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Mr. Geoffrey Griffis
District of Columbia Board
of Zoning Adjustments
441 4th Street, N.W.
Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

August 19, 2002

Dear Mr. Griffis:

On August 14, 2002, I wrote to Tersh Boasberg, Chair of the Historic Preservation Review Board, concerning the important plans for modest adjustments to NCRC on Highland Place. Because of the critical role that NCRC plays in our neighborhood, I wanted to share those thoughts with you:

My child attends NCRC and I am proud to say I live in the NCRC neighborhood. Please take time to carefully evaluate the proposed plans for NCRC because, based on my review, I believe this kind of addition can be a model for projects that provide residential contextual aesthetics while simultaneously satisfying educational needs and ends.

NCRC is one of our city's shining educational examples. At the same time, it obviously requires more space to expand and extend its mission. We are particularly proud of our involvement in a school that has such a rich diversity of ethnic, racial, and socio-economic families. In fact, the NCRC model of inclusion and integration is one that would well serve our broader community.

My strong sense is that these powerful programs can only continue with additional space, as accomplished through the new facilities. The current building has no space for private meetings with staff. The current building lacks adequate room for motor skill development.

BZA
Case No. 16970
Exhibit No. 39

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16970
EXHIBIT NO.39

At least two children in each classroom have special educational or developmental needs, another exemplary component of the NCRC program that calls out for additional space. The two new proposed classrooms will serve these singular needs -- as well as facilitate the schedules of working families with busy parents whose children require full day programs. Absent the proposed additions, the NCRC mission and program -- social and educational achievements of fundamental community significance and import -- will have to be curtailed. This city can ill-afford such backsliding.

NCRC's responsiveness to neighborhood concerns has been admirable. They have conducted more than twelve neighborhood meetings. In response to those sessions, they have reduced significantly the size of the new plans. They have implemented design enhancements that provide contextual harmony to existing topography and sight lines. They have adjusted traffic management in a manner that minimizes neighborhood impacts at the same time that vehicle flow and child safety are increased.

Our local community is lucky to host NCRC. The greater Washington community is privileged to benefit from the singular developmental and educational programs NCRC provides. These unique social, cultural, and educational achievements can only continue to elevate our hometown if the much-need improvements are approved.

I urge you to support NCRC's mission and plans.

Very truly yours,

Kim Sperduto