Testimony of Carmela Veneroso

For the Application Number 17320 for the Application of St. Albans on behalf of the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation of DC pursuant to 11 DCMR 3104.1 for a special exception to permit additional facilities including renovation of athletic fields and related structures and construction of a performing arts center serving a private school

My name is Carmela Veneroso. I have lived at 3506 Garfield St. for 12 years, across from the St. Albans playing fields and down the street from St. Albans' gymnasium. I am also president of the National Cathedral Neighborhood Association. I speak to you in both capacities.

The National Cathedral Neighborhood Association is a 501 (c) (3) organization which has about 180 supporters. Its mission is to seek a balance between the needs of the Cathedral and its schools and the legitimate concerns of its neighbors.

I am concerned about St. Albans application for a special exception because these new facilities will increase the number of events and activities on the Close and will bring in more visitors, and thus more cars, noise and trash. But I would not be opposed to it if they were to sign an agreement with the neighbors that would limit rentals and use of their proposed facilities by outside groups, that would ensure that all activities in the proposed facilities would end at a reasonable time., and that would ensure that the persons attending events at these proposed facilities would park on the Close and not on the neighborhood streets,

Since I have lived on Garfield St., the parking, traffic, noise and increased trash problems from St. Albans activities have gotten worse. These activities go on not only during the day, but often during the evening, until quite late at times, on the weekends, and during the summer when school is not in session. Besides their own activities, which I don't have problems with, they rent out their facilities to outside groups, which have included adult sports leagues from Maryland, law firm basketball games and tournaments, a spousal organization of an international organization, the Town and Country Antiques Show, and others. Many of these activities bring into the neighborhood spectators as well as the participants, especially when the groups have tournaments or championship games. We not only have parking problems during the day, when their students park on the neighborhood streets, but we have them in the evenings and weekends. I often cannot get a parking space close to my house and have to park some distance away, sometimes in an illegal spot, and I often have to wait until the evening activities are finished for a legal parking space near my house which requires that I go out late in the evening to repark my car. My next door neighborhood and her sister have lived in their house for over 50 years. They are both elderly and the one sister is not well and cannot walk except for a very short distance. They often cannot find parking near their house and have to walk a distance to get to their house and often with groceries. When the street is parked up because of a night time activity, they often have to park in an illegal spot or

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some distance away. Because some of the activities go on into the evening, my elderly neighbor does not want to go out at that time to repark her car into a legal spot. She often leaves her car until the next morning and has sometimes received tickets.

Let me give you some recent examples of what I am talking about. This past weekend there was a basketball tournament that lasted until after 10:00 PM on Friday, went on all day Saturday until after 9:30 PM, and went on all day on Sunday. An example of the trash problems, I went out very early this past Sunday morning. I found lots of empty plastic soda bottles and empty cans of cookies in front of our house, and this is not an unusual occurrence when St. Albans has activities especially when lots of spectators come in for events. Since June 4 there has been a basketball tournament every weekend, and the games have gone on all day Saturday and Sunday, and on several of those weekends have gone on Friday as well and lasted into the evening. In addition during this period of time, there have been activities several weekday evenings each week. Most of the people attending these games are from Maryland and Virginia and most of the cars parked on the streets are from Maryland and Virginia. Also during the day, there have been numerous summer camps that go throughout the day, some starting at 9:00 AM and some ending at 6:30 PM. Often when our neighbors come home in the evening, there are no places to park.

I would like to point out that these activities about which I speak are taking place when St. Albans is not in session. We know that during the school session, St. Albans has its own activities and they are many. We are not objecting to them. And we know that the Cathedral has large events like Flower Mart, large concerts, popular speakers, and we are not objecting to them. And we know that St. Albans hosts a number of tournaments at their gym and rents their gym to outside users frequently and the gym will not be covered by this use agreement. The increased parking, traffic, noise, and trash problems from the proposed facilities, will add to an already existing barely tolerable situation arising from an intense athletic program that St. Albans has for its own students, its frequent rental of their gym to outside groups, and the large Cathedral events.

