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4901 Ashby Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20007-1046

April 1, 2005

Application No. 17,300

To The Board of Zoning Adjustment:

This concerns the Application of St. Patrick's Protestant Episcopal Church to expand the number of students, from 40 to 60 students at its Junior High School campus at 4925 MacArthur Boulevard NW

My wife and I have lived at the above address for 36 years: it is within 150 feet of the subject campus. Several years ago, the BZA approved the use of the facilities at 4925 MacArthur Boulevard NW as a junior high school (grades 7 and 8) over the objections of 90 percent of the adjacent neighbors, including us. The BZA limited the student population to 40, and attached twenty conditions to its approval. Now, just 13 months after the school commenced operation, in January 2004, St. Patrick's wants a 50 percent increase in the student body effective beginning academic year 2006.

This is premature to say the least. Serious concerns in the immediate neighborhood include traffic, noise at recess times, and unresolved drainage problems based on the current school's population, 40. Nowhere does the application take into account the impact of the additional students on the existing problems.

The neighborhood has attempted to raise complaints about these and other concerns to the BZA and the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. Our filings have been regularly lost by these agencies and our attempts at ameliorating these matters have proven futile. Until these unresolved concerns are adjusted, we remain firmly opposed to exacerbating the current situation with 20 more students.

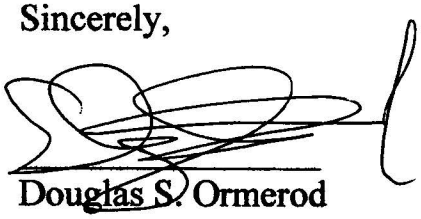
The application makes no mention of possible additional faculty and administration at the MacArthur Boulevard facility required by the posed 50 percent increase in the student body.

BZA
Case No. 17300
Exhibit No. 26

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17300
EXHIBIT NO. 26

One further comment. My complaint and opposition is not that of some cranky older man with a negative view of children. For six years, I have been and remain a major actor in a $66,000,000 project to build two new public schools at the corner of 16th and Irving Streets NW. These schools are Bell Multicultural High School and Lincoln Multicultural Middle School. Together these schools will serve 1400 students from 50 countries, speaking 30 different languages. The schools are now 65 percent complete and are under budget. My commitment to quality education for the poorer youngsters in the District of Columbia is on record.

Sincerely,



Douglas S. Ormerod

Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street NW Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001