Aug. 25 2003

Dear Ms. Patterson,

I am writing to you in regard to B.Z.A. case # 16970, The proposed enlargement/addition to N.C.R.C. school in Cleveland Park. Please join your fellow constituents in opposing this expansion. I am a pre-kindergarten teacher at Sidwell Friends School and have taught many of the children who have come to us from NCRC during my 35 years of teaching young children. In the early years of NCRC it was obvious that the children had been in what we consider an ideal environment - The "neighborhood nursery school." Most lived in Cleveland Park and were able to walk to school. It was very relaxed and low-keyed. I have noticed in recent years that many of the children now come from the Maryland suburbs. What an impact this must have on the neighborhood... SUV's dropping off or picking up children 3 times a day! We have had some minor problems with our carpool line in our Edgemoor neighborhood of Bethesda but we have much more room to spread out.

I am a firm believer in small groups for young children, and I gather that one of the stated "needs" of NCRC is a large gathering place where larger groups of children could meet together at one time. This, to me, is a bad idea. Children this age do not need to be together in a large, over-stimulating group! I also understand that NCRC wants to have space for a "child study center" or something similar. I can't imagine the need for this. Most of the independent schools in the DC area have provided workshops for professional growth for their teachers and, in many cases, teachers from other schools too. I feel that this idea must have originated in the ambitious desire for "recognition" on the part of some of the people in charge at NCRC; there is no need for it to be a part of their stated goal. What ever happened to the nice relaxed little neighborhood nursery school? This is definitely the best environment for young children; I'm afraid some people have lost sight of that fact.

Sincerely,

Peggy Luthringer

cc to Geoffrey Griffis

BZA
Case No. 16970
Exhibit No. 223

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16970
EXHIBIT NO.223