3423 Quebec Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20016
June 24th, 2004

Re Case #17149

Dear Mr. Griffis,

The letter on the other side of this page is how I began to be interested in the matter of the Sidwell Friends' School Expansion Plan. In the interim, I came to realize that I am not 'the only one' who is concerned about certain issues that still need to be resolved..

Most recently, the report from the Office of Planning concerning this complex project, I feel, has inaccuracies and assumptions:

#1. Description of the project: The applicant proposes three new, major structures, not, merely, "for additions and enhancements to the existing school structures."

#2. Height of the buildings: The net height of the proposed gym and the Middle School will be "higher than 40 feet above grade" because these structures will be built on the part of the property that is a slope above the sidewalk level, causing a much higher visual impact on the Washington Home and the neighborhood.

#3. Inaccurate statement about property use: OP states: "The subject property has been used mainly as an educational institution for the past 65 years." The current 15 acres was not assembled until Sidwell purchased the Highlands from the Grayson family in the 1960's.

#4. Changes minimized by the design: Any "changes" in "design" made by Sidwell have NOT been an improvement; i.e. 2 major structures right up against the northern border, in close proximity to institutional and residential neighbors.

#5. Problem with statements on traffic: There seem to be important inconsistensies between the OP section on traffic and the actual DDOT report presented to the BZA, dated June 1, 2004.

#6. Increase in student drivers as a result of increase in enrollment: It would seem, there may be no actual limit to the number of students (old enough) who would drive to school. I THINK THIS IS ABOUT WHERE I CAME IN! (Please read my original letter on the 'other side!'

In closing, I feel I (individually) and we (the neighbors, collectively) have approached the entire process of collecting of 'data,' trying to find a consensus, and forming some conclusions, with respect for all, including the applicant. I truly hope their (Sidwell School decision makers) actions of fulfilling statements they have made a ANC Meetings, etc. will be forthcoming before your body approves their requests.

Thank you .

Sincerely yours,
Marilyn Howe

Marilyn Howe

BZA
Case No. 17149
Exhibit No. 55

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17149
EXHIBIT NO. 55

From: Marilyn Howe
To: welsh@ahcinc.org
Date: 4/22/2004 9:04:44 AM
Subject: from Marilyn Howe

Dear John,

My husband and I live at 3423 Quebec St. and have owned our home since 1974. (We were away from it for 19 years while Warren was in the Army; and are back now 2 years.)

I have become interested in the Sidwell Expansion plan; and am concerned about certain aspects of how they will impact the neighborhood. (I have attended the two recent meetings: April 13th and April 19th.)

I feel strongly that Sidwell must provide parking for their staff and, especially, their students who drive to school. The neighborhood should not have to absorb the estimated 90-124 students who drive to school and need to park, nor should Quebec Street residents have to resort to zoned parking to stave off this problem.

Do you have any ideas about what I can do about this pressing issue that would be 'in time' to deal with this? I believe I have the time to devote to this.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,
Marilyn Howe

--- Marilyn Howe
--- vm5943@earthlink.net
--- EarthLink: The #1 provider of the Real Internet.

Sent this same letter to Nancy MacWood, Karen Perry and Trudy Reeves