Michael Crabill

ACCOMPANIST & VOCAL COACH

September 23, 2003

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Government of the
District of Columbia
Board of Zoaning Adjustment
Attn: Jerrily R. Kress, Director
441 4'th St NW
Suite 210-S
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Jerrily Kress:

I not only opposed the Edmund Burke School's previous attempt at expansion (BZA application #16611), I came to the BZA meeting in July 2001 to testify against it. Now I must write in opposition to the present application #17022.

It was obvious at the July 15, 2003 meeting of the BZA that the Edmund Burke School has made a great number of adjustments to its plan in response to the Upton Street residents. But the residents of 4107 Conn. Av. (the building directly adjacent to the expansion site) have not been properly heard From. We will be the ones most directly affected by the proposed expansion and yet there has been little discussion of our problems.

The building 4107 Conn. Av. NW is approximately in the middle of the block between Upton and Van Ness streets. It reaches back to the alley at the point where the two segments

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4107 Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20008 (202) 966-613

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17022
EXHIBIT NO. 129

BZA
Case No. 17022
Exhibit No. 129

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of the alley join. Out of my bedroom windows I can see up and down the alley as well as the back of Burke School; out of my living room window I survey the entire proposed expansion site, the north side of the school, Upton Street, and Conn. Av.

I have lived at 4107 Conn. Av. for more than 11 years and in the present apartment for more than 6 years. It is a pleasant place to live and well-run by the owners and management. I understand that because there is bedrock just 7 feet down, there will have to be dynamiting to build the proposed underground parking garage. Since my living room window would be about 35-45 feet from the blasting site, it seems there would be a good possibility of debris flying through the windows and structural damage to the building.

Is Burke prepared to pay to put residents up in other lodgings while they blast away? The idea of being rudely awakened in the morning by a blast or killed or injured by flying rocks is not terribly appealing. Is Burke also prepared to pay for any damage done to the building and tenants' personal property?

After talking with Doris Botsford, Resident Manager of 4107 Conn, I have also learned

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(when the Metro tunnels were being cleared). that blasting that had to be done blew out some windows in the building. One also wonders (with the Metro tunnels running up and down Conn. Av. as well as the proximity of the Van Ness Station) what impact there might be to this vital transportation link.

From my apartment I daily see the traffic situation in the alley, Upton street, and Conn. Av. Any additional traffic will be a burden in this already clogged area. Traffic experts for Burke say that the increase in traffic will be negligible, but in an already over-taxed area that small amount makes a huge difference. I see out my windows minute by minute what others experience only at selected times.

Since the previous building was cleared away from the proposed site last year, Burke school has used the lot as a playground, parking lot, and for a short time as a place to park trash dumpsters. Schools need green space around them for kids to play, so why can't Burke continue to use the area as a playing Field.

To Sum up: with the traffic problems, the need for green space, and the blasting situation, I ask you to deny Burke's request for expansion. (Please don't Forget its lack of compliance with student numbers either)

Sincerely,
Michael Crabill

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