolished during the construction phase.

29. The Friendship Neighborhood Coalition (FNC) testified at the public hearing that on March 12, 1985, the FNC Board voted to support the Georgetown Day School application for a special exception to build a high school on the Harry Tract. Some of the main issues which were raised were:

A. Concern about both the short and long-term disruption to the immediately adjacent residents of any development on that site.

B. Concern about the long-term effects of development on the Harry Tract to the larger neighborhood.

C. The magnitude of the change the GDS proposal has to be compared to matter-of-right residential development.

D. Schools and places of religious worship appear to be generally considered compatible uses in low density residential neighborhoods. Exemplified by the fact that if this proposal were for a public high school, even a large one, it could be built as a matter-of-right.

E. Other possible applications for changes if existing zoning from townhouses, to apartments to office or other commercial use. Remembering that this parcel has commercial uses across the street.

F. Traffic, noise, residential buffering, open space needs, upkeep problems, etc. under various options.

G. A concern that the current architectural plans show a 'back view' to 42nd Street which may at least psychologically cause safety as well as esthetic problems along that street.

30. FNC recognized that some of the immediate neighbors opposed this application. However, FNC had a broader

membership to consider. It appeared that board members immediately next to the development were slightly in favor of the school over other development. It appeared that there was room for legitimate disagreement as to whether people would rather live next door to a high school or semi-detached or town houses. Those who live one block or more from the school almost all indicated that the impact of even residential development on their part of the neighborhood would be considerable worse than that of the school, especially as far as traffic and its associated problems were concerned. On balance it was agreed that any development on the Harry Tract would probably have negative impact on the neighborhood. The FNC Board felt that the school would probly cause no more, possibly fewer, problems than maximum matter-of-right residential development and that the open space afforded by this plan was a plus. FNC believed traffic would increase in any event and that particular attention needs to be paid to the dangerous intersection of Wisconsin Avenue, 42nd Street and Ellicott Street. It was felt that having Davenport Street and 43rd Place remain closed to through traffic was an advantage. Several people at the Board meeting indicated that a high-quality school, whether public or private, was an asset to the community, and since a public high school could be built as a matter-of-right, it seemed unreasonable to withhold approval for a private one. A school would seem to be an appropriate long-term buffer between the commercial properties and the single-family residential neighborhood. FNC was concerned that the longer this parcel lies undeveloped, the greater the pressures will be to change its zoning. Most of the Board Members present felt that the school was the best development that they could reasonably hope for on the site. If these special exceptions were granted, FNC would strongly urge that negotiations between GDS and the Citizen's Ad Hoc Committee be continued to minimize the impact of the school both during the planning and construction phases and on a long-term basis.

31. The American University Park Citizens Association voted to support the application. The vote of the Association was based upon the favorable impact of the school upon the neighborhood.

32. The Friendship Tenleytown Citizens Association voted to take no position on the application. However, the Association requested that, if the application is granted, that the conditions set forth in the draft agreement be incorporated into the approval.

33. Approximately sixty letters and a petition with approximately 390 signatures were submitted in support of the application. In addition, ten persons spoke at the hearing iin support of the application. This support was based upon the belief that the proposed school use would be

a valuable asset to the neighborhood, would stabilize the development of the area, and would put a vacant piece of land to a viable use that is compatible with the neighborhood. The supporters also spoke in favor of the low density use, and supported the site plan which placed all construction on the east side of the project toward the commercial properties, leaving the open landscaped area adjacent to the houses on the west. The supporters also felt that a school with the reputation that GDS enjoys would serve to increase property values in the area. The supporters felt that the proposed use would be less obtrusive than other uses which could be placed on the site as a matter of right. Some of those who testified in support were parents of GDS students, and testified that the students are well behaved and do not cause any adverse neighborhood impacts at their existing location. The chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee testified in favor of the school, saying that he was impressed by the response of GDS to the concerns of the community during the planning process, and he was of the opinion that GDS will be a good neighbor.

34. A neighbor of the existing Georgetown Day High School appeared and testified about the lack of adverse impact in that area. The existing high school building directly abuts residential structures on three sides. He testified that the existing school building is quiet, that there are no problems in the neighborhood from the students.

35. A GDS parent who lives across the street from the Sidwell Friends School testified that he has experienced no adverse impact from being in close proximity to that school. The Board notes that the Sidwell Friends School is a larger school with a larger student population.

36. The opposition presented ninety-two preprinted form letters, nineteen letters, and a petition in opposition to the school. Eleven individuals also testified in opposition at the hearing. The basis for the opposition was that the Harry Tract should not be permitted to be used for school purposes. Instead, the parcel of land should be devoted to dwelling uses only. The opposition also speculated that the school would be a threat to the integrity and quality of the neighborhood; that most people surrounding the school are opposed; that the zoning laws are intended to protect neighborhoods; that there would be a loss of tax revenues to the city; that the site is too small for a school; that the construction of the school would require removal of trees from the site; that there are already too many segregated schools in the District of Columbia; that a public school is more preferable in the neighborhood; that there is plenty of room for a private school in Maryland; that there would be adverse impacts on traffic and litter; that property values would suffer; that there would be adverse impacts upon the

public schools in the area; that there would be constant commotion on the school site; that development of this property would disturb the existing views of neighboring residents; and, that there would be disturbance in the neighborhood during sports activities on the field.

