3509 Tilden Street, NW
Washington, DC, 20008
June 18, 2004

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis, Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

RE: BZA Case #17149

Dear Mr. Griffis:

I strongly urge that the Zoning Code be upheld in the upcoming hearings on the expansion of Sidwell Friends School. Specifically, Section 206.2 of the Code reads "The private school shall be located so that it is not likely to become objectionable to adjoining and nearby property because of noise, **traffic,** number of students, or otherwise objectionable conditions" (emphasis added). Section 206.3 reads "**Ample parking** space.....shall be provided to accommodate the students, teachers and visitors likely to come to the site by automobile" (emphasis added).

In keeping with the Code, I support the ANC3F position that Sidwell should cease all drop-offs on 37th Street. I also urge that adequate parking be made available on campus for all of the school's parking requirements.

I have lived on Tilden Street for 20 years. It is a dead end street that opens only onto 37th at the corner of the Sidwell campus. Parking is permitted on both sides of much of 37th between Quebec and Upton. During the morning and afternoon drop-off and pick-up periods, it is difficult even to get in and out of Tilden. One is caught behind double-parked cars letting students off and then pulling into the one traffic lane, which is simultaneously being used by approaching vehicles. Students parking their cars add to the confusion. The situation is dangerous, both to students at Sidwell Friends and Hearst schools and to motorists trying to squeeze down the street while watching out for students and trying not to be sideswiped by oncoming traffic.

I also urge that the Middle School, to be built at the corner of 37th and Tilden, be designed and landscaped in a way that will enhance the neighborhood, not detract from it. Living near a school with a lovely campus should be a plus, but having a massive, 3-story, block long structure rising 55 feet above the sidewalk will certainly not be in keeping with the residential area where the school is located.

Very truly yours,

Joan H Downs

Joan H. Downs

BZA
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Exhibit No. 47

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District of Columbia
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EXHIBIT NO. 47