TESTIMONY OF VIRGINIA WORTHINGTON
October 28, 2003
BZA Case # 17022 Edmund Burke School

My name is Virginia Worthington. I live at 2830 Upton Street. According to the Burke Traffic Management Plan (TMP), parking is prohibited only in the 2900 block of Upton Street. The Burke cars can continue to park in our block. We get a considerable amount of Burke parking already so we are concerned about the parking impacts of the proposed expansion. The traffic consultant's report states that Burke will be able to handle all of the student, staff and visitor parking on site, but a close look at the numbers shows that it isn't so.

- **62 parking spaces for cars**

Burke will have 68 car spaces and 3 bus spaces. I have observed that the Burke buses and van currently use 6 spaces. If the loading dock is built and the buses have to park behind the existing building, then there are only 62 spaces left for cars.

- **74 spaces needed for faculty and students**

Furthermore, If the Burke students and faculty keep driving at the same rate as they do now, and that is a big if, 57 faculty and 17 students will need parking. That is 74 cars. How will 74 cars fit into 62 spaces? Where does the overflow go?

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- **No visitor's parking**

Where is the visitor's parking? There will be more students and more facilities like a theater and a ceramics studio. There have to be more visitors. Where exactly will they park?

- **12 spaces for 17 students. No parking for visiting students.**

Particularly troublesome is the lack of sufficient student parking. Only 12 garage spaces are allocated for 17 students. At the time when the students arrive in the morning or when visiting students from other schools come in the afternoon, the only parking that is ever available is on Tilden and Upton Streets in the areas with no sidewalks. On Upton Street, in particular, the kids walk in the street behind a dangerous blind curve. This is a very unsafe situation.

- **No parking spaces available to lease**

These problems can't be fixed by leasing parking in nearby commercial lots. We have checked all the lots on Connecticut Avenue. There isn't space available. Fannie Mae has leased nearly all of it.

- **Past failure of institutional-neighborhood committee**

In conclusion, I would like to mention that the neighborhood has experience with committees like the one Burke is proposing in their TMP. Another Upton Street institution went to the BZA claiming that a committee of neighbors would help

smooth over any differences between the institution and the neighborhood. Within about a year, the committee was disbanded by the institution, which then went on to do exactly as it pleased. In any event, we are not excited about the prospect of such committees since we could have one for every institution.

For all of these reasons, I oppose the Burke expansion

CALCULATION OF PARKING REQUIREMENTS

PARKING SPACES ON THE BURKE PROPERTY:

71 on-site parking spaces
-3 spaces for loading dock
-6 spaces for bus & van parking (4 spaces for 3 buses & 2 spaces for the van)

TOTAL: 62 SPACES

STUDENT & FACULTY PARKING REQUIREMENTS:

From the survey done by the traffic consultant, 15 of 274 students (5.4%) and 35 of 43 faculty (81.2%) drove and required parking.

Future parking requirements are:

320 students X 15/274 = 17 student spaces

70 faculty X 35/43 = 57 faculty spaces

STUDENT & FACULTY NEEDS: 74 SPACES

STREET PARKING REQUIRED : 12 SPACES for students & faculty