During the time I have lived on Garfield St. my quality of life has diminished a lot and I am sure that the value of my house has been adversely affected. We already are dealing with a stressful level of these problems caused by their current activities, so much so that two of my neighbors have told me that they are seriously thinking of moving out of the area if St. Albans does not do something about the parking problems and does not curtail the numerous activities. Without an effective use agreement, these new facilities will further diminish our quality of life.

We have been asking St. Albans to do something about these problems for many years, but little has been done. St. Albans has told you that they have had many meetings with the community about these proposed structures, but these have been presentations and not a dialogue or a negotiation. This spring, St. Albans finally started negotiating with the neighbors about implementing policies (relating to use by outside groups and parking), policies that would lessen the impact on the neighbors. I felt that these negotiations were constructive and that we were close to an agreement. Moreover what we were asking for

was much less than other private schools have agreed with their neighbors. However, we learned late last week that St. Albans is not willing to negotiate further with us and they are standing firm on their last position. I don't oppose their application in principle, but without a meaningful agreement that addresses the increased impacts that these proposed facilities will have, I regret that I have to ask you to deny them the special exception.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

Carmela Venezuco 7/26/2005

Attached is a sampling of emails to St. Albans and the Protestant Episcopal Foundation detailing specific incidents that illustrate problems that the neighbors have to put up due to activities at St. Albans facilities.

From: Carmela C Veneroso <cveneroso@juno.com>
To: mlecky@cathedral.org,Coleen_Meehan@cathedral.org
Cc: SRippe@cathedral.org
Date: Fri, 7 Feb 2003 18:27:17 -0500
Subject: Fw: Help! 3400 Garfield Street, NW

Attached is a desperate e-mail to Parking Enforcement from a neighbor who lives on Garfield St. I am forwarding you her e-mail so that you can see what we have to put up with.

Several nights this week, the parking was terrible on Garfield St. I asked someone what was going on and I was told that there were adult league games. Last night there were no available legal parking spaces when my husband arrived home at 8:00 PM and he had to park illegally. He wanted to move his car to a legal spot before it started to snow. Whatever took place at St. Albans last night, did not finish until 10:00 PM. My husband had to wait up until then so he could park his car in a legal spot.

These adult games are not school events and most of the persons who attend these events are not even from the District. I was told that you were going to stop renting out to all of these outside groups, but cannot do it yet because you need the revenue. I was also told that you were going to tell them that they have to park on the Close and if they did not, you would not rent your facilities to them.

The neighbors are sick and tired of putting up with the parking problems caused by St. Albans. I was told that St. Albans has to continue renting to these groups because they need the revenue from the budget. If St. Albans does not have enough money to maintain its existing facilities, then how can it afford to build new facilities?

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From: Carmela C Veneroso <cveneroso@juno.com>
To: Mason_Lecky@cathedral.org,Coleen_Meehan@cathedral.org
Cc: SRippe@cathedral.org
Date: Sun, 9 Feb 2003 09:43:12 -0500
Subject: parking problems again

Yesterday all day and into the evening cars were parked on the streets and many were parked illegally, and more importantly some were parked in illegal spots that created a dangerous situation, such as parking in the cross walks. For example, all day and well into the late evening, there was a bluish gray small bus parked on Garfield St. in a "no parking area" right up to the cross walk on 35th Street. Consequently, cars driving north on 35th St. wanting to make a left on Garfield St. could not see cars driving east on Garfield St. because of the obstructed view from the parked bus. This was an extremely dangerous situation and we have already had several serious accidents on that corner due to St. Albans students parking illegally there.

My husband and I left our house yesterday morning to do a few errands. When we came back there was not a free parking space available nearby. All day we kept checking, hoping that one would free up. One finally freed up about 8:30 in the evening.