37. The Board in addressing the concerns of the opposition finds that the applicant has no burden to establish that the subject site cannot be used for residential purposes. The applicant seeks its relief through a special exception not a use variance. The applicant's burden is to establish that it has met the requirements of that section of the Zoning Regulations under which the relief has been sought. As to the concern that the subject site is too small for the proposal the Board finds that a 4.6 acre site with occupancy by the school of less than one-half acre and a 0.36 FAR is not small. The Board also finds that as conditioned below in the grant landscaping, buffering issues and construction disturbances will be addressed. The issues of a loss of tax revenues, lack of a need for the proposed school in the area and a negative impact on the existing public schools are not zoning issues. None of these are listed as requirements under Paragraph 3101.42 of the Zoning Regulations under which the relief is sought. The Board further finds that the opposition presented no survey on traffic impact that negated the reports of the applicant's expert traffic witness or the report of the DPW. The opposition produced no probative evidence on the issue that property values would suffer because of the subject proposal. Much of the testimony of the opposition were naked allegations. Finally, as to the issue of views, the Board finds that none of the surrounding residential properties have scenic easements. The Board notes that much has been said that the aforementioned Ad Hoc Committee was a sham and its report irrelevant. The Board finds that this is not an issue properly before it. Said report was not dispositive of this application. The record is replete with independent evidence.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND OPINION:

Based on the record the Board concludes that the applicant is seeking special exceptions the granting of which requires that the proposal meet the requirements of Paragraph 3101.46 and Sub-section 7203.6 and that the relief requested can be granted as in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Regulations and the relief will not tend to affect adversely the use of neighboring property. The Board concludes that the applicant has met its burden of proof. The proposed school will be so located that it is not likely to become objectionable to adjoining and nearby property because of noise, traffic, number of students, or otherwise objectionable conditions. Based upon the testimony and evidence in the record, the Board also

concludes that ample parking space will be provided to accommodate students, teachers, and other visitors likely to come to the site by automobile. Further, based upon the testimony and evidence, the Board concludes that the applicant is entitled to special exception relief in order to reduce the amount of required parking on the site. The Board concludes that, even with the special exception relief in order to reduce the amount of required parking on the site. The Board concludes that, even with the special exception relief to reduce the amount of required parking spaces, the amount of spaces on private property and the amount of spaces on public property together will exceed the number of required parking spaces in the Zoning Regulations. For all the above reasons, the Board further concludes that the special exception relief will be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Regulations and maps and will not tend to adversely affect the use of neighboring property in accordance with said Zoning Regulations and maps.

The Board further concludes that it has accorded the ANC the great weight to which it is entitled. Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the application is GRANTED in its entirety SUBJECT to the followings CONDITIONS:

1. Approval shall be limited to the Georgetown Day School.

2. The number of students shall not exceed 410 and shall be limited to grade nine through twelve.

3. The school shall have a maximum of sixty full-time equivalent faculty and staff members.

4. All traffic to and from the site during construction shall be along Wisconsin Avenue, 42nd Street and Davenport Street from 42nd Street except for vehicles specifically involved with such tasks as perimeter landscaping and utility connections.

5. All vehicles involved with the demolition of the three dwellings fronting on River Road, grading the property, and excavating for and constructing the school building shall enter and exit only from Davenport and 42nd Streets. Vehicles shall not load or unload debris or fill on River Road.

6. The southeast portion of the site located at the northwest corner of the intersection of 42nd and Chesapeake Streets shall be regraded, landscaped and maintained as open space. No parking shall be permitted on this portion of the site.

7. All traffic to and from the site, both pedestrian and vehicular shall use the entrance off of Davenport Street.

8. All pick-up or drop-off of students shall occur on the school grounds.

9. The site shall provide one emergency access point on 43rd Street which shall be secured by a 6.5 foot gate as shown on the plans marked as Exhibit No. 8 SP1 of the record. The gate shall be locked at all times except for access by emergency vehicles.

10. The site shall be landscaped in accordance with the plans marked as Exhibit No. 8, SP2 of the record. The applicant shall maintain all landscaping in a healthy, growing condition.

11. All students permitted to drive to school shall be provided with a parking space on-site. Students who do not have access to an on-site parking space shall be prohibited from driving to school. Students shall be prohibited from parking on neighborhood streets. Violation of that prohibition by students shall result in disciplinary action by the school.

12. The parking area on-site shall be limited to use for school-related activities. The lot shall be secured by a chain gate or cable during all hours that the lot is not in use. In addition, the school shall provide a security service during non-operating hours to prevent unauthorized parking.

13. During special events which increase the demand for parking beyond the number of spaces available on the lot, parking for additional vehicles shall be provided on the playing field to minimize parking by visitors to the school on neighborhood streets.

14. During its hours of operation, only school faculty, staff, students and visitors who have checked in with the school office shall be permitted on the site except for persons attending special events such as athletic events, plays, parent meetings, and similar school-related activities and persons parking in public parking spaces related to the site.

15. The hours of operation of the school for classes shall not exceed from 8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. All extracuricular or inter-scholastic activities held

16. The school shall be constructed in accordance with the plans marked as Exhibit No. 43A of the record.

17. The school shall bear the cost of the installation of a new street light on the north side of Davenport Street approximately 110 feet west of the existing drive-way to the Safeway store and for the upgrading of two existing street light on Davenport Street. All such work shall be coordinated with the Street Lighting Branch of the Department of Public Works.

18. The applicant shall implement a storm water management drainage system and drainage easement in accordance with the recommendations of the Department of Public Works.

VOTE: 4-0 (Charles R. Norris, William F. McIntosh and

Carrie L. Thornhill to grant; Patricia N. Mathews to grant by proxy; Douglas J. Patton not present, not voting).

BY ORDER OF THE D.C. BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

ATTESTED BY:
CECIL B. TUCKER
Acting Executive Director

FINAL DATE OF ORDER: 04 SEP 1985

UNDER SUB-SECTION 8204.3 OF THE ZONING REGULATIONS, "NO DECISION OR ORDER OF THE BOARD SHALL TAKE EFFECT UNTIL TEN DAYS AFTER HAVING BECOME FINAL PURSUANT TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE BEFORE THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT."

