Winthrop N. Brown
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August 5, 2002

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

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Dear Mr. Griffis:

I am writing in support of the National Child Research Center's ("NCRC") project to improve the school. My children attended NCRC.

I have reviewed the proposed plans for the addition and new building and believe that the design is compatible with the historic character of the site and in keeping with the character of the historic district. The new building is designed to appear residential in character and is in keeping with the height and density of other structures in the neighborhood. The architect has done a wonderful job of accommodating both the school's needs and the neighbors' concerns.

We chose to send our children to NCRC because we believe in the school's mission, and we see every day how the school tries to live its mission. It is a school that believes strongly in doing the best it can for each child, and it also brings together a unique mix of families from different racial, socio-economic backgrounds, as well as a mixture of children with special needs and typically developing children. NCRC's success at integrating these children is very special and for that we are grateful that our children can experience the school.

We have been very impressed with NCRC's plans for improving the current facility. Anyone who has spent time there can see their need for more space. There is no place to meet privately with staff members and the only indoor place where the children can work on their gross motor skills is a relatively small room that has glass doors taking up one wall, and library shelves around all the rest of the walls. When you get sixteen four-year-olds in there, throwing balls, hopping, and running, it is clear that the program needs more space. Lastly, since there are at least two children with special needs in each classroom, I feel strongly that taking down the numbers of children in each class makes sense. In order to accomplish this and not bring down the size of the current population, the school proposes adding two new classrooms. I think these

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new classrooms will be extremely beneficial to the program and not simply because they will allow a reduction of the current class sizes. Having these two new classrooms, which are slated to be full-day programs—one for older children and one for younger children—will also offer much more flexibility for working parents who need to have their children in a supervised and stimulating environment for a longer period of the day.

I admire what NCRC has done in response to neighborhood concerns. After receiving input at more than a dozen neighborhood meetings, they have cut back the size of the proposed new building significantly. They have already begun to make changes in their traffic management plan, and it is clear that they are working very hard to ensure that there will be no adverse impacts from the dropping off or picking up of children.

I firmly support the school and hope you also will support their efforts. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Winthrop N. Brown

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