ESTHER NAMIAN'S TESTIMONY FOR BZA HEARING ON NOVEMBER 4, 2003

Good afternoon Chairman Griffis, Commissioners and Staff of the BZA.

My name is Esther Namian. My husband, Doug, and I have lived at 3312 Newark Street NW for 36 years. Our house is located on the south side of Newark, where 33rd Place meets Newark.

Day-in and day-out, through the late 90's and at the present time, I have witnessed the following:

The NCRC traffic, that leaves Highland Place, turns left on 33rd Place to this point, where we live , and I can see the NCRC guard on duty. A left turn on Newark goes to Connecticut Avenue or a right turn for a short distance, goes to 34th Street During the NCRC pick-up times, traffic often backs-up on Newark from 34th Street to 33rd Place, and even around the corner on 33rd Place. Traffic traveling west from Connecticut is often stopped and delayed at this point. Parking is allowed on both sides of Newark from 33rd Place to 34th Street, so three lanes are occupied and so it is almost impossible and dangerous for traffic to meet. 34th Street is a very busy street between D.C. and Maryland. The intersection of 34th Street and Newark is considered very dangerous..

There are three stop signs at 33rd Place and Newark. Usually, traffic stops on 33rd Place, but often, the traffic only slows and rolls through the stop signs on Newark.

At Newark and 33rd Place there are spaces for five vehicles to park illegally. They frequently have been used by NCRC vehicles. The children are unloaded. This particularly happens when guards are not present or there is a nursery school event with all the families attending, or meetings, and conferences. Some families come in two cars At one of the daytime events the NCRC guard had his picture taken next to his illegally parked van. One morning a few weeks ago another guard had his car parked illegally on 33rd Place between the no parking sign and Newark. I also remember the time that Ms. Piggett came out with a guard and gave him instructions. A few minutes after she left, the guard went up the street to his parked car, removed it from that space and then drove it back and parked it in an illegal space, closer to where he was working.

At the NCRC Anniversary Party, a man drove his vehicle on to 33rd Place and parked in an illegal space. It took the guard a good while to convince the man that he could not park there. The man turned the vehicle around and parked in front of our house, but facing in the wrong direction (towards 34th Street) on the left side of Newark. The guard did nothing. I went out and talked to the man. He finally came back, turned the vehicle around, and parked legally (facing Connecticut).

At the same party, a van was parked on the edge of our driveway. Our view was obstructed so we could not use the driveway. When the man and his child returned from the party, I asked him to please be more considerate the next time.

BZA
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Exhibit No. 289

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
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To summarize, the guards are ineffective. They have no legal police power. NCRC is just not able to enforce traffic effectively.

In the 1990's there was a change in NCRC's time schedule. The number of vehicles increased and the frequency of traffic increased. There were more activities and visitors. In the middle of the 1990's, I started going to Connecticut Avenue two or three times a week. I walk on 33rd Place and Highland, passing NCRC during drop-off time around 8:45am to 9:00am. Believe me, it is an adventure. Cars travel in both directions. (Neighbors have to go to work, too.} I find it very dangerous. I dodge traffic, car doors, strollers, little children on bicycles, people and children crossing and walking in the street, cars u-turning and turning around in driveways. The sidewalk is used for unloading children so I usually walk in the street.

I attended the BZA Hearing in 1998. Both the Acting Director and the attorney for NCRC assured us that there would be no construction and no changes in the maximum enrollment of 120 students. I later read in the WASHINGTONIAN MAGAZINE and also in some nursery school books and guides that NCRC enrolled 171/176 students.

Both of our children attended NCRC in the late 1960's and 1970. In 1970 we received a letter from the President of the Board of Trustees of NCRC. It described NCRC's relationship to the community. This is the quote:

> "You are all familiar with what we are—a small, private school in a large building perfectly designed for small children and their parents to experience early childhood education."

Today, this proposed plan, with its large expansion of the building, increased enrollment, increased staff and increased traffic congestion will make a bad situation worse.

Doug and I oppose this plan and trust that the Commissioners will also vote to oppose it.