THIS ORDER OF THE BOARD IS VALID FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDER, UNLESS WITHIN SUCH PERIOD AN APPLICATION FOR A BUILDING PERMIT OR CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IS FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS.

14278order/LJPE

O. R. GEORGE & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Traffic Engineers – Transportation Planners

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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 18, 2002

TO: Georgetown Day School
1) Mr. Peter M. Branch, Head of School
2) Ms. Kate Lindsey, Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Osborne R. George

RE: Traffic and Parking Impact Assessment – Georgetown Day (High) School, Northwest, Washington, D.C. – Board of Zoning Adjustment Application (No. 16944)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

The Georgetown Day (High) School (GDS) is situated at 4200 Davenport Street, within the Tenleytown area of Northwest, Washington, D.C. The School has been at this location since the Fall of 1987, and has been operating in accordance with conditions of approval of the District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) Order No. 14278, dated September 4, 1985. A number of the conditions of approval pertain to site occupancy (i.e., student and faculty/staff population caps), parking supply and usage, as well as on vehicular access. GDS has submitted an application to the BZA to request relief with respect to three (3) of the conditions of approval, dealing with the student and faculty/staff caps, parking, and the primary means of access to the site.

In accordance with the requirements of the City's Zoning Regulations (DCMR Title 11 – Zoning), this study was undertaken to determine whether the proposed changes would result in traffic and parking conditions that are "*likely to become objectionable to adjoining or nearby property or otherwise would tend to affect adversely the use of neighboring property.*" The analysis was undertaken to reflect perspectives and considerations related to traffic and parking conditions. For ease of reference, and to facilitate the analyses and discussions, which follow, the existing approval conditions and provisions versus the changes proposed under the relief sought are presented in Table 1 on page 3.

Prior to undertaking this study, discussions were held with the staff of the Transportation Policy and Planning Administration, of the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT). The approach taken by the study reflects the fact that the site has been in its current use for over fifteen (15) years, and that the changes proposed are quite modest in terms of the numbers of persons who would typically access and occupy the premises. Copies of correspondence with DDOT, broadly defining the scope of study, are included as Attachment A. Exhibit 1 (on page 2) shows the site location within its regional setting.

TABLE 1

GEORGETOWN DAY (HIGH) SCHOOL BZA APPLICATION
EXISTING APPROVAL CONDITIONS VS RELIEF SOUGHT

Land Use Element	Approval/ Requirement	Existing Situation	Requested Relief
• Student Population	410 Students	450 Students	Increase to 465 Students.
• Faculty & Staff (Full-Time Equivalent)	60 Staff	81 Staff	Increase to 95 FTE Staff.
• On-Site Parking (Spaces)	61 Spaces (or more)	98 Spaces (+ 8 in public space)	No change in Parking Supply.
• Vehicular Access	Exclusively via Davenport Street	Limited Access via 42nd Street.	Permit Limited Drop-offs via 42nd Street.

Source: BZA Order No. 14278 (September 4, 1985), and Georgetown Day School.

1.2 Report Organization and Summary

Table 1 notes that, since the School's occupancy of the subject site, there has been an increase of forty (40) in the student population, and an increase of twenty-one (21) in the full time equivalent (FTE) faculty and staff. It is important to note that these changes are reflected in the current traffic and parking conditions. The objective of this assessment is therefore two-fold, as noted below.

1) Evaluation of the existing traffic and parking situation within (and in the immediate area of) the School site; and

2) Assessment of the potential impact of the changes proposed, based upon the relief sought by the School.

Based on the above, the report is organized into four (4) sections. Section 2 discusses existing local area traffic and parking conditions. Section 3 examines the current traffic and parking characteristics of the Georgetown Day School, for purposes of comparison with the 1985 projections. Section 4 presents the impact assessment summary and conclusions of the study, regarding the changes proposed in the site use.

The analysis concludes that the changes proposed by the School are not likely to become objectionable in the context of impacts on the local area roadway network and parking situation. The School's plan to continue carpooling and transit ridership as part of its Transportation Management Plan, will also be beneficial. The bases for these conclusions are presented in the remaining sections of this report.

2.0 EXISTING TRAFFIC AND PARKING CONDITIONS

2.1 Land Use and Local Area Situation

As noted earlier, the School has been at its Davenport Street location since 1987. The site consists of the school building situated in the southwest quadrant of the 42nd Street/Davenport Street intersection, and the irregularly shaped parking lot and soccer field to the west. The parking "lot" provides one hundred and six (106) spaces, of which eight (8) are located within public space along the western section of Davenport Street. Use of parking along the adjacent streets is regulated by meters along 42nd Street and Davenport Street, and along other local streets by the City's Residential Parking Permit (RPP) program. The latter roadways are posted to restrict use by non-permit holders to two-hour limits, during the period 7:00 AM – 8:30 PM.

Exhibit 2 shows the GDS School site and key area land uses. For context, the basic roadway configuration, parking provisions, and traffic control devices are also shown on that exhibit.

