Gloria M. White
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Washington, DC 20016

April 14, 2004

Chairperson Geoffrey Griffis
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, S.W., #201-S
Washington, DC 20001

BZA# 17149

Dear Chairman Griffis:

This is to express my concern about the proposed expansion of Sidwell Friends School.

My major concern about the proposed expansion is traffic. While Sidwell contends there have been months of neighborhood consultation, I suspect they have defined "neighborhood" in the most restrictive of terms. I live 3 1/2 blocks north of Sidwell and the notice of last night's meeting was the first time I have heard from Sidwell about this expansion. I only learned about the proposed expansion through attendance at ANC meetings where the Upton Street traffic calming was being discussed.

The amount of traffic generated by Sidwell is tremendous and has been one of the major reasons for much of the neighborhood's recent traffic issues. As I see it, this proposed expansion presented the perfect opportunity for Sidwell to address their role in the traffic difficulties of the neighborhood. Instead, they have done nothing to ease congestion on 37th Street and Upton Streets but seem to feel a sense of entitlement to do whatever they want. On more occasions than I care to remember traffic has been backed up from Sidwell all the way to Van Ness Street and beyond on 37th. My neighbors and friends on 37th Street tell of days when it is difficult for them to even open their car doors to get in their cars to go to work because of the volume of traffic from Sidwell. I have seen this myself.

Sidwell has two entrances off Wisconsin Avenue. I suggest they consider requiring drop-off in front of the school from Wisconsin Avenue rather than on 37th Street where autos are forced to drive on already crowded residential streets.

Hopefully Sidwell will see this as an opportunity to resolve a serious neighborhood issue rather than adding to it. I would urge you to require that Sidwell take action to address these issues before approving their expansion plans.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gloria White

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BZA
Case No. 17149
Exhibit No. 27

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17149
EXHIBIT NO. 27