CHAEL KENNETH GEWIRZ

September 9, 2002

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Mr. Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: National Child Research Center (NCRC)
3209 Highland Place, NW

Dear Sir:

As a life-long resident of our city, and a current resident of the Cleveland Park neighborhood, I write to you in full and enthusiastic support of NCRC's minor expansion plans. I am also a father of three young children, two of whom benefited greatly from the uniquely nurturing environment found every day at NCRC. It has been said that NCRC celebrates everything that is right with the world and my family has had very powerful experiences that would confirm this.

As you are aware, the population of the District of Columbia has stabilized and may in fact be growing. Many of the people in this dynamic are families with children, like me and so many others, who need to have access to a wide range of educational communities. NCRC has been in continual operation since 1928 as a community based, neighborhood pre-school. The school has a national reputation for understanding, nurturing and communicating with children in ways that help them grow during their critical, early-life stages. This small school serves a very important purpose and is a neighborhood amenity that has helped to define Cleveland Park for over 70 years. It is an example of what is right in this neighborhood.

I am thoroughly familiar with the small expansion plans for which NCRC is seeking approval and am in complete support of their actions. They have

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made every effort to minimize any unfavorable neighborhood impacts and have spent an extraordinary amount of time in meetings with neighbors the majority of whom are in support of the schools plans. They have also taken extraordinary steps toward appropriately scaled, architecturally sensitive, historically accurate improvements, which will fit in well with the existing residential neighborhood and vernacular.

I have spent many hours in the current building and can say first hand that the time has come to improve the teaching and administrative environment of this community school, 70% of whose students are District residents. Given the schools many positive characteristics and its unique history, this is a success story worth perpetuating.

Please support the evolution of this wonderful neighborhood institution, preferably for many years to come, and vote in favor of NCRC's plans. We need this school, and these positive improvements, in these unsure times, for our children.

Sincerely Yours,



Michael K. Gewirz

cc: NCRC