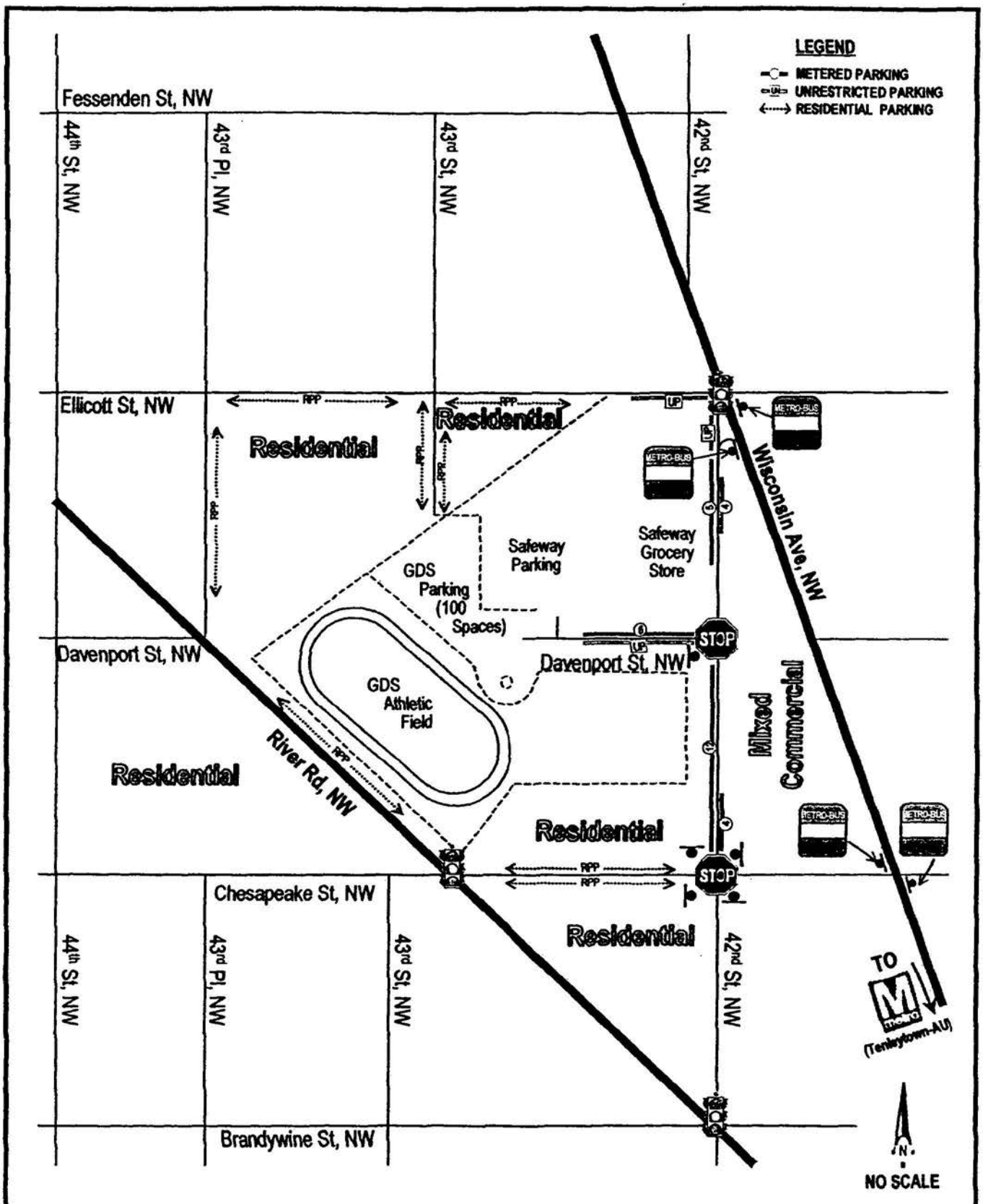
2.2 Study Area Road Network

For purposes of this evaluation, the study area road network was defined by the following four (4) intersections:

1) Wisconsin Ave @ Ellicott St, NW;
2) 42nd St @ Davenport St, NW;
3) 42nd St @ Chesapeake St, NW; and
4) River Rd Street @ Chesapeake St, NW

Wisconsin Avenue is a six-lane roadway, classified as a principal arterial on the City's Functional Classification Map. River Road is a two-lane minor arterial on the City's system. These two (2) roadways serve significant commuter and other through traffic movements, in keeping with their functional classifications. The remaining roadways within the vicinity of the site are all two-lane, serving local and collector movements. They are generally in the range of 28 – 30 ft. wide, allowing for two-way traffic flow, with parking along both sides of the roadways. As noted earlier, most of the on-street parking within the area is metered, or designated for use primarily by area residents, under the City's RPP program.

