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DON CRITCHFIELD

11JUL03

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

2011 JUL 15 PM 12:41

Regarding Case #: 17022

Dear Chairman Griffis,

I am writing to ask your support of the Edmund Burke School's application to expand its facilities that is now scheduled to be heard by the BZA on July 15, 2003.

I have been a resident of the District of Columbia for more than 20 years. My daughter has been a student at Burke for the past year having spent her pre-K through 6th Grade at the District's outstanding elementary school, Horace Mann.

As you doubtless know from other correspondence on this subject, Burke has made many changes over the past year to be responsive to the concerns of the DDOT, the ANC and the school's neighbors that resulted in the rejection of Burke's application last year by the BZA..

The new traffic plan is working, and has proven a benefit for both the neighborhood and the parents. Though this was our first year at Edmund Burke, we have been extremely impressed with not only the quality of the school and it staff, but of the dedication we have seen in efforts by Burke parents to insure students get an outstanding education AND are good neighbors to the surrounding community. These efforts extend far beyond traffic patterns, in my experience.

Our family participated with two other families in the car pool arrangement Burke instituted. It worked very well from our standpoint, and I consistently found congestion at a minimum in front of school at drop-off time. I can also assure you that there were VERY attentive Burke representatives out front counting noses in my car when I pulled

BZA
Case No. 17022
Exhibit No. 98
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17022
EXHIBIT NO. 98

up in the morning. I expect policy will continue, because it is good for us in addition to being good for the neighborhood.

I'm you are aware of the extensive plans Burke's new building and traffic plan will have to reduce traffic congestion in the neighborhood. I hope you are also aware of the Burke-instituted advisory broad of neighbors and their monthly meetings. This has had a significant positive impact on the attitude of the neighborhood.

All of this has led to new compliance and accountability measures that are reflected in the school's new submission to the BZA.

In working to become a good and valued neighbor, Burke also has made itself available in new ways, including free library usage, free invitations to Burke performances, weekly litter pick-up, snow-plowing the alley and more -- all to become a more useful and vibrant resource for its neighbors.

Burke has been a valuable city institution for over 30 years. With thousands of families relying on private education and demand for these schools increasing, urban private schools like Burke need to be able to renovate and modernize in order to sustain quality educational services. Burke's expansion plans are modest, reasonable and responsive to the neighborhood.

This new building will prove an asset to our children and to our community. Further, I believe an improved Edmund Burke School will be the BEST USE of this property.

Please support Edmund Burke School's application.

Thank you.

Donald D. Critchfield
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