Jane Vanneman
3071 Ordway St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

November 14, 2003

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis, Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, NW
Room 201
Washington, DC 20001

Re: *Letter in Opposition* to Application of National Child Research Center, No. 16970

Dear Mr. Griffis:

This letter is to provide recent information relating to traffic and parking, to supplement testimony of persons opposing the application by the National Child Research Center (NCRC) to expand its facilities and increase enrollment.

I have also seen the November 14, 2003 DDOT report. However, DDOT did not conduct any survey or make any observations on Ordway Street during this time.

I set forth below my observations over this last week and those observations of Dr. Jonathan Moreno, who also lives on Ordway Street facing the NCRC property. Even during this time that NCRC is attempting to implement its Traffic Management Plan, the problems that many of the neighbors have set forth in their testimony and submissions to the BZA continue in full force. There is objectionable traffic congestion caused by the NCRC operations, and small children and adults walking in the street attempting to avoid moving traffic, and parking (illegal and otherwise) that creates difficulties on Ordway Street.

1. Observations on November 7, 2003

Jane Vanneman

I was driving from 34th Street and turned right onto Ordway Street around 8:45 am. From the top of the hill, the entire street looked like a giant parking

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lot, all the way down the street as far as I could see, with cars parked all the way down the street on both sides of the street and sometimes extending into the street (depending on how poorly they were parked).

There was at least one parent walking a little child in the middle of the street (with the child closest to the middle of the street). Also, a parent from one car was taking a small child out of the car on the street side.

There was also a car double parked, and cars parked close to driveways, including my own driveway; the parking problems made it difficult for me to enter my driveway to take my car down to our garage.

I saw at least two NCRC staff/ monitors, one near my house (NCRC's business manager) who was recording information on a clip board, and another one walking at the top of Ordway Street, near the cutoff down to Porter Street. Neither one of the NCRC staff persons was taking any action with respect to the safety of the children; they were simply recording information and/or observing. I drove very, very slowly down the street, and had a hard time turning left into my driveway because there was an oncoming minivan, and it was very difficult to find space for both vehicles in the street, given the way the cars were parked on both sides of the street.

In addition, there were several cars parked illegally, in no parking areas on Ordway St, near 34th Street.

November 11:

Comments from Dr. Jonathan Moreno:

I observed two NCRC monitors on November 11. However, it often happens that before the NCRC monitors arrive, there are a few drop-offs - the monitors do not arrive early enough to manage the early traffic. On this day, I observed a maroon Volvo station wagon that made a U-turn in the street after the mom or babysitter dropped off the child.

Comments from Jane Vanneman:

On Tuesday November 11, I saw two NCRC monitors on

Ordway Street, with clipboards taking notes. However, the NCRC traffic was very, very light that day, and it may be, with the federal holiday, that there were fewer students attending.

Also, on Ordway Street, since around November 6, there were signs posted "emergency no parking" for November 11 [these signs remained at least through Friday, November 14] for tree work along part of the NCRC frontage. I estimate that the emergency parking signs covered approximately 6-9 parking spaces. The signs were posted beginning at the east end of the NCRC playhouse (across the street from my house) all the way up street towards 34th Street along the NCRC frontage to the utility pole near the Henry Little House. (There are several tall trees with branches at the top that appear to be dead.) If, however, NCRC was counting the cars parked on those days, the count would be unusually low because of the "emergency no parking" signs posted. (As of the morning of November 14, no tree work has been done).

Also, for the first time ever, I saw one of the NCRC monitors actually help a mom with a young child across the street, as traffic was approaching. Before November 11, 2003, I have never seen a NCRC monitor assist NCRC parents/caregivers and children to cross the street.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Jane W. Vanneman

Jonathan D Moreno
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