The neighbors should not have to put up with this. It is bad enough that we have to put up with no parking spaces during school days because of your students and visitors attending events. If St. Albans wants to have all of these events, then St. Albans has to make arrangements to park the cars off the neighborhood streets, and St. Albans has to ensure that those arrangements are followed.

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From: Carmela C Veneroso <cveneroso@juno.com>
To: mlecky@cathedral.org,Coleen_Meehan@cathedral.org
Cc: SRippe@cathedral.org
Date: Wed, 12 Feb 2003 01:56:11 -0500
Subject: what is going on the past two nights at St. Albans

What is going on at St. Albans the past two nights? Monday night not one parking space freed up until after 10:00 PM. My husband had to wait until then to move his car to a legal parking space near us. Tonight Tuesday night I had to take my car for grocery shopping about 7:30 PM. When I returned at 8:30 PM there was not one free parking space on both sides of Garfield St. from Mass. Ave. all the way down to 34th Place and on 35th St. from Garfield for several blocks towards Mass. Ave. I had to park several blocks away. I had to go out after 10:00 PM to retrieve my car to move it into a free legal parking space when they became available.

How can we find out about when and what rentals and school events are taking place at St. Albans in the evenings and weekends?

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From: "Susan Dienelt" <sdienelt@earthlink.net>
To: <Vance_Wilson@cathedral.org>, <Vance_Wilson@sta.cathedral.org>,
<Vance_Wilson@sta.org>
Cc: "Nancy Nord" <nancyanord@aol.com>,
"Stephen Rippe" <SRippe@Cathedral.org>,
"Steve Patterson" <spatterson@akingump.com>,
"Christine Kiley" <ckileyrosenberg@aol.com>,
"Phillipe Nouvel" <pnouvel@hotmail.com>,
"'Wayne and Marsha Hall'" <waynemarshhall@aol.com>,
"'Becky Heon'" <agheon@aol.com>,
"'Carmela Veneroso and John Odling-Smee'" <cveneroso@juno.com>,
"'Christoph Rosenberg'" <crosenberg@imf.org>,
"'Daphne and Don Wallace'" <daphne2800@aol.com>,
"'Gigi Bradford'" <gigi.bradford@verizon.net>,
"'Ginger and Dick Hubbard'" <hubbard1@starpower.net>,
"'Janie O'Connor'" <jfoconnor@earthlink.net>,
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"'Jim Stanford'" <stansurf@aol.com>,
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"'Joe and Janice McKeever'" <jfmckeever@davis-harman.com>,
"'John Dienelt'" <john.dienelt@piperrudnick.com>,
"'Judy O'Connor'" <joconnor1@hotmail.com>,
"'Kathy Menz and Cole Werble'" <woo2ster@aol.com>,
"'Kevin Finneran and Kathy Courrier'" <kfinnera@nas.edu>,
"'Marcia and Dack Dalrymple'" <dalrymb@aol.com>,
"'Michael Cantor'" <cantor@equatorcorp.com>,
"'Penny and Scott Custer'" <mcuster39@earthlink.net>,
"'Susan Dienelt'" <sdienelt@earthlink.net>
Date: Fri, 25 Jul 2003 19:19:38 -0400
Subject: Parking

To Vance Wilson, Headmaster:

What is going on at St. Albans?

Would it be possible to ever get a real response from you? I do not understand what is going on across the street from me (and therefore, in front of and beside my house). There is hardly a morning after 8:30am or a late afternoon/evening between 4:30 and 7:30 pm when I can park near my house? I have lived here for 22 years and the situation is getting progressively worse. I can't place the year when it started but it definitely was not like this for a number of years after we moved into the neighborhood. I do not know when St. Albans turned from an educational institution to a commercial operation. It is quite clear that most of the activity has nothing to do with the St. Alban's internal functions. I have complained over time about the parking and the only response from your office has been regarding the students parking in the residential zones. As irritating as that is, it is a fraction of the problem. The cars that are constantly parked here, legally (but very inconsiderately) or illegally, number far more than those of the St. Albans students. The problem

