Haley Kaufman & Jeff Alpher
2938 Macomb Street NW
Washington, DC 20008

September 18, 2002

Geoffrey Griffis, Chair
District of Columbia Board of Zoning Washington
441 4th Street NW
Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

RECEIVED
D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2002 DEC -6 PM 4:07

Dear Mr. Griffis:

We are writing to you as parents and neighbors concerning the proposed changes to NCRC. We support the various review processes that NCRC must clear. However, we felt that a letter of support was in order due to the aggressive opposition to the project.

First off, we support the basis of their need to expand. A quick tour of NCRC during class will show that they are packed in rather tightly and the need for additional space seems obvious. There are other routes NCRC could have taken to generate the needed space, for example, charging more tuition per child and cutting scholarship students. This would free up the requisite space, but at a cost to the school's stated diversity goals.

The most opposition appears to be coming from those living closest to the school. This seems only natural. However they moved to a neighborhood with a school, and from what we understand, some of the strongest opposition is coming from those whose children attended NCRC.

The opposition seems to fall into three categories: increased traffic, an ugly new building and a loss of playground area.

Traffic: We find it hard to swallow the contention that 10 more cars per day on city streets will make Highland Place, Newark Street or Ordway Street measurably more dangerous. We are confident any traffic survey/study will bear this out.

Ugly building: Because we are not architects, we doubt that we could evaluate the proposed structures in the necessary context. We fully support the Historical Preservation Review Board in this regard.

Traffic/Ugly building: With respect to Ordway Street, if the ugly hillside and sidewalk/curb were to be rebuilt on the south side of the street to accept a few extra cars during drop off and pick up times, this would lessen the traffic on Highland and increase the amount of traffic on Ordway. Ordway is wider than Highland and better equipped to handle a few extra cars, ultimately lessening the traffic on Highland Place. In addition, Ordway would gain a more pleasant and less forbidding south side. Since the Cleveland

BZA
Case No. 16970
Exhibit No. 28

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16970
EXHIBIT NO.28

Park entrance is only a few paces west of the current NCRC entrance on Ordway, this is an opportunity to make Ordway more accessible and safer for all travelers on foot.

Loss of playground area: This is of course a big concern for those attending the school as well. It is our understanding that the current structure is built into the hillside in such a way that the first level of the proposed structure is partially underground, minimizing loss of square footage of the playground.

A word regarding access to the NCRC playground: We learned about NCRC and the playground when we moved to the neighborhood in 1998. The playground is open to the community after 3:30 on weekdays, all holidays and on weekends. We're not aware of any local public or private schools that allow this kind of access. Those opposed contend that the playground is no longer as accessible as it once was, and this should be the basis for denying NCRC's proposal. However, it is simply untrue that access has been restricted.

If you should wish to contact us in person to discuss this further, we can be reached at 202-537-6111 or via email: jeff@alpher.org or haley@alpher.org.

Sincerely,

Haley Kaufman

Jeff Alpher