April 28, 2003

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

RE:
Case 16970 Square 2072 lot 30

Dear Mr. Griffis:

The current NCRC expansion plan is completely inappropriate to our neighborhood. Its proposed physical facility will triple its current square footage and thereby dominate the landscape on both Highland Place and Ordway Street. At the present time, the school's increased enrollment is creating dangerous vehicular and pedestrian problems for all of us residents on Highland Place, Ashley Terrace and Ordway Street. The proposed expansion of over 8000 square feet and student and faculty increases will exacerbate an already dangerous situation.

We are long-time residents of Cleveland Park, having lived on Ordway Street from 1972 until 1979 when we moved to our current home at 3415 Ashley Terrace. We have lived harmoniously with the school these many years but the nature and the intent of the school has changed in the past five years. Their expanded facilities and expanded curriculum and programs are causing enormous traffic congestion for both pedestrians and residential vehicles. We can no longer navigate OUR neighborhood streets with ease and safety. The whole neighborhood should not have to alter its way of life just to accommodate the expansion of NCRC which is unwilling to compromise its plans and which has exceeded its enrollment cap for years.

The DC DOT's recent recommendation that Highland Place become a one-way street, westbound, as suggested by NCRC, is ill-conceived for the following reasons:

1. It would block direct egress to Connecticut Ave for Ashley Terrace and lower Highland Place. The only route would be west on Highland, to 33rd, to Newark

BZA
Case No. 16970
Exhibit No. 146

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CASE NO.16970
EXHIBIT NO.146

2. For the above reason, it would further increase traffic in front of NCRC as Ashley and lower Highland would have to go past NCRC confronting school traffic from multiple drop-offs during the day, increasing an already congested and dangerous situation.
3. Traffic would further increase on Newark Street
4. During snowy and icy weather residents of Ashley and Highland could not approach their homes from 34th Street except by driving the Newark hill which is often impassable and dangerous. Currently flat Highland Place provides a safe route from 34th Street, avoiding the hills of Newark.
5. It would eliminate right and left turns off of 34th Street onto Highland. Residents and others would have to turn at Newark and 34th Streets, already one of the most dangerous and accident-ridden intersections in the city. Traffic here should not be increased.
6. It would adversely affect the routes of all residents, deliveries, mail carriers, construction workers, yard maintenance, trash pick-up, and other businesses which serve our neighborhood.

NCRC occupies one lot in the neighborhood and with its current enrollment and facility it disproportionately dominates the neighborhood. **ITS PLANS FOR EXPANSION WILL ONLY INCREASE THE PROBLEMS WHICH WILL MORE SERIOUSLY AND ADVERSELY IMPACT OUR PROPERTY. AS PROPERTY OWNERS AND NEIGHBORS WE CANNOT TOLERATE THE CURRENT PROPOSED EXPANSION PLANS OF THE SCHOOL. WE URGE YOU TO VOTE AGAINST THE ZONING VARIANCE.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Leslie and John Oberdorfer

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Cc: The Honorable Kathy Patterson

Mr. Andrew Altman
Director, Office of Planning