8/23/02
Mr. Large of 4H asked to write to the ANC also if that would help.
L.

August 21, 2002

Board of Zoning and Adjustment
Chairman Geoffrey Griffis
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

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Dear Chairman Griffis,

I am writing in support of NCRC's project to improve the school. I am a current NCRC parent and I am also a neighbor. My two boys walk to NCRC.

I love living in Cleveland Park, and NCRC is one of the things that drew us to this neighborhood. My wife and I work full time and our nanny does not drive, so being within walking distance to the school was an important part of why we chose to buy our house. Not only is NCRC a wonderful school for our family, but like so many neighbors, we also use the playground on the weekends and after school.

We chose NCRC not simply because of its proximity, but also because we believe in the school's mission. It is a school that focuses on the needs of each individual child, and it also brings together a unique mix of families from different racial, socioeconomic 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 impressed with NCRC's plans for improving the current facility. Anyone who has spent time at the school can see their need for more space. There is no place to meet privately with staff members and the only indoor place where our 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 reducing 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 new classrooms will be 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 a longer day for their kids.

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

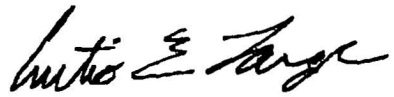
BZA
Case No. 16970
Exhibit No. 44

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16970
EXHIBIT NO.44

building significantly. They have already begun to make changes in their traffic management plan, and I firmly believe that the school's commitment to mitigating any traffic problems is real.

As a neighbor and a parent, I firmly support the school and hope you will also support their efforts.

Sincerely,



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