is all year long. We used to get a brake in the summertime but now all sorts of leagues seem to be using the facilities everyday and almost every hour of the day. When a developer or other business concern wants to operate a business which involves bringing a lot of cars to an area or neighborhood, it is required by zoning ordinances or other laws to provide parking for its customers. Somehow, St. Albans has gotten around this issue because it is a school. However, it is quite clear that you are running a money making business without addressing your responsibilities to the neighbors. Instead, we are the ones supplying your parking and you are externalizing your costs. We have not been consulted about our needs or offered any kind of compensation. You teach ethics at your school but I do not feel you are acting in a very ethical manner. How do you explain the example you are giving to your students? You may or may not be considering a parking garage but why has that not been done before you started leasing your facilities? Why don't you stop until you figure out how to do it without profiting from the neighbors without their agreement?

I understand that living across the street from a school means that there are times when the students and their parents may inconvenience the neighbors. But when did the occasional back to school night or Friday football game turn to every week of the year? We never seem to get a rest. I have not complained over the years about the food wrappers, soda and even beer cans and bottles in my yard. I realize that that comes with living across from a school where, from time to time, there are parties. But it is no longer limited to the student functions of the school. As an example, on the night of July 9 there was a group of (young?) men bouncing basketballs and talking loudly in the street below my bedroom window from about 10:30 to 11:30 pm. I couldn't sleep. When I opened my window (I have learned to keep my windows closed because of the night time noises from the people coming from St. Albans) to say that I thought that 11:30 at night was a little late to be bouncing balls in the street, I got a very crude and unpleasant response. I suggested that I could call the police and they responded that that was "f...." fine. I did not call because after that they left. I should not have had to do that. I polled the neighbors to see if anyone had a party or knew of one. The only positive response I got was from one neighbor who had noticed a bunch of guys playing basketball in the old gym. When you allow people to use the facilities in the evening, then they not only take our parking places but they make noise going to and starting their cars on their ways home even if they do not congregate to socialize after their games.

Whenever we have complained about the parking and team buses, we are told that you are working on it. You had Mason Lecky who would say that you were so sorry but offered no help other than with the team buses. The situation is only getting worse. Instead of solving the problems, you seem to be adding usage of your facilities. If you really do care about us, you can do something about it right now. For a starter you can stop renting until you figure out how to do it in a manner that does not externalize your costs so much onto the neighbors.

I would really appreciate hearing from you on this matter,

Susan Dienelt

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gigi.bradford@verizon.net
Date: Fri, 23 Jan 2004 17:31:00 -0500
Subject: Re: St Albans School visitors & Garfield Street parking concerns

I know very well the problems. Parking policies are difficult to enforce when the events are not St. Alban events. That is why many schools have agreed with the neighbors to limit non-school events. Also St. Albans tried to enforce a parking policy (requiring people to park on the Close) several years ago, and they were unsuccessful.

The emails I have been sending you represent only a portion of the events that go on at St. Albans. First, I am not here every night (this past week, I was away the whole week until last night and there was an event last night). Second, I don't always have time to send you an email when I notice an event (and it does take time to notify you). Since St. Albans' calendar on the web does not have most of the events that I have notified you about, I suggest that , to get a true picture of the number of events that take place, St. Albans put on its calendar or create another calendar all of the events. Last year we were given by Mason a list of all events that were scheduled to take place at St. Albans. The list had listed many events - nights, Saturdays and Sundays (including early in the day on the weekend and often lasting the whole day). However, there were many events that took place that were not listed on the document I was given.

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Kate_Cullen@cathedral.org
Date: Sat, 26 Jun 2004 13:51:56 -0400
Subject: very bad parking problems on Garfield St. Sat. morning

Yesterday morning - into the afternoon -, there were bad parking problems again. There were no available parking places on Garfield from Mass. to 34th St., and on 35th from Garfield to Mass. Ave. Persons exiting their cars walked towards St. Albans gym. School is out so it is not a St. Albans' activity.

