Easter Seals

child development centers

a fun place to learn and grow

November 10, 2003

17080

To Whom It May Concern:

In my role as the Executive Director of the Easter Seals Child Development Center located at 1325 Girard Street N.W, in Washington, DC. I have had the pleasure of welcoming Asian American Lead (AALEAD) to the neighborhood and the property next door which for many years housed a community center belonging to Sojourners.

AALEAD fills a tremendous gap in services in the Asian American community by providing after school programming, in school instruction, family support services and running an extensive mentoring program.

Since the programs we provide our clients are very similar to those that AALEAD is providing theirs, we have already established a very productive, collaborative relationship and we look forward to future collaboration on a range of issues facing young people in this neighborhood. Sandy Dang, the Executive Director and I have a very close working partnership.

As AALEAD approaches its hearing before the Zoning Board, we would like to most enthusiastically support their presence in the community. They have been here for a year and they have been very good neighbors. The have already improved their building and have plans to make further, more comprehensive improvements. They improved their parking for their small staff and we have had a very positive working relationship with AALEAD, since they set up shop next door, earlier in the year.

In fact, their children have brought an additional sense of peace and normality to a street which has been afflicted by drug trafficking and gang violence. I believe that AALEAD, by its mere presence, is already making a significant difference in this respect.

The Asian American community makes a significant contribution to the multicultural face of the community and it deserves to have a place where it feels welcome. AALEAD is such a place and we hope that the Zoning Board will grant it the exception it needs to carry on its work, which is in the great tradition of both Sojourner's and Easter Seals.

Sincerely,

Lynne Gelzer

Lynne Gelzer
Director

BZA
Case No. 17080
Exhibit No. 29

Easter Seals

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17080
EXHIBIT NO. 29