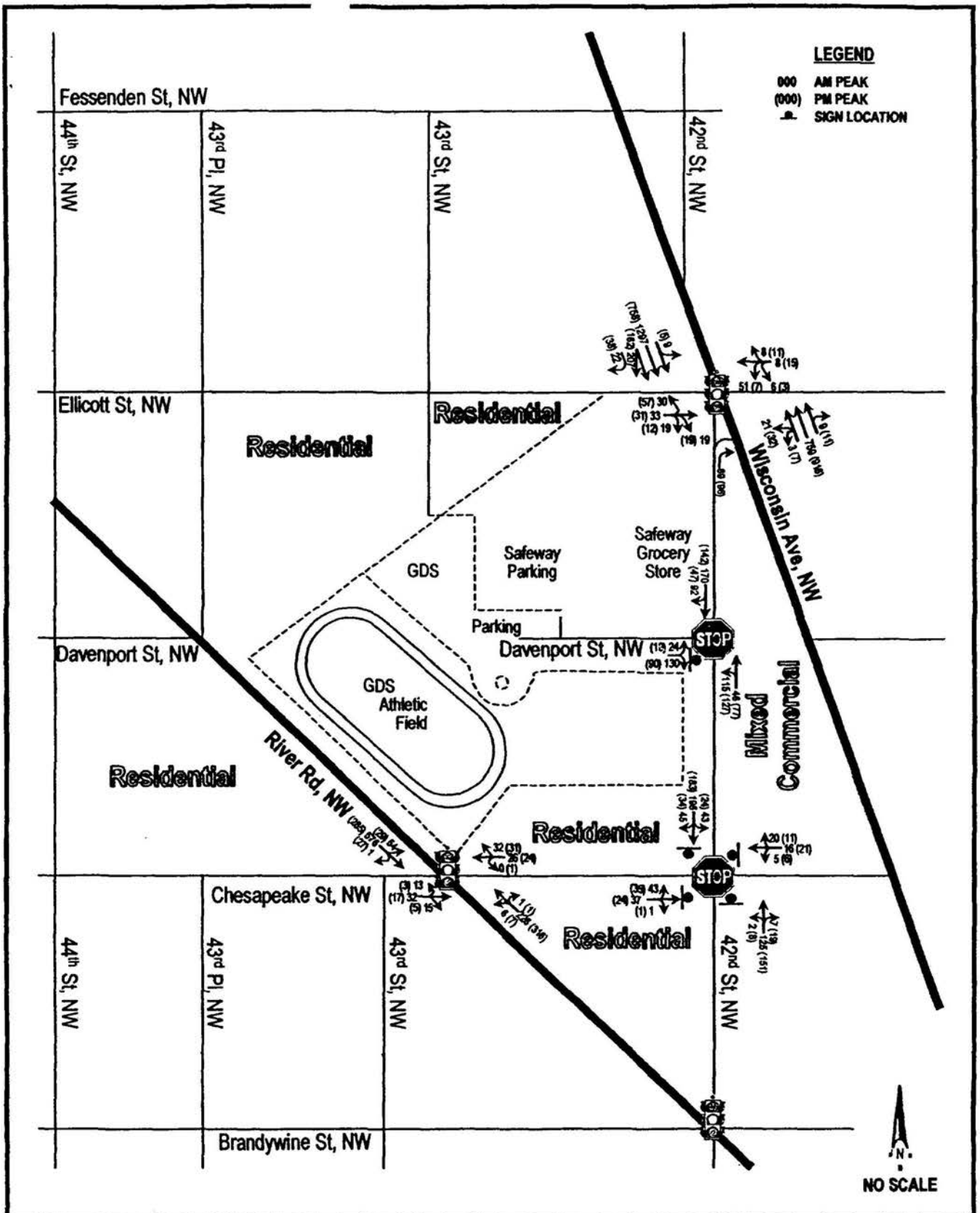
Based upon the BZA approval for the Georgetown Day (High) School, vehicular access to the School site is exclusively via Davenport Street, west of 42nd Street. In order to determine existing access patterns and traffic conditions within the local impact area of the School, intersection turning movement counts were conducted at the four (4) study area intersections noted above, during the periods 7:00 – 9:00 AM and 2:30 – 6:00 PM. The count summaries are presented in Attachment B. The peak hour turning movement volumes are presented in Exhibit 3 (which shows the peak hours coinciding with the School's peak activity) and Exhibit 4, (which shows the peak hours of the adjacent street system). These two (2) exhibits also include the intersection lane configurations. This study analyzed the data for the peak hour coinciding with the School's peak usage periods, using the Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) procedures, as specified by DDOT. The capacity analysis worksheets are included as Attachment C. The results are summarized in Table 2 (on page 8).



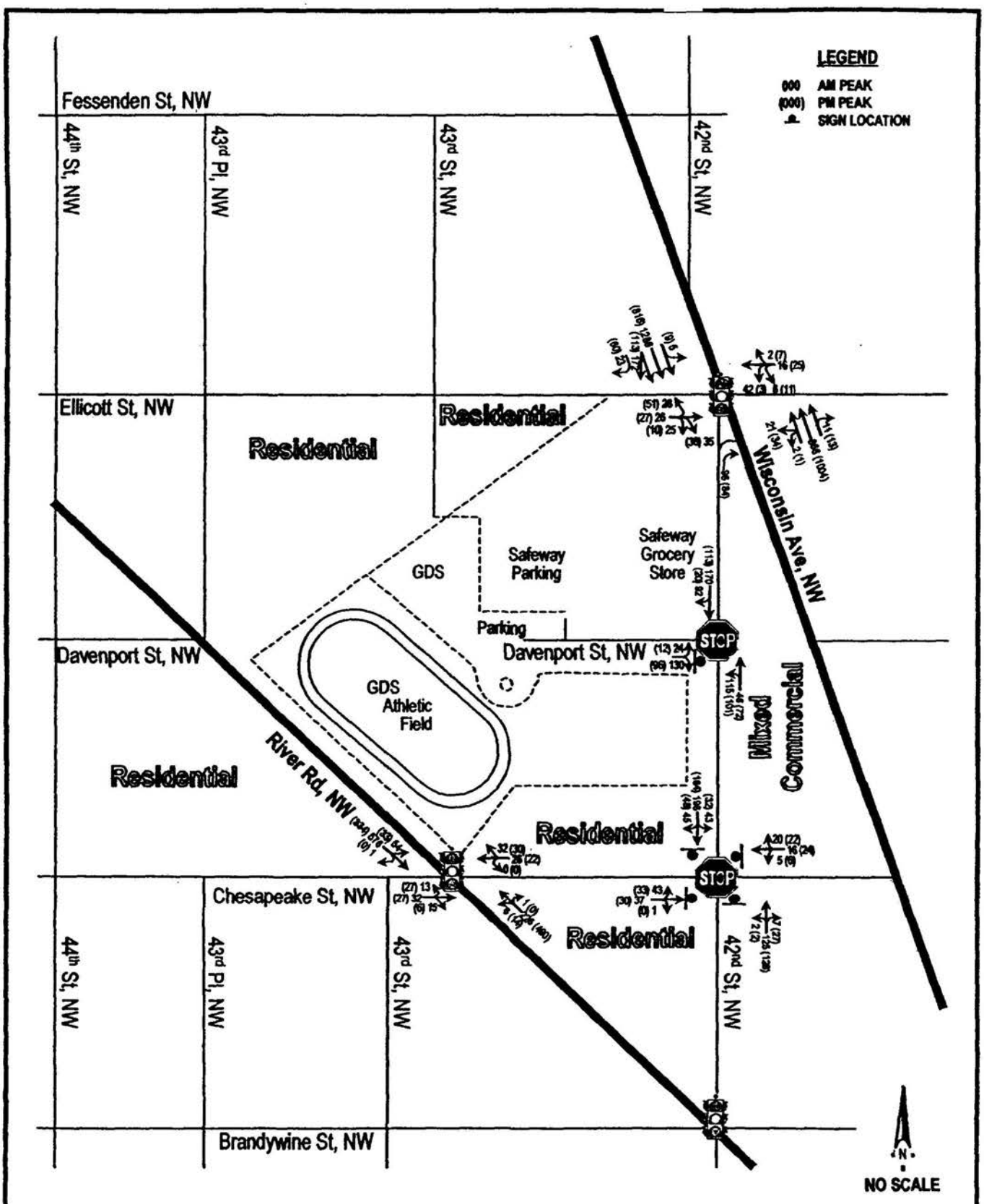
O. R. GEORGE & ASSOCIATES, INC.
Traffic Engineers – Transportation Planners

