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

Dear Mr. Griffis:

We are writing as NCRC parents and avid supporters of the project to improve the school.

Our daughter is starting her third year at NCRC and we are so thankful that she will be completing her pre-school career at such a wonderful school. When we moved to Washington two years ago, we were immediately embraced by the special NCRC community of staff and fellow parents. Our daughter has gained enormously from being part of this community and we feel very lucky that our son will be attending soon after our daughter graduates.

What we cherish most about NCRC is that it lives up to its mission of encouraging each child's unique learning style. This caring and supportive environment is enriched by a diverse and inclusive student body which includes students of various racial/ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, as well as students with special needs.

Having reviewed NCRC's plans for improving the current facility, we fully support it. It is a much needed improvement for several reasons. First, we feel that the student/teacher ratio needs to be reduced, especially when you consider that each class has at least two special needs students. We feel that the school's plan to add two new classrooms is brilliant since, without increasing the total number of students, it reduces the number of children in each class while giving working parents additional flexibility with the choice of an all-day program. Second, as anyone who has seen the 'playhouse' would attest, the school needs a larger indoor space for the children to run and move during motor class. The current space doubles as the library, with one wall taken up entirely by glass doors. Finally, the school is in need of private meeting space where parents who need support can hold confidential meetings with staff.

NCRC's emphasis on the importance of community extends to the beautiful Cleveland Park neighborhood in which it is situated. The school has been working closely with neighbors in order to mitigate any concerns that may arise from the project plans. There have been regular meetings with neighbors and a new traffic management plan is already being implemented in response to neighbors' concerns.

We firmly support NCRC and the project to improve the school. We ask you to please support their efforts. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Leila and Marc Austin

BZA
Case No. 16970
Exhibit No. 58

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16970
EXHIBIT NO.58