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Mr. Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW Suite 201
Washington DC 2001

April 26, 2003

Re: Case 16970 Square 2072 lot 30----Proposed NCRC expansion

Dear Chairman Griffis,

On May 6th the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) will hear the request of the National Child Research Center, a private pre-school, for a variance to enable it to build a second principal building on a single lot. We live directly across from the school and have done so since 1971. A school that we considered an asset on buying our house is rapidly becoming a liability. A treed and inviting playground, generously open to the neighborhood outside school hours, has become heavily concreted and lost many trees. The current enrollment requires multiple delivery and pickup cartrips over the period of the school day. The DOT has recognized the danger to children and residents and proposes, as the "least worst" alternative, the transformation of Highland Place into a one way street. Given that transformation, DOT has apparently removed its earlier objection to the expansion of student body and staff.

We are strongly opposed to any further expansion of student body and accompanying staff. An expansion will exacerbate the problems of vehicular pollution and noise, expand trash pick-ups, impact parking. We are NOT opposed to NCRC's better accommodating its existing student body. It is a fine school with a fully diversified student body and has until the past few years been a neighborhood presence in which we all took pride. We hope that the BZA will, through refusing the requested variance, send the school back to the drawingboard to work on more modest modifications that will enable it to continue to provide a first-class preschool experience without a further enrollment increase.

Please feel free to share this letter with other members of the BZA. As members of the Cleveland Park Neighbors we will be represented by counsel on May 6th but thought our personal, voter, tax-payer views should also be expressed directly.

Very truly yours,

Pamela D. Pelletreau

Robert H. Pelletreau

BZA
Case No. 16970
Exhibit No. 145

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16970
EXHIBIT NO.145