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BLACK STUDENT FUND

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November 5, 2002

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2002 NOV -6 PM 2:58

Tersh Boasberg, Chair
Historic Preservation Review Board
801 North Capitol Street, NE
3rd Floor
Washington DC 20002

Dear Mr. Boasberg,

As President of the Black Student Fund, I have long been familiar with the educational excellence of the National Child Research Center. The Black Student Fund was founded in Washington and since 1964, our offices have been located in the District of Columbia.

I write in support of NCRC's plans to improve their facilities for the current educational program that benefits young children from black, white and Latino communities in our city. NCRC is a valued participating school in the Black Student Fund. Their staff works hard to recruit and support children from many economic backgrounds. Their faculty frequently takes courses in cross-racial communication through the BSF Institute for Equity, Race and Education.

From it's founding in 1928, NCRC has sought to admit children from all wards of D.C. and to advocate for those who needed this support. In 1933, the school trained teachers for the first public nursery schools in the city. In the 1960's, NCRC trained teachers for Head Start. At that time, the center also linked up with a researcher from NIMH to admit a number of Head Start children.

As we understand, the school will improve the use of current space and add a small building on the Ordway Street side of the campus. The historic house, an important asset of the Cleveland Park Historical District, will be restored in a way that is harmonious with the original style of the house.

Recently, NCRC held an Early Childhood Education conference, free of charge, for preschools all over the Washington area. This initiative was an important one because there appear to be few professional development

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District of Columbia
CASE NO.16970
EXHIBIT NO.20

opportunities for public and private school educators to interact within an atmosphere of congeniality.

NCRC has admitted children whose parents cannot afford this wonderful educational opportunity and supported them to assure optimum achievement and learning. The school is important to many little children and clearly brings positive development into the lives of Washington youngsters who may never have known about this special place.

The idea that a school that serves both the wealthy and the poor should be limited by individual preferences, parking spaces and other privileges does not appear to serve the greater good. At a time when the Nation's Capital promotes coming together, this dispute does not seem to support our city's goals.

I firmly support the school and ask that you back their efforts. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Barbara Patterson
President