COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

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October 28, 2003

Geoffrey H. Griffis, Chairperson
D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street NW Suite 210
Washington D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Griffis:

I write concerning Case #17022, the request by the Edmund Burke School to construct an addition at 4101 Connecticut Avenue N.W. and increase the population of students and faculty and offer the following comments for your consideration.

First, I note that you are required by law to give great weight to the request by Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3-F that you deny the application. Second, I acknowledge and commend the Burke School for its efforts over the last two years, including the development of an enforcement plan that attempts to rebuild relationships with the community. That said, I am persuaded by those who continue to object to the application that the enforcement plan as presently envisioned places too much responsibility on neighbors in terms of monitoring for compliance.

I recommend that you approve the application with the following conditions:

1. Adoption of the conditions presented by the Office of Planning and the Department of Transportation, which seek to address the concerns enumerated by ANC 3-F.

2. The development of an enforcement mechanism on traffic that places the responsibility for compliance, and the bulk of monitoring for compliance, with Burke School. Components could include an ongoing traffic monitoring committee that includes the ANC single member representative and a role for the Department of Transportation.

3. A contingency plan by Burke School to assure adequate parking for staff off-site in the event that the proposed parking garage cannot be constructed as planned.

4. A contingency for addressing any subsurface water conditions that emerge during or following construction in the event that damage occurs in adjacent properties.

BZA
Case No. 17022
Exhibit No. 160

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EXHIBIT NO. 160

5. If the school is unable to secure authorization for the proposed pedestrian bridge, Burke will be required to develop an alternate plan to assure pedestrian safety between buildings.

Finally, as I requested in correspondence concerning Case #16970, I respectfully recommend that your written decision be explicit in terminology and definitions pertaining to school population caps to make clear whether a population ceiling refers to the total number of children enrolled in a school, or the total number present at any given time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Kathy Patterson

cc: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3-F
David Shapiro, Edmund Burke School