NCRC Neighborhood Impact Video for BZA Application 16970

Submitted in Opposition to the Pending Application

Filmed and edited by Sallie R. Beckner 3225 Highland Place, N.W., who will narrate the presentation.

This tape consists of recordings made on the following dates:

January 22, 2002
January 30, 2002
May 1, 2002
May 14, 2002
May 31, 2002
September 13, 2002
September 16, 2002
September 26, 2002
October 1, 2002
October 10, 2002
October 14, 2002
October 27, 2002
November 8, 2002
December 13, 2002
January 13, 2003
January 14, 2003
January 21, 2003
February 10, 2003
February 11, 2003
February 12, 2003
February 24, 2003
May 29, 2003
June 2, 2003
September 12, 2003
September 29, 2003
October 2, 2003
October 8, 2003
October 16, 2003
October 21, 2003

The locations of specific scenes will be supplied during the narration. In general, they are:

- Highland Place between 33rd Place and Ashley Terrace (NCRC Main Entrance), and between 33rd Place and 34th Street
- 33rd Place between Highland Place and Newark Street
- Newark Street between 33rd Place and 34th Street
- Newark Street, west of 34th Street
- Intersection of 34th and Newark Streets
- Ordway Street, east of 34th Street (NCRC Back Entrance)
- NCRC Playground, observed from 3225 Highland Place

BZA
Case No. 16970
Exhibit No. 268

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16970
EXHIBIT NO.268

Re-Cap of My Oral Testimony
Identifying NCRC Cars

All vehicles that I orally identified as belonging to NCRC drivers were observed long enough to determine that the drivers were either coming to or leaving the school. This includes the cars running stop signs, doing u-turns and illegally parked.

The illegally parked cars identified as belonging to NCRC staff are familiar vehicles to neighbors because they are frequently parked for many hours on the street and the drivers are seen going to and from the school.

The driver ticketed on February 24, 2003 for running the stop sign at 33rd and Newark Street was identified as having just come from the school after picking up a child by the ticketing officer, District 2 patrolman Mark Fisher.

The NCRC driver involved in the mid-day accident on February 11th at the corner of Newark and 34th Street was questioned by police. The driver told the officer she had just picked up a child at the school and was leaving on Newark when the car was hit.

Submitted by
Sara R. Bachman
October 30, 2003

BZA #16970

Video Script
Testimony on 10-28-02
BZA Application 16770

Sallie Video Narrative Intro

I'm Sallie Beckner. I'm going to show you a video that I shot over the last 21 months of NCRC traffic and other impacts in our neighborhood. The tape is edited down from over 10 hours of raw footage shot between January 2002 to just last week. I've handed you a sheet that lists all the drop off and pick times and a pie chart that shows the small percentage of NCRC students who live close enough to walk to school...Also, in the packet a program that summarizes the topics covered in the tape. The tape shows.....

- NCRC car traffic in our neighborhood is already excessive and objectionable.
- Dangerous conditions exist for dropping off and picking up children
- the 1998 BZA Order and the revised traffic plans that NCRC has implemented in the past year and half are ineffective.
- Now, I'll roll the tape.

Video Narration

Opening…The video shown comes from these 29 days.

HIGHLAND PL. (NON-SCHOOL DAY)

That's NCRC. (Point to Building).

Highland Place is a two way street and works fine that way except during NCRC's congestion

HIGHLAND CONGESTION

This is the scene on school days. This is traffic on Highland at a 3:30 afternoon dismissal. This is the schedule of when NCRC cars come to the neighborhood on school days.

I'm pulling back to show an afternoon NCRC pick up line…Most of the parked cars behind that line belong to teachers and parents.

This is what it's like to drive around the blind curve during a morning drop off.

This is Highland during a morning drop off. At times, It's almost impassable for large trucks.

This NCRC parent pushes into a parking space but is still partially blocking Paula Atkeson's driveway on Highland.

In real time, It took over a minute for this neighbor to maneuver past the carpool line to get into her driveway.

