COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

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September 12, 2003

Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street NW Suite 210
Washington D.C. 20001

Re: Case #16970 (NCRC/Highland Place)

Dear Mr. Griffis:

I write to express my opposition to the National Child Research Center (NCRC) proposal in the current form pending before the Board of Zoning Adjustment and to ask that the BZA give the required great weight to the views of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3-C.

While acknowledging the value of this well-regarded pre-school, I concur with residents of the community that the expansion has the potential to worsen traffic conditions and adversely affect neighboring properties.

I am well aware that a majority of neighbors have made clear their opposition to NCRC's expansion proposal. At the same time, I want to underscore my understanding that neighbors remain open to discussing and supporting improvements to the NCRC facility that would be appropriate to better serve the school's current enrollment. Neighbors have expressed their desire to participate in discussions with the school leadership about improvements in the facility, as distinct from expansion, and I am hopeful that such conversations can take place.

Another concern expressed to me, that I urge you to take under consideration, is the possibility of an enrollment cap that would remain in place, precluding the need for the community to undertake similar discussion and controversy again over the next several years.

Finally, I recommend that you carefully review your terminology and definitions pertaining to school population caps in this and similar cases. As you know, there has been some confusion on whether a population ceiling refers to the total number of children who are enrolled in a school, or the total number present at any given time. It is

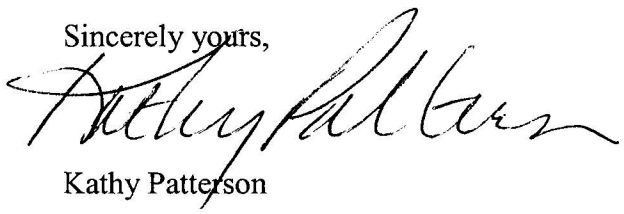
BZA
Case No. 16970
Exhibit No. 227

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16970
EXHIBIT NO.227

my hope that looking forward, any order issued in this and other cases be very explicit on what is meant by enrollment caps.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Kathy Patterson