Peter A. & Susan B. Hornbostel
3030 Newark Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20008

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D.C.

June 9, 2003

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 - 4th Street, N.W. #201
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Case 16970

Dear Mr. Griffis:

I am writing in support of my Cleveland Park neighbors who are opposing the expansion project of NCRC. I have lived in the neighborhood for 33 years, and the traffic increase over that period is readily apparent. Traffic on Newark Street and Highland Place is already reaching unsafe levels. The NCRC project can only make the problem worse.

For a number of years the average age of the population of Cleveland Park seemed to be gradually increasing. I am happy to see that in the last several years, a number of younger families with children have moved into the neighborhood. The increased traffic on Newark Street (which provides access to Highland Place) clearly poses a threat to the children now living there. Their homes were bought by their parents on the assumption that the traffic levels would remain essentially as they were. The increased traffic that would be generated by the NCRC expansion clearly would make this untrue.

I understand that many of the children attending NCRC come from outside the District. A change in zoning to benefit the wealthy families outside the District who send their children to NCRC, while increasing the risk to children who live and play in the neighborhood, seems to me unconscionable. As part of the District of Columbia government, is it not your obligation to look out first for the safety of the District residents and their children?

I also object to the proposed NCRC project as a taxpayer. As you are undoubtedly aware, properties on Newark Street and Highland Place have, over the years, appreciated enormously in value. As a result, our tax bills have similarly increased. I have no doubt that at some point in the near future, the traffic level on Newark and Highland will reach the point where it begins to impact on demand for houses located there. Reduced demand will, of course, reduce property values, and accordingly reduce property tax receipts to the District. There is no corresponding increase in tax receipts from NCRC: to the best of my knowledge, NCRC does not pay property taxes. In sum, the NCRC proposal may advance the short term financial interests of the school. But in the medium to long run, it does so at the expense of property tax receipts of the District of Columbia.

Very sincerely yours,

Peter A. Hornbostel

cc: Andrew Altman
Kathy Patterson

BZA
Case No. 16970
Exhibit No. 195

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16970
EXHIBIT NO.195