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March 22, 2004

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, N.W., Suite 201-S
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: BZA Application No. 16970
National Child Research Center
3209 Highland Place, N.W.; Square 2072, Lot 30

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

I am writing in response to the notice of March 9, 2004, which I received from Jerrily Kress, Director, Office of Zoning, informing me that I had an opportunity to submit further written information regarding the "limited subject of the new construction proposed by the application [NCRC]."

As I have stated in my previous oral testimony before and written to the BZA, my wife Lydia Mendoza and I are the owners of a home at 3220 Ordway, Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., immediately adjacent to and west of NCRC. We lived in our Ordway Street home from June, 1984, until February, 1998, at which time we moved to San Francisco for business-related reasons. We intend to return to our Ordway Street home soon, most likely within the next year so that my wife's 85 year old mother may live with us.

I very strongly oppose NCRC's proposed construction and expansion plans, even if such a physical expansion is not accompanied simultaneously by an expansion of student and faculty enrollment. As you already know, the new building which NCRC proposes to construct will be roughly twice the size of my Ordway Street home. Moreover, if approved and constructed as proposed, this building will be roughly 10 feet from my property line and a mere 15 feet from the back portion of my home and my rear patio. This southeast rear portion of my home is a combination family room-kitchen-dining area, and as such is the most heavily used space by my family and me during waking hours. In the summer season (May through September) we spend a great deal of time in the evening and on the weekends outdoors on the rear patio.

BZA
Case No. 16970
Exhibit No. 359

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16970
EXHIBIT NO.359

Even without an expanded enrollment, NCRC undoubtedly will use its new building facility extensively. As I recall, the new building will consist of two classrooms, as well as a multi-purpose room. Imagine the increase in activities immediately adjacent to my home if both classrooms, each containing 15-25 students, as well as the multi-purpose room, are used both morning and afternoon for classes and programs, as well as for weekday evenings and weekend conferences, parent meetings and the like. In short, I believe that the construction of this new building will greatly increase the activity, noise and traffic adjacent to and in front of my home. Such a marked increase in noise, traffic and other NCRC-related disturbances would seem to be entirely at odds with the residential character and purpose of my property, of Ordway Street, and of the Cleveland Park neighborhood in general.

I believe the Board of Zoning Adjustment made the correct decision earlier this year in denying NCRC's application to expand its facilities. I urge you to reaffirm that decision at your upcoming special public meeting on April 13, 2004, which unfortunately I am unable to attend because my wife's elderly mother will be visiting us in San Francisco at that time.

Sincerely,

Henry P. Little

cc: Maureen Dwyer, The Friends of NCRC (c/o Anne Large), Katharine Marshall, The Cleveland Park Neighbors (c/o Richard Nettler), Gaylord Neely & Linda Badami, Sallie and Bruce Beckner, Steve Hunsicker; Nancy MacWood