THE CONSULTANTS INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.
1616 H STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006-4903
(202) 783-7000
FACSIMILE (202) 393-4655
CIGROUP@AOL.COM

September 15, 2003

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

D.C. ZONING
2003 SEP 16 AM 11:19

Re: **Case #16970 (NCRC Application)**

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I live at 3425 Ordway Street, NW, on the Wisconsin Avenue side of Reno Road in the neighborhood that adjoins the immediate vicinity of NCRC. I have lived in this neighborhood for over 30 years, in part because of its relative tranquility and feeling of community.

I oppose NCRC's application to expand its facilities and to increase the size of its student and staff population. I believe that NCRC's application, if approved, will have serious adverse effects on the entire neighborhood and that the entire neighborhood will suffer, not just those homeowners and residents who live in the immediate vicinity of the school.

My reasoning is as follows:

(1) The intersection of Newark and Reno Road NW has become a notoriously dangerous crossing. The traffic coming to and leaving from NCRC contributes to gridlock at that location. If NCRC's plan is approved and the school is allowed to increase the size of its student and staff population, the result will be to increase the number of vehicles that travel through that intersection. Such an increase will only make the intersection even more dangerous.

(2) The best way to address the dangers created by the large numbers of vehicles that are currently traveling through this neighborhood – and currently contributing to the unsafe conditions at Newark and Reno Road – is to reduce the number of those vehicles. Voluntary traffic mitigation measures have not worked in the past at NCRC. I do not believe they will work in the future. The best way to deal with this situation would be for the BZA to deny NCRC's application to expand and also require NCRC to reduce its student and staff population from the current levels.

(3) I remember that the founding philosophy of NCRC was to serve its neighborhood. I believe that one of the reasons that the zoning authorities in

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Washington, D.C. granted NCRC a special exception some 70 years ago was because the school had a fundamental commitment and loyalty to the neighborhood that it would be in its essence a neighborhood school. I know that this was the case for many years. I know understand that less than ten percent of the student population resides within walking distance of the school, and that approximately 40 percent of the student population comes from Maryland or Virginia. If NCRC had lived up to its initial promise and were truly a neighborhood school today as it was for many years in the past, our neighborhood would not be threatened by its steady expansion.

(4) I have no objection to – and I understand NCRC's need for – modernization, renovation, improvement and even modest new construction to improve the physical plant of the school for teachers and students alike. I do object to ambitious expansion. The neighborhood is already saturated with traffic from the school, and the streets surrounding NCRC simply cannot accommodate any more cars.

I therefore respectfully request the BZA to reject NCRC's application.

Sincerely,

David Biltchik
3425 Ordway Street, NW