BZA APPLICATION No. 16944

Exhibit 2: Existing On-Street and Off-Street Parking
GEORGETOWN DAY (HIGH) SCHOOL AREA



O. R. GEORGE & ASSOCIATES, INC. *Traffic Engineers – Transportation Planners*	*BZA APPLICATION No. 16944* **Exhibit 3: Existing Peak Hour Volumes (Based on GDS Peaks) GEORGETOWN DAY (HIGH) SCHOOL AREA**



O. R. GEORGE & ASSOCIATES, INC. *Traffic Engineers – Transportation Planners*	***BZA APPLICATION No. 16944*** **Exhibit 4: Existing Peak Hour Volumes (Based on Street Peaks)** **GEORGETOWN DAY (HIGH) SCHOOL AREA**

TABLE 2

CAPACITY ANALYSIS RESULTS SUMMARY –
GEORGETOWN DAY (HIGH) SCHOOL
EXISTING TRAFFIC SITUATION

Intersection	AM PEAK HOUR		PM PEAK HOUR	
	Level of Service	Average Delay Sec./Veh.*	Level of Service	Average Delay Sec./Veh.*
1) Wisconsin Avenue @ 42nd Street/Ellicott Street	B	16.8	B	15.0
2) 42nd Street @ Davenport Street.	B	14.6	B	16.8
3) 42nd Street @ Chesapeake St.	B	11.0	A	9.21
4) River Road @ Chesapeake St.	B	15.7	B	15.8

Note: Sec./Veh. = Seconds per vehicle

Source: O. R. George & Associates

Table 2 shows that the study area intersections currently operate at Level of Service B, or better. Field observations by this Consultant's principal and technical support staff confirmed this favorable situation, and showed no significant roadway capacity or operational constraints within the area. Very minor delays were observed for brief (i.e., 5 – 10 minute periods) during the morning peak arrival period for the School, which occurs around 8:00 AM at the 42nd Street/ Davenport Street intersection. Since traffic volumes accessing the adjacent Safeway, and through traffic along 42nd Street are quite low during these periods, the impacts are negligible. The School's peak activity during the afternoon dismissal period is also quite dispersed, and occurs outside the peak hour of the street system.

"Level of Service" is a qualitative measure describing operational conditions within a traffic stream or at an intersection, and their perception by roadway users. Principal factors are speed and travel time, delay, and freedom to maneuver, traffic interruptions, comfort, convenience and safety. Current engineering practice defines six (6) Levels of Service (A-F), with "A" representing best operating conditions, and Level of Service "F" representing the worst conditions. Level of Service D is generally considered by the District of Columbia as the minimum acceptable conditions for planning and design purposes.

In addition to the above, information provide by DDOT's Traffic Safety Division indicates that the City has no record of accidents occurring at the 42nd Street/Davenport Street intersection, or along the section of Davenport Street. (See Appendix A.) Additional surveys were performed specifically to determine the level and general characteristics of vehicular trips generated by GDS on weekdays, for the peak periods of the School's activities. This data is presented in Section 3 following, in conjunction with survey data addressing transit usage, vehicle occupancy and parking conditions for the School.

3.0 GEORGETOWN DAY (HIGH) SCHOOL – EXISTING TRANSPORTATION CHARACTERISTICS

Transportation studies conducted in support of the 1985 BZA application process included projections of a number of factors associated with the School, as then proposed. These were based on questionnaire surveys and assumptions related to the shift in location from the MacArthur Boulevard campus to the current Davenport Street site. They were also based upon surveys of transportation characteristics of other schools within Northwest Washington, DC, which were considered to be comparably situated relative to Metrobus and Metrorail service. The principal characteristics considered included peak hour vehicle trip generation, level of transit usage, on-site parking demand as well as average vehicle occupancies.

In order to provide a basis for comparison, as well as to develop estimates of the impacts of the School's current request for relief, surveys were undertaken at the GDS site (during peak activity) to determine the corresponding travel patterns and characteristics. Table 3 following presents the 1985 projections versus the existing situation, as observed.

TABLE 3

COMPARISON OF GEORGETOWN DAY (HIGH) SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION CHARACTERISTICS (1985 PROJECTION VERSUS 2002 SURVEYS)

Transportation Usage Characteristics	1985 Projections*	2002 Surveys**	Remarks
1) Maximum Parking Demand	49	72	1985 projections based upon restricted supply, school's policy and BZA conditions. Supply has been increased (from 61 to 106 spaces).
2) Peak School Activity Veh. Trip Generation - AM Peak Hour - PM Peak Hour	 161/112 112/161	 185/105 84/92	 None None
3) Public Transportation & Walk	45%	42%	Somewhat difficult to separate transit usage from walk mode.
4) Average Vehicle Occupancy	1.36 pers./veh.	1.21 pers./veh.	None
5) Level of Service (42nd Street @ Davenport Street)	LOS A	LOS B	None

Note: * By Gorove/Slade Associates
** By O. R. George & Associates

It is important to note that the 2002 data presented in Table 3 is based upon generalized observations on typical weekdays at the School. While they did not include questionnaire surveys, the field observations were made from several vantage points where the various access modes, vehicle occupancies, etc, could be tallied for respective computations. This study therefore proffers that the results summarized above are statistically reliable.

