2940 Woodland Dr., N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

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Board of Zoning and Adjustment
Chairman Geoffrey Griffis
441 4th St., N.W.
Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairman Griffis and members of the board:

I'm a current NCRC parent who lives in the area, and I am writing in strong support of the project to renovate the school and improve the opportunities for the children in our neighborhood.

We've lived in the Woodley Park area since we moved to Washington in 1994, but only in the past few years have we discovered the most wonderful thing about our neighborhood: NCRC. It's been such a special place for our two daughters, both during school hours and then on weekends, when we enjoy the playground just like many neighborhood families whose children attend other schools.

It's been a joy to send the children to our "neighborhood" preschool, particularly since we so adamantly believe in the mission of NCRC. Having sent two children there (our youngest daughter will return in the fall, while our oldest is off to Oyster), we've seen first-hand how it puts its ideals into practice. Our daughters have been fortunate to attend a school that stresses diversity and inclusiveness: In their classes were children of many different racial and ethnic groups who came from across the economic spectrum. My husband, Doug, and I felt strongly that it was important for our children, at a very young age, to see that people from all backgrounds could get along wonderfully. We were thrilled that they saw it every day at NCRC.

As parents, however, we also have been acutely aware that NCRC desperately needs more space. Our youngest daughter Louisa's classroom, while cheerful from the class projects, was extremely cramped, and the space where all the children have motor classes also doubles as a library, with bookshelves all around. It's hard to imagine a motor class in that small room, with a bunch of 4-year-old children tossing balls and rolling around, yet that's where NCRC must hold them. Those factors alone would cry for additional space. But the extra room is even more important when you consider that NCRC also generally has two special needs children in each class.

All the children would benefit by a reduction in class size. Adding just two new classrooms, as NCRC has proposed, will help the children and give them even more individualized instruction. What's more, it also would enable NCRC to offer additional programs, which would give working parents like Doug and me even more options.

BZA
Case No. 16970
Exhibit No. 49

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16970
EXHIBIT NO.49

I think the proposed new building is absolutely beautiful and will only enhance the overall charm and character of the school and neighborhood. It gives NCRC greater flexibility, but it also preserves the playground for all the neighborhood children to use. NCRC always has been a sensitive neighbor that has long contributed to the neighborhood by opening its playground to all. Just imagine how we'd all miss the playground if private homes had been on the space instead of the swings and slides and play equipment! A testament to the school's good-neighbor intentions was its response after receiving input at more than a dozen neighborhood meetings. It cut back the size of the proposed new building significantly.

As for traffic concerns, I can attest that NCRC is extremely sensitive to its surroundings. School officials provide constant reminders to parents to be sensitive to the neighbors, and we all take traffic and parking issues very seriously. And please keep in mind that these are preschool children we're talking about, not high schoolers with their own cars. The parents who walk or drive their youngsters to school are committed to mitigating any traffic problems and will do so responsibly.

My husband and I support NCRC's efforts in the strongest possible terms. When you've seen all the information, we hope and believe that you, too, will agree that the proposals are sensitive, beautiful and greatly needed. Thank you for your time and attention. If you have any questions or would like to speak with either of us, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jan Crawford Greenburg