The neighbors have to put up with a lot of traffic and parking problems due to the events of 3 schools, Cathedral events, and events at the College of Preachers. (It is amazing the difference in both traffic and parking when St. Albans is not in session.) I have tried discussing these problems with St. Albans starting about 3 years ago (and other neighbors have been trying for longer). About 2 1/2 years ago, St. Albans said that it would require all persons attending events to park on the Close. The policy did not work.

When you were lobbying Kathy Patterson to support the bonds for NCS, you represented to her that there would be periodic meetings with the neighbors to discuss outside usage limits. None have taken place. Also we were informed that St. Albans had instituted a parking policy for outside events and that it had changed the closing time for the facilities from 10:00 PM to 9:00 PM. (Of course, no one bothered to inform the neighbors about these new policies. We first learned of these policies when you were lobbying Kathy about the bonds). The parking policy has obviously not been enforced because every time there is an event at St. Albans in the evenings or weekends, the persons attending the events do not park on the Close. The policy did not work when it was tried 3 years ago, and it is not working now.

Other schools have entered into agreements with their neighbors about limits on activities. Why can't the Cathedral Schools?

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Kate_Cullen@cathedral.org
Date: Sat, 17 Jul 2004 12:03:40 -0400
Subject: parking problems on Garfield St.

It seems like school is still in session. On Thursday night the street was all parked up. Last night it was parked up until after 10:00 PM (I thought that all events ended at 9:00 PM ?- and I know it was an event at St. Albans because people were coming out of St. Albans). This morning there were multiple games at the gyms. There was one at 9:00 AM (and there might have been two from what I could gather from talking to persons attending the events) and two at 10:45 AM, and I don't know how many more will take place for the rest of the day. There are no parking places on the streets. I am not home every night to report to you what happens every night, so there may been other nights in which events were taking place.

I was told that these are St. Albans events, but I spoke with people in both gyms and St. Albans was not playing. (Middleberg and Sidwell were playing at one of the gyms and some team from Maryland was playing at the other gym). Furthermore they can't be playing both at 9:00 and 10:45 at both gyms. Last week was the same and I don't think that St. Albans played in all games, if they indeed played in any of them. Most of the license plates on the parked cars are from Maryland and Virginia.

I was told that St. Albans would require persons attending these events to park on the Close (there are plenty parking places on the Close), but I have seen no evidence of that.

I have been calling your attention to these problems for at least 3 years and many neighbors for longer. St. Albans met with us once over two years ago and has not met with us about this issue since then. When is St. Albans going to address these problems? They won't even meet with us contrary to the promises that you made to Kathy Patterson.

The neighbors already have to put up with a lot of traffic and parking problems due to the events of 3 schools, Cathedral events, and events at the College of Preachers. Because of the many many activities that take place on the Close , St. Albans and the other Cathedral schools should be trying to lessen the impact on the neighborhood when they can. Not only are they not doing that, but they won't even discuss the issue with the neighbors. I repeat: Many other schools have entered into agreements with their neighbors about limits on activities. Why can't the Cathedral Schools?

This neighborhood is zoned residential.

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From: Carmela C Veneroso <cveneroso@juno.com>
To: SRippe@cathedral.org
Cc: nancyanord@aol.com,Kate_Cullen@cathedral.org,bnlbelt@starpower.net
Date: Sun, 25 Jul 2004 21:00:47 -0400
Subject: parking problems on Sat. and Sun. from early in the morning until into the evening

There have been events going on all day on Sat. and Sun. from early in the morning until at least 7:30 PM (the time when I left my house). I checked with a number of persons attending the events, and these were not St. Albans event. I have been told by a St. Albans official that the events that take place are St. Albans events. Most of the cars were from Virginia and Maryland. I believe that the groups that were playing were from outside of DC. While the neighbors don't mind occasional events, constant events is very disruptive to the neighborhood. To give an example, late yesterday afternoon, a car sped up the street with the radio blaring, parked across the street, the person got out of the car and unwrapped whatever he was eating and threw the wrapper on the ground. He walked into St. Albans gym.