There's the school again….The back up of cars….and the blind curve

SAFETY CONCERNS

A child home after school sharing the street with NCRC traffic…In 1998 the school asked to have it's hours extend to 5PM (instead of 3:30)

33rd Place…..No sidewalks….NCRC's traffic plan directs all cars out this narrow street.

33rd in the afternoon…a daily sight…a parent unloading a child into the line of traffic.

This is Newark Street looking at the intersection with 33rd Place in the afternoon…NCRC's traffic plan has all the cars exiting at this intersection.

Afternoon pick-up, shot from the 2nd floor of my home. That's a DC school bus that comes everyday.

PARK AND WALK

Over 50 percent of NCRC parents park and walk their children to school. Many of them walk and stroll in the street dodging moving cars. There's a sidewalk on the north side of Highland.

This is the Highland 3:30 afternoon pick-up. Most of the caregivers and parents don't use the carpool line unless the weather is bad.

33rd Place....An NCRC parent with child that we'll now follow up the street as they weave through the cars. Again, this is 33rd Place as cars are streaming out during the 8:30 am drop off.

More street walkers....seen from my front porch.

This SUV is parked illegally in front of my house....(SOT conversation with parent, In: "I don't blame you....out: don't even stop at the stop sign.")

STOP SIGN RUNNING

There's a stop sign at this corner of 33rd and Highland....It's run all the time by NCRC drivers...It's dangerous and the school patrols are not consistent about being there.

3:50PM....Policeman stops and cites an NCRC driver for running a stop sign at 33rd and busy Newark street. (Ticketing officer Mark Fisher, Dist 2).

This is the stop sign at Highland and 33rd in front of my house.... Remember, this is a two way street...these cars are busting through a sign and way out of their lane. Most mid-days and late afternoons, no one from the school is there to stop this

Same intersection!

ILLEGAL U-TURNS

Here's a car doing a u-turn in the Highland/33rd intersection……NCRC drivers do this a lot because they're looking for a parking place.

Filmed on Highland, last month during the 3:30 pick up….two cars do u-turns in the 3:30 afternoon carpool line.

Morning drop off on Ordway Street just earlier this month….there's a guard present but there's still an NCRC car doing a u-turn with an adult and child walking behind.

This is the middle of Highland, in front of my house….And that's someone who attended NCRC's citywide teachers conference.

Ordway Street… Morning drop off....NCRC's entrance is to my right…..That's an NCRC car doing a u-turn.

Morning on Ordway Street…. Another u-turner and that SUV is parked on Henry Little's lawn.

This is an NCRC parent who walked his child to school and is now leaving the neighborhood backing into Newark St.

This is the dead end portion of 33rd Pl....The car that turned around in my driveway is an NCRC car. This is the 3:30 pick up. No one from the school is there.

ILLEGAL PARKING AND DRIVEWAYS

The day after our last hearing, two NCRC staff members parked illegally here on Highland (SOT traffic enforcement officer....In: To close to the stop sign....out: less than 25 feet from the stop sign.")

The driver of that SUV arrived late and parked illegally on the corner of Highland and 33rd...the BZA order prohibits that.

This car was double parked in front of the school.

Driveways blocked on Ordway during a special event.(leads to short SOT : "that's really stupid".

NCRC's cones are not properly placed 5 feet from the driveways

An NCRC teacher blocking Steve Hunsicker's driveway!

SPECIAL EVENTS

NCRC announced 7 special events last year…There were actually 9. And except for the educators conference, they were on weekends and evenings.

This is about 6:30 in the evening, when neighbors are coming home from work and looking for a place to park on Highland.

On 33rd Place, this car has just backed into a driveway to cross over and park.

This car sort of speaks for itself! This new parent is now backing up against traffic on Highland to reach a parking place.

This is shot from my house. But whether you live on Highland or Ordway the PA used is excessive and highly objectionable.

7AM Sunday morning…this is what woke me up!

Measured from our backyard with a sound meter, the PA exceeds the legal noise limit of 60 decibels.

