Mr. Chairman, Commissioners and all parties to the Edmund Burke application:

Thank you for letting me speak to you today. I am grateful that the Board of Zoning Adjustment granted an extension for this testimony because of my sudden medical situation in July, and that my remarks can now become part of the public record. I am happy to report that my treatment was successful. Thank you.

As the only private homeowner right next door to the Edmund Burke school I would like to briefly paint a picture of my situation for you. My former husband and I purchased 2951 Upton St. N.W. in January, 1986 – 17 ½ years ago. We moved in on Valentine's Day, and, though I am alone now, I continue my love affair with my home and a commitment to the neighborhood. Over the first years I enthusiastically coordinated the Neighborhood Watch program, planned and held an annual block party and, among other things, used my home for informational meetings with city officials, even police officers. In addition, my children have attended public schools in the District – Alice Deal for my son and my oldest daughter graduated from Woodrow Wilson where she met and eventually married her high school sweetheart. My son and other daughter both completed their high school education in a Pennsylvania boarding school while we were overseas again with the foreign service. I only mention this so you will

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understand that I am an experienced parent and firm advocate for both public and private schools, as a former teacher and, member of numerous PTAs I fully appreciate the role schools play in our lives. And as a former real estate agent I also understand what good schools do for our neighborhoods.

17 ½ years ago we chose to live on Upton because of the many urban amenities and conveniences nearby. And since I work at home, I've been able to keep an interested eye on the school and its many activities, feeling I could approach the headmasters with any problem; and, indeed, there have been numerous phone calls from me over the years about suspicious activities in my carport, unusual late night noise, mounds and mounds of unsightly trash, and double parking violations in the alley. As these problems were addressed and in most cases resolved, we six families on the East side of the Burke school formed a stong bond based on the need to maintain clear access and egress through the alley to our homes.

Then, beginning approximately six years ago a major problem began with the installation of an extremely large, loud compressor/air-conditioning unit between my home and the school that functions incessantly for six to eight months a year, day and night, an installation that happened overnight without consultation with those of us most affected, everything seem to worsen with the school. We were no longer dealing with small irritations and the neighborly attitudes of the past seemed to vanish. Concurrently, as parking violations and

traffic congestion increased due to a step-up in enrollment it looked like we six families were going to take the brunt of the school's provocative actions and suffer the most. And when the very important non-compliance issue surfaced several years ago our shaky trust in the school plummeted. And to this day, in talking with neighbors on the other side of Upton and Tilden Street, it seems to me their interest in opposing the school's expansion now is a direct result of learning how the school has pursued its own interests above ours; that the school's approach to this expansion and its impact on our neighborhood could be just as cavalier as their attitude when they installed the compresser. I believe a sufficient number of residents in the neighborhood now understand the degree of traffic and parking congestion we will all suffer, not just the enormous burden and adverse impact to those of us who use the alley as our only access and egress many times daily.

So, from my standpoint, as a property owner, taxpayer, parent and advocate of good schools, I oppose the expansion of the Burke school on this particular unforgiving site. I feel we have reached a saturation point for the neighborhood, threatening the residential nature of Upton Street with increased traffic congestion, parking and an unenforceable traffic management scheme. For me, this application is the equivalent of attempting to put a size 12 foot in a size 9 shoe. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Linda M Tay