Parking supply is typically an important consideration in assessing the impact of a special exception use on neighboring properties. In particular, it is noted that inadequate parking could result in neighborhood intrusion, usage violations, and potential compromise to safety, as well as impacts on other aspects of the quality of life of the local area. In this connection, the following factors are noted:

a) The parking supply currently provided by the School is well in excess of that required by the 1985 BZA Order. [One hundred (100) spaces provided vs. sixty-one (61) spaces required.]

b) The current BZA Order mandates specific policies by the School with respect to student drivers, allocation of on-site parking spaces, and prohibition of the use of neighborhood on-street parking.

c) Field observations show no apparent violations of the conditions of the BZA Order with respect to use of neighborhood streets.

d) Surveys of the School's parking lot during peak periods of occupancy show usage generally in the range of eighty percent (80%), (i.e., with approximately 20 of the 106 spaces vacant).

e) The 1985 projections made reference to public transportation service. The area continues to be served by six (6) bus routes along Wisconsin Avenue, with bus stops conveniently located relative to the School. The Tenleytown-AU Metrorail Station is three blocks to the south of the School.

The existing daily populations of the School are 450 students and 81 full-time equivalent staff. They thus partly reflect the relief, which is the subject of the current application. The above data and observations support the assessment that the School is not creating conditions that are objectionable to adjoining and nearby property because of traffic and parking usage patterns. With the foregoing as background, the essential question is whether an additional fifteen (15) students and fourteen (14) FTE staff would create the conditions against which the Special Exception provisions of the Zoning Regulations stipulate. This requirement is addressed in Section 4.0 - Impact Assessment Summary.

4.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

The foregoing data, analysis, and discussion have shown that existing traffic and parking conditions within the area of the Georgetown Day (High) School are quite acceptable. There is available roadway capacity, and the parking provided within the site is well in excess of requirements of the Zoning Regulations. Furthermore, the supply is well in excess of the current demands generated by the School. It is worthy of note that the morning and afternoon peak vehicular trip generation by the School do not coincide with the peak hours of the adjacent streets. In addition, there is considerable on-street parking along the adjacent sections of 42nd Street and Davenport Street. Most of these spaces are metered, and this factor helps to ensure that their use is not abused. Furthermore, parking along other local roadways within the area is controlled by the City's Residential Parking Permit (RPP) program. Extensive surveys, during the course of this study, show that considerable parking is available for community and other public uses.

The relief being sought under the current application would result in an increase of fifteen (15) students and fourteen (1) full time equivalent (FTE) faculty and staff. Based upon the observed trip generation and parking usage characteristics, this is likely to result in the following changes:

- An increase of approximately six (6) vehicles accessing the site during the morning and afternoon peak arrival periods.
- An additional demand for less than five (5) parking spaces within the site. *(This should still result in typical parking availability of about fifteen (15) spaces during peak parking demand periods.)*

The above changes are well within the typical daily fluctuations in demand for an institution such as Georgetown Day (High) School, when absences and special events are considered. In any case, the study has shown that potential adverse impacts, as reflected by deterioration in level of service, or "spillover" of parking demand into the residential neighborhood, or impact on commercial activity along Wisconsin Avenue corridor, would not occur.

With respect to request to have some drop-offs via the 42nd Street entrance to the School, it is noted that this situation obtains today. Field observations confirm that the School's parking lot is the preferred drop-off location, since the entry off Davenport Street leads into the main "reception and assembly" area. If the 42nd Street entry continues at the current usage levels, with appropriate monitoring and supervision by the School's management, the situation should not result in any adverse impacts on the area. It is further noted that, while all drop-offs and pick-up could occur within the parking lot, the current use of the 42nd Street entry does provide some relief, and facilitates access to the School. Accordingly, while this arrangement is not critical to the School's access, its continuance would result in some benefits accruing to the School. *This study therefore concludes that the relief sought by the School should have no adverse or objectionable impacts on adjoining or nearby property from the perspectives considered.*

The foregoing notwithstanding, this study notes that land use and transportation planning is not an exact or "categorical" science. As such, opportunities often present themselves for improvement during the review process of most situations. Accordingly, this study has identified the following potential actions for consideration by the School's management:

- **Metered Parking Along North Side of Davenport Street:** This 28 feet ± wide roadway is the primary means of access for the School, and also serves the adjacent Safeway Store. Since there is very limited demand for parking along that street, restriction of parking along that section during the AM peak arrival period for the School should have no appreciable impact on the local area, and should enhance safety and efficiency during this period. ***The School should consider working with the responsible Division of DDOT to restrict parking during the period 7:00 – 9:00 AM on weekdays, except for public holidays.***

- **Advance School Signage:** Field observations show that **"Advance School Signs"** are provided along Davenport Street, 42nd Street south of the School, and along other roadways in the vicinity. However, none is provided along 42nd Street north of the School, as advisory signage for southbound traffic. ***The School should consider requesting that DDOT provide the missing signage.***

We trust that the above satisfies your requirements. Please let us know if you have questions, or if we can assist further. Thank you.

ORG/hw

Attachments: As Noted

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Director

Memorandum

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

FROM: Kenneth Laden
Associate Director
Transportation Planning

DATE: December 3, 2002

SUBJECT: BZA Application No. 16944 Special Exception of Georgetown Day School High School at 4200 Davenport Street, NW (Square 1673, Lot 821)

The District Department of Transportation has reviewed the application and other material submitted by the applicant. This memorandum addresses the transportation aspects of the proposal.

