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Chairman Geoffrey Griffis
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Case No. 16970 Application of the National Child Research Center

Dear Chairman Griffis:

As neighbors of NCRC and parents of former NCRC students, we believe that NCRC is an asset to our community and that the school's request to build additional classroom and play space should be given careful consideration by the BZA.

However, we are deeply concerned about the increased traffic that NCRC will bring to the surrounding streets if it is allowed to increase the number of students and faculty. We believe that NCRC has not presented the community with a workable traffic plan that does not impede access to residents' homes on Highland Place and Ashley Terrace, NW.

We are deeply concerned about and strongly opposed to the proposal to make Highland Place, NW a one-way street. Despite the long car line at NCRC, with Highland Place being a two-way street, cars leaving Ashley Terrace and lower Highland Place currently have the option of bypassing the NCRC car line. If Highland Place is turned into a one-way street, Ashley Terrace and lower Highland Place residents will have no choice but to drive past NCRC during the NCRC pickup. As you can see from the enclosed photograph, which was taken on February 24, 2003, all it takes is a snowstorm—or a delivery truck, service vehicle, illegally parked car or some other obstruction—to completely block Highland Place during NCRC's car line. As long as Highland Place is two ways, cars can avoid those obstructions; if Highland Place is turned into a one-way street, then there is no way to exit Ashley Terrace or lower Highland Place.

There is no question that turning Highland Place into a one-way street would have a significant adverse impact on the neighborhood. We believe that the BZA should not approve NCRC's request until NCRC presents a viable and sensible traffic management plan—one that doesn't worsen problems for the neighbors. In other words, NCRC needs to take its plan back to the drawing board.

Sincerely,

Bill Adler and Peggy Robin

✓ Enclosure

BZA
Case No. 16970
Exhibit No. 181

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16970
EXHIBIT NO.181



NCRC car line, Highland Place, NW - February 24, 2003

No space to get around car line. Residents of lower Highland Pl. & Ashley Terr. can still exit by driving east on Highland, but would be blocked in if Highland Pl. were made one-way.