Form 140
(Revised 03/15/02)

Case No. 17164

PARTY STATUS APPLICATION

Notice: Click Here for Application Form Instructions

Name:*	Houy, Sharon A.						
Address:*	4922 Ashby St. N.W.	City:*	Washington	State:*	DC	Zip:*	20007
Phone:*	(202)333-0916	Fax:		Email:	sahouy@aol.com		

I, hereby request to appear and participate as a party. Signature: Date:* 04/23/2004

Will you appear as a(n)	☑	Proponent	☐	Opponent	Will you appear through legal counsel	☐	Yes	☑	No

If yes, please enter the name and address of such legal counsel.

Name:			
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:
Phone:	Fax:	Email:	

Please answer all of the following questions referencing why the above person should be granted party status.
(If you require additional space, please attach an additional sheet.)

1). How will the property owned or occupied by such person, or in which the person has an interest be affected by the action requested of the Board?*

My home is one of two abutting properties to 4925 MacArthur Blvd. Due to the close proximity of my home to the St. Patrick's Junior High School, the occupants of our home are vulnerable to any noise whatsoever emanating from the school. In this case, the school is proposing moving an above-ground activity that generates noise protected solely by windows to a very isolated and soundproof location. The original music room - and the backup music room now being used - contains large windows which, if opened, would allow the music to permeate the neighborhood. I view this relocation of the music room as a positive step by the school to mitigate noise emanating from the school into the surrounding environment.

2). What legal interest does the person have in the property" (i.e. owner, tenant, trustee, or mortgagee)*

I have no legal interest in the property per se. I am the homeowner of the house next door. Therefore, what happens at the property is of vital interest to me and has the potential to impact my own property values.

3). What is the distance between the person's property and the property that is the subject of the appeal or application before the Board? (Preferably no farther than 200ft.)*

Zero feet. Our properties are adjoining.

4). What are the environmental, economic or social impacts that are likely to affect the person and or the person's property if the action requested of the Board is approved or denied?*

Should the action be approved, it will add a positive step to mitigating the impact of the school on the neighbors. Should the request be denied, the school's music room will remain on the upper floor and, as desribed in para 1 above, if the windows are opened, bring the sound of the music (not necessarily a bad thing) into the neighborhood. From my perspective, as the owner of the closest home to the school, the basement is the best location for the music room because of the natural sound buffering associated with the space. It is subterranean with only one small window located within the turret and inside a window well. I understand that some of my neighbors are concerned that this represents an act by the school to increase enrollment. I don't see how this could be the case. In January, I toured the building and discovered that the proposed music room is quite small and does not create a regular classroom space. It is a pass-through to an egress that has great accoustics for music. Moreover, the school informed us of its intent many months ago in one of our neighborhood meetings. I do not recall objections being raised at that time.

5). Describe any other relevant matters that demonstrate how the person will likely be affected or aggrieved if the action requested of the Board is approved or denied.*

St. Patrick's has accommodated many of the neighbors' requests to mitigate the impact of running a junior high in a close residential environment. It has been most approachable on our concerns. We all recognize that the construction phase preparing for the school opening was extremely difficult on the neighbors. Again, as the house closest to the school driveway, we bore the brunt of that noise. However, now that the school has opened, from our perspective and location, it is hardly discernable that a junior high is operating right next door. I've been impressed with St. Patrick's efforts to minimize its operation on the neighborhood. Why would we wish to turn down a request by the school to do something that is quieter for the neighborhood? Why not work with the school on this matter? We recently had our first quarterly committee meeting, which allowed us to begin a new phase in our relationship with the school. Approving this request would go a long way to improve neighborhood relations with the school.

BZA
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Exhibit No. 20

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17164
EXHIBIT NO. 20

SHARON A. HOY

6). Explain how the person's interest will be more significantly, distinctively, or uniquely affected in character or kind by the proposed zoning action than that of other person's in the general public."
Because my house is one of two abutting households to the school. I am more directly affected by general noise from the school's operations than the general population or even most of my neighbors.