This is an application by Georgetown Day School for a special exception to increase to the number of students and faculty/staff permitted at its private high school located at 4200 Davenport Street, N.W. The previous BZA Order No. 14278, dated September 4, 1985, incorporates a number of conditions which limits the number of students to 410 and the number of faculty/staff to 60. The Order also limits pick-up and drop-off of students to the school grounds and requires the school to provide overflow parking on its soccer field during special events.

The school is requesting that the allowable student enrollment be increased to 465 and the allowable faculty/staff be increased to 95. It is further requested that the provision regarding overflow of parking and pick-up and drop-off of students be modified. According to the applicant, the school currently has an enrollment of 450 students and employs 85 faculty and staff.

Because the school is already operating above the allowable cap, the effective increase in student enrollment and staff increase is respectively 15 students and 10 staff. The applicant's transportation report indicates that approximately six vehicles would be generated by the proposed increase during the morning and afternoon peak arrival and departure and an additional demand for parking would be five spaces.

The Department concurs with the applicant's estimate and concludes the additional vehicle trips generated by the proposed action will have no significant traffic impact in the neighboring area. Regarding the parking supply, the applicant's existing parking facility (98 parking spaces) is more than adequate to meet the parking needs of the school including special events. During special events, such as parent/teacher meetings, DDOT strongly recommends that the applicant provide shuttle buses to and from the adjacent Metro Stations to minimize overflow parking into the adjacent residential streets.

In conclusion, we support the Transportation Management Plan (TMP) as outlined in exhibit C of the applicant's submission. In addition, the school should provide additional bicycle storage facilities and establish a strong policy to further encourage transit usage to reduce congestion in the area. **The Department does not support the proposed modification of the student's pick-up and drop-off outside the school grounds because it could create congestion and safety hazard along 42nd Street adjacent to the school.**

GEORGETOWN DAY SCHOOL

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Traffic Management Plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following elements:

(a) No student shall drive a vehicle to School unless there is an assigned, on-site parking space for that vehicle.

(b) The School shall encourage the use of public transportation as the primary means of accessing the School by the faculty, staff and students.

(c) The School shall make available to all students reduced fare Metrorail passes to encourage use of public transportation.

(d) At the beginning of each school year, all students must register their vehicles and indicate where the vehicle will be parked.

(e) Students shall be strictly prohibited from parking on the residential streets surrounding the campus.

(f) School employees will be trained at the beginning of each year to implement and enforce this Transportation Management Plan.

(g) The School shall employ security personnel to patrol the streets surrounding the campus in order to ensure that this Plan is operational and effective and that no students are parking on residential streets.

(h) The School shall lease parking spaces, in a commercial facility in reasonable proximity of the School, for those students who need to drive to the vicinity of the School and the School will operate a shuttle bus service to, and from, that parking facility at times that are convenient and logical for students' use if needed.

(i) The Transportation Management Plan shall become a part of the enrollment contract between the School and parents, by which the parents shall agree to be bound by its fines and punishments as follows:

(1) First Violation: parent/student warning shall be issued.

(2) Second Violation: a monetary fine.

(3) Third Violation: a doubling of the monetary fine.

(4) Fourth Violation: disciplinary action shall be taken which may include suspension.

(5) Fifth Violation: additional disciplinary action shall be taken which may include expulsion from the School.

GEORGETOWN DAY SCHOOL

Transportation Information Form

• **To be Completed by ALL JUNIORS and SENIORS** •

Student Information

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Grade_____

First Name _____ Grade_____

Parent/Guardian(s)

_____ Relationship_____ Daytime Phone _____

_____ Relationship_____ Daytime Phone _____

Student's Home Address

Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Method of Transportation

- ❑ Live in neighborhood and walk or ride bicycle to school
- ❑ Use public transportation
- ❑ Driven by parent or other adult
- ❑ Passenger in Carpool with other GDS student(s)

  Name of Driver _____
- ❑ Student drives carpool for other GDS Student(s)

  Name(s) of other Student(s) _____

  _____
- ❑ Student drives, carries no passengers on a regular basis

Make, year, color, and license number of car [list other vehicle(s) if more than one may be used]:

Make	*Year*	*Color*	*License # (Include State)*

To apply for GDS parking privileges, complete the form on the reverse side.

Application for GDS On-Site/Off-Campus Parking

School Year 2002-2003

To be considered for on-campus parking or for GDS off-campus parking, please complete the following (check one or both).

I wish to be considered for

- ☐ **On-campus parking**

If on-campus parking is not available, I wish to be considered for

- ☐ **Off-campus GDS parking**

List student driver's extra-curricular and off-campus commitments for 2002-03 (be specific):

_____

_____

_____

I agree to fulfill all obligations deemed appropriate by GDS with regard to student parking. I have read the parking procedures and rules and agree to abide by these procedures and rules. I also understand that repeated noncompliance to parking rules will result in forfeiture of assigned space.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____



Parking Procedures and Rules

1. Only juniors and seniors may receive parking privileges.
2. Students may park only in their assigned spaces. If another car is in your space, notify security immediately.
3. A GDS parking decal must be displayed on your car.
4. On-site student parking privileges are in effect on school days from 7:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Off-site privileges are in effect monthly, 24 hours per day.
5. Students not meeting the rules and obligations stated above may lose their parking privileges.

To be considered for on-campus parking or for GDS-subsidized off-campus parking for the school year (September 3, 2002–June 12, 2003), please complete this application **IN FULL**. Incomplete applications and misrepresentations of facts will disqualify the applicant.

Parking space assignments will be based on the following considerations: **commuting distance, accessibility to public transportation, total number in car pool,** and **extracurricular activities of the driver.**

Applications are **DUE AUGUST 9, 2002,** in the high school main office. Parking Committee decisions will be announced on August 19.