Roberts B. Owen
3122 Newark Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20008-3343

May 2, 2003

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Mr. Geoffrey Griffis
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, N.W.
Suite 201
Washington DC 20001

Re: Case 16970, Square 2072, Lot 30

Dear Mr. Griffis:

My home is at 3122 Newark Street, N.W., Washington DC 20008 – which puts me in the same immediate neighborhood as the National Child Research Center on Highland Place. In fact, I walk past the Highland Place entrance to NCRC virtually every day and have personally observed, with great dismay, the continual traffic congestion created by NCRC's complicated pick-up and drop-off arrangements. These arrangements have been a major headache for the entire neighborhood for years, and I am distressed to hear that it is now being proposed that NCRC be permitted to expand its student body and create even greater traffic congestion than has existed in the past.

Frankly, I am hard pressed to think of any public interest that would be served by a BZA approval of an expansion of NCRC. Some private interests would be well served, primarily the interests of the affluent families from suburban Maryland and Virginia who, using their expensive commuter vehicles, have for many years been creating serious traffic headaches for all of the local residents including myself. I submit, however, that traffic conditions have reached the point where the interests of these out-of-town suburban families should be subordinated to the interests of the people who live in the neighborhood. The families and properties of the neighbors have been adversely affected for too many years already, and I strongly oppose any further increase in the volume of NCRC students and traffic. I urge you to vote against the zoning variance that NCRC now seeks for its expansion.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Owen
Robert B. Owen

BZA
Case No. 16970
Exhibit No. 155

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16970
EXHIBIT NO.155