CASE 16970 – OPPO ION

Testimony of Ana Tejblum Evans

3428 Ashley Terrace, Washington DC

My name is Ana Evans. I live at 3428 Ashley terrace with my husband and 12 year old daughters. We have lived there since 1992, and before that we lived in Adams Morgan. My testimony relates to the map we have used in our presentations before you, the map that shows the school in the context of its neighbors on Ordway, Highland, Newark, and Ashley Terrace.

Our original intent was to let the ANC know of the neighborhood sentiment about this project. To that end, I drafted a petition addressed to Nancy MacWood, Chair of ANC3. The petition contains a general description of the project – using the information available to us at the time. The people who signed the petition also provided us with contact information so that we could keep them informed of any developments, and this we have done, formally and informally.

Beyond the first purpose, we decided to use the list of names on the petition as the basis for a visual aid. We colored in red the lot owned by each resident who had informed us of their opposition to the schools plan, and we retained their signature on the petition as a documentation.

The ranks of opponents of NCRC's expansion have grown. Residents who wished to remain neutral initially changed their position once the DOT released their report acknowledging the danger in the current traffic situation, and proposing to solve it by turning Highland into a one way street and/or eliminating residential parking places.

You notice that the map is limited to the area immediately surrounding the school. We only approached people who lived in affected area. We did not conduct a popularity contest. We did not ask friends from other parts of the city to write letters of support for our cause. They are not relevant here. We do not doubt that residents of Mt. Pleasant, or Georgetown, would support the school, they have nothing to lose. We were interested in demonstrating the local residents' opinion of the expansion project. No one who signed

BZA
Case No. 16970
Exhibit No. 314

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16970
EXHIBIT NO.314

the petition has reques hat we remove his house from our m I will submit two letters from neighbors who signed letters of support for the school but who do not support the expansion.

From what I observed in canvassing my neighbors, I noted that it was not easy or pleasant for anyone to have to take this stand in opposition to NCRC. A number of people are professionally involved in education. Many of us have children who attend schools in other parts of the city, public and private, so we know we may inconvenience other residents. But that does not mean that all situations are equivalent. MacArthur Blvd, Wisconsin Avenue, 16th Street, do not compare with Highland Place. We are not asking that our streets receive special treatment. What we are saying is this: These particular streets are narrow and winding. Highland does not have a proper sidewalk, people walk on the street. Ordway is likewise narrow and winding. Newark and Ordway become treacherous in wet and cold weather. There are few parking places, and they are in demand. We are not being asked to share the streets with NCRC, the school takes over the streets completely.

This is a good place for a small intimate nursery school, but not for a nursery school with grandiose plans for expansion. We who live there know this, and that is why the map is a field of red. The neighbors are as near unanimous about this as a group of disparate people can be. We have come to this position through observation and good judgment, and I hope that you will examine the evidence and come to the same conclusion.