FAX

D.C. ZONING

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To:	**Kathy Patterson, Carol Schwartz, Geoffrey Griffis, Dan Tangherlini, Andrew Altman, Susan Taylor**
Subj:	**BZA Case #16970**
Date:	**October 6, 2003**

As 25-year residents of Cleveland Park whose home is located on the corner of 34th & Newark, we want to raise our voices to protest the zoning changes being applied for by the National Child Research Center. We offer these views as a family whose daughter attended and greatly enjoyed NCRC.

It is difficult enough to understand how a small pre-school institution can presume to violate its agreements with the city and neighbors by expanding beyond its long-agreed size and mission (even while currently standing in violation of an agreement from the 1990s). But it is stranger yet to consider this situation occurring on a one-block-long street in an already congested official Historic District. Added to the questions of how this came to this pass is why the DOT Director has overturned his staff's original recommendations for an acceptable resolution.

Clearly Cleveland Park is an attractive neighborhood, witness the twelve schools it already hosts (NCRC, Beauvoir, National Cathedral, St. Albans, Maret, Sidwell Friends, Sheridan, Murch, John Eaton, Washington International, Washington Hebrew Congregation, and Lowell St Kindergarten). The traffic generated by these schools already strains the area streets far beyond their capacity, but to add to the confusion by expanding traffic on tiny Highland Place baffles one's imagination.

Safety concerns go beyond Highland Place. For two decades the neighbors fought and eventually won minor correction of the outrageous traffic imposed on 34th St/Reno Road, but the options being considered for Highland Place would overturn the small progress already made. Consider that by the city's own count:

- The corner of 34th/Newark, which would receive much of the new traffic, has for years been the intersection with more traffic accidents than any other residential corner in the city;
- 34th/Reno, a purely residential; corridor, already carries more traffic per lane than either Wisconsin or Connecticut Avenues; and
- The installation of a traffic light at 34th/Newark, one of the options arising, would create further congestion and safety problems by attracting additional cross-town traffic.

Anyone who has not personally witnessed the NCRC rush-hours on this uniquely configured street cannot fully understand the dimensions and illogic of the proposed change.

BZA
Case No. 16970
Exhibit No. 237

John Kuhnle

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16970
EXHIBIT NO.237

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