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July 11, 2003

Chairman Geoffrey Griffis
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20001

Re.: CASE #: 17022

Dear BZA Commissioners:

I am writing to support the Edmund Burke School's application to expand its facilities, which will be heard by the BZA on July 15, 2003.

There is common agreement among those who support and oppose the application that Burke offers its students a superb education, and that it is the kind of school that helps the District to attract residents, which is one of the mayor's goals for strengthening the city. The new building that Burke proposes would enable the school to continue to provide that kind of education. However, it is not feasible for Burke to construct this facility without a modest expansion of enrollment.

The new building would expand Burke toward Connecticut Avenue, not toward the residential part of Upton. Its design and use is consistent with surrounding buildings on Connecticut Avenue, and it has been reconfigured to accommodate suggestions from neighbors. For example, concerns about potential noise from the placement of an air conditioning unit and an electrical generator led to changes about where these would be placed.

As a resident of a street which houses a school (Washington International School), I am sensitive to neighbors' concerns about traffic. But the Burke plan would reduce traffic, as the report from the District Department of Transportation explains. Burke already has demonstrated that partial implementation of the plan, without the help of a new building, has lessened congestion on Upton Street. It also has built in strong incentives to enforce the plan.

I appreciate the BZA's efforts to weigh competing interests of people in the District over the use of property. In this case, the BZA could well serve the interests of Burke's families, Burke's neighbors, and all of Washington by approving Burke's application.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Vieth

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BZA
Case No. 17022
Exhibit No. 84

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17022
EXHIBIT NO. 84