Here, I'm showing the parking impact during these special events…… Both ends of Highland….Newark and extending to streets across 34th street.

34TH AND NEWARK STREET CONGESTION

In the morning...at mid day and after 3PM almost all the NCRC traffic ends up in this line on Newark St. waiting to cross 34th St.

This is Newark and busy 34th at the time of NCRC's afternoon pick up.

That NCRC car is coming out 33rd PL. to join the line on Newark.

People get impatient at this intersection because they have long waits....AND IT'S DANGEROUS. DOT has this in their report...but there were 3 more accidents recorded last spring.

This 3 car collision happened one hour before our first meeting here February 11th.

This NCRC car was hit and slightly damaged after picking up a child.

INEFFECTIVE PATROL

The 1998 BZA order requires that NCRC have an identifiable staff member at this entrance to monitor ALL drop off and pick up. I watched this morning from 8 to 9 and saw no one at this Ordway St. entrance.

Back on Highland and 33rd, a patrol is there…but she watched the car go right through the stop sign……Same intersection

This was the last day of school, May 29th…..But this morning there was no patrol

Different angle ….shot from my front porch

Second week of this new school year …the busy 3:30 pick up… And this intersection is still a hazard with no NCRC enforcement.

Another afternoon of NCRC traffic with no enforcement of the stop sign.

CONGESTED ORDWAY

Ordway Street.....This is the morning drop off, shot just last Thursday. There's a hired guard at NCRC's back steps but that can't change the fact that this drop off is dangerous!

Traffic is heavy....And the school's walkers line both sides of the street.

Ordway neighbors say it's frightening to watch everyday as parents , caregivers and kids cross through traffic or walk in the street to reach the school. This is hardly the place for NCRC to propose diverting more traffic to.

Most parents end up parking across from the school because most of the spaces in front on the school are already taken by teachers.

IN CLOSING

This is NCRC's Traffic Plan.....It's doesn't work!

Part of the problem is that the school can't make parents and caregivers abide by rules....And here's an illegally parked parent expressing her attitude with an obscene gesture!... (SOT in "Why don't you get a life because what you're doing is really pathetic.....Out.....pathetic")

Tape ends

Close

The tape has shown the dangerous conditions that the Department of Transportation refers to in its report and more – children and caregivers walking down the middle of the street, while cars jockey for parking spaces, run through stop signs and make U-turns. The fact is, with 90 percent of its children living too far to walk to school, NCRC's current enrollment of 171 generates much more car traffic than the neighborhood streets can safely handle. That is why, despite the various traffic management plans that NCRC has tried, none of them have worked. The proposed new plan won't work either, that's why you should turn down this application.

Certificate of Service in for submission Application 16970

I, Sallie R. Beckner, certify that, on October 31, 2003, I delivered 10 copies to the Office of Zoning of the videotape and script "NCRC Impact Video" that I presented at the hearing on October 28, 2003. An additional copy of the tape was given to the Secretary of the Board of Zoning Appeals on October 28, 2003. In addition, in the manner described, I served one copy of the foregoing videotape and script on each of the following parties in the case or on their legal counsel:

By Hand Delivery:

Catherine Marshall
Steven Hunsicker
Gaylord Neeley and Linda Badami
Richard Nettler, Esq., counsel for the "Cleveland Park Neighbors"
Maureen Dwyer, Esq., counsel for NCRC (picked up by her law firm's messenger)
Ann Large ("Friends of NCRC")

By Overnight Delivery:

Henry Little

Sallie R. Beckner

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To: Secretary, Board of Zoning Adjustments **From:** R. Bruce Beckner

Fax: 202-727-6072 **Date:** October 31, 2003

Phone: **Pages:** 2

Re: **CC:**

☐ **Urgent** x **For Review** ☐ **Please Comment** ☐ **Please Reply** ☐ **Please Recycle**

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At (202) 939-7948.
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EXHIBIT 268

CASE NO. 16970

IS A VIDEOTAPE

PLEASE SEE AT OFFICE