Presentation to the BZA concerning Burke's Application No 17022

Mary Jean DiPietro, 2949 Tilden St, NW

I would like to briefly present two reasons why I am against the Burke proposed expansion and to question one aspect of Burke's educational program. The reasons concern the impact of Burke on Tilden Street and the likely pedestrian hazard that will be caused by their proposed automobile entrance on Conn. Ave. The question concerns the "free period" Burke gives its students during the day.

I do not understand why Burke narrowly considers its "impacted area" to be the 2900 block of Upton St. I live on the 2900 block of Tilden Street and we are impacted by both Burke students and by its traffic. During the morning drop-off period Burke parents drive through the alley behind my house either after dropping off their children or to stop in the alley to drop off their children. They then turn onto Tilden Street to regain Conn. Ave, adding to the already heavy traffic on Tilden Street, which, because of parked cars has only one lane for westbound traffic movement. Burke students roam the alley behind my house during their lunch period and their free period. They obstruct the alley and litter it with trash and cigarette butts.

I am also worried about the danger that will be caused by the new drive-through automobile route proposed by the school This will be a two lane thoroughfare for parents trying to drop students off as rapidly as possible and regain their route to work. During the morning school drop-off time these cars will be crossing a major pedestrian street that is heavily used by people walking to and from the Van Ness metro station. We pedestrians will be put in danger by parents more concerned with getting in and out of the constricted drop-off area than pedestrian safety.

Finally I don't understand why the Burke students are given a free period to roam the neighborhood. I would have thought that parents paying so much tuition would want their students to be taught, not told to leave the school and wander.

BZA
Case No. 17022
Exhibit No. 178

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
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