16955

KALORAMA CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Dear Board of Zoning Adjustment:

This letter is to express support for the Spanish Education Development (SED) Center on its appeal process for its certificate of occupancy.

The SED Center has been a leader in the community in the field of early childhood education and adult education for over 30 years. The low-income Latino families, which SED serves, are under represented in the District. The language barrier has had a negative effect on the recognition of Latinos within our community. Like SED's Latino constituency, the same cycle of poor employment and educational levels also affects the low-income African-Americans clients that SED serves through computer and literacy classes

The SED Center offers a nationally accredited bilingual full-time preschool program, before and after school care, English as a Second Language (ESL) and computer and job skills program on weekdays, weeknights, and weekends. With the District being unable to meet the demand of the over 50,000 Latino adults who are in need of educational services, the need for quality educational programs like the ones offered by the SED Center is an undeniable reality. SED's programs, which include childcare services while parents are in class, are an important resource for our community and for the city.

SED has designed and implemented a number of successful programs that have allowed countless immigrants to become a part of U.S. culture. The denial of a certificate of occupancy recognizing an accredited preschool/child care program and to include adult students to SED would adversely affect hundreds of low-income immigrant families that have few choices when it comes to seeking to further their education. The Kalorama Citizens Association fully supports the good work of the SED Center. Furthermore, the Association has not had complaints presented to it owing to the operation of SED. The SED Center has essentially been a good neighbor in our estimation.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Gould
Kalorama Citizens Association and
former board member of SED

BZA
Case No. 16955
Exhibit No. 25

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16955
EXHIBIT NO.25

Mike Gould □ President
Christine Brooks □ Executive Vice President
Sharon Dondero □ Vice President
Kathleen Wills □ Secretary

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