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Mr. Geoffrey Griffis
Chairman
Board of Zoning and Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, N.W., Suite 210 South
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Chairman Griffis,

I am writing in support of NCRC's project to improve the school. I am a parent of two NCRC students and our family lives on Ordway Street, about 100 yards from the site of the proposed improvements.

We love living on Ordway Street and benefit greatly from having NCRC as a neighbor. Not only is it a wonderful school for my daughters, but we also frequently use the playground on evenings and weekends. Many of the other neighborhood children play there as well.

We chose NCRC not simply because of its proximity, but also because we believe in the school's mission. It is a school that brings together a unique mix of families from different racial and socio-economic backgrounds, as well as a mixture of children with special needs. NCRC's success at integrating and developing this diverse group of children is a truly special accomplishment.

I am very impressed with NCRC's plans for improving the current facility. The proposed improvements are well-designed and compatible with its existing facilities and the surrounding neighborhood. Once constructed, I believe that the improvements will have the net effect of making the Ordway Street side of NCRC more attractive and accessible than its present design.

NCRC's need for more space is clear to anyone who has toured its facilities. There is no place to meet privately with staff members and the only indoor place where the children can work on their gross motor skills is a small room that has glass doors taking up one wall, and library shelves around all the rest of the walls. Moreover, since there are at least two children with special needs in each classroom, I firmly believe that the number of children in each class should be reduced. To do this without shrinking the size of the overall student body, the school has proposed adding two new classrooms. The new classrooms will benefit 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-

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District of Columbia
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EXHIBIT NO.62

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 children.

I applaud NCRC for responding to certain concerns expressed by some of the neighbors. After receiving input at more than a dozen neighborhood meetings, they have cut back the size of the proposed new 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 proudly support this very important project and hope that you will too. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jon Thoren