As I have said before, the neighbors put up with a lot, just with the many events that take place at St. Albans, NCS, and the Cathedral. When you have events, we see much traffic, parking problems, a lot of noise, and trash on the sidewalks. St. Albans does not need to add to the problems that we already have with Cathedral events. This is the summer and the weekend. The neighbors should have some respite from school problems.

St. Albans is acting like a community center, but it is not. To be one, one has to get a special exception and the BZA looks at the impact that the community center has on the residential neighborhood before it will grant an exception.

WHY will St. Albans not meet with the neighbors? WHY have they not shared their schedule with us? WHY have are they not enforced the parking policy that you represented to Kathy Patterson that they had?

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From: Carmela C Veneroso <cveneroso@juno.com>
To: David_Baker@cathedral.org
Date: Tue, 21 Dec 2004 16:49:37 -0500
Subject: parking

School is not in session, yet there is not a parking place free for two blocks. I checked the web site and there is a game which started at 4:00PM and another one scheduled for 8:15 PM. I checked for free spaces on the Close and there are plenty including many free spaces on Pilgrim Road near Garfield St. The neighbors have no other place to park except on the residential streets, whereas the St. Albans' students and visitors can park on the Close. St. Albans told the neighborhood last year that they implemented a parking policy so that students and visitors would park on the Close when spaces were available.

We were promised that once the garage was built that it would take the parking off the neighborhood streets. Yet I hear that the schools have not adopted a parking policy with regard to the garage so as to ensure that all students park on the Close, and that they might not require all students to park on the Close. The garage was sold to the neighbors by telling the neighbors that the garage and the close would meet the needs of the Cathedral and the schools. If St. Albans wants to be a good neighbor and wants the neighborhood's support for the special exceptions that you will need for your Performing Arts Center and other projects or for tax-free bonds, then I suggest that St. Albans show good faith and take the parking problems seriously and do something about them.

In the St. Albans School's "News for Neighbors", you said that neighbors "want to know when a school dance or performance or athletic event may create more demand for parking than the Close can provide". This is true, but what is more important is that the neighbors also want St. Albans to fix the parking problems.

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gigi.bradford@verizon.net
Date: Thu, 13 Jan 2005 15:42:05 -0500
Subject: last night's meeting

I want to thank you for having the meeting last night. You did a terrific job at handling the meeting and listening to us. I want to reiterate what Gigi said. We appreciate the efforts PECF, NCS and Beauvoir have made to date (the bus reservation system, trying to do something about the cars at events, the new pickup system at Beauvoir, the parking garage, etc.) and the efforts St. Albans has made to get the school buses off the streets. It has made a big difference.

However, as you know, the neighbors on Garfield St. are exasperated because we have been complaining about the car parking problems on Garfield St. for many years. (I have neighbors that won't even show up at meetings any more because they say that they have in the past and there has been no improvement and that it is a waste of their valuable time.). NO ONE is complaining about the unusual events, like the inauguration, the Reagan funeral, etc. What we are complaining about is the day to day, night to night, weekend to weekend, parking and traffic problems, caused by students and visitors attending St. Albans. No matter how many times I and other neighbors brought this issue up, we have not received a satisfactory response, which is extremely frustrating.

We want to hear from St. Albans that they WILL institute a parking policy that will require all students to park on the Close, the garage, or somewhere else, but not on residential streets, and that you will enforce whatever policy you decide on. We don't need the details of the plan now, we just need a commitment that you WILL implement a plan that will get the cars off the residential streets. Instead the responses I get back are very disturbing. I never hear a commitment.. All I am told is that there will be parking spots on the Close (which is not the same as ensuring that students will not park on the residential streets) and that we are working on it. The fact that no one will commit to a policy makes the neighbors think that St. Albans is not going to implement a policy that will get the students' cars off the streets.

Another extremely frustrating problem is the number of parked cars at nights and on weekends on residential streets at the same time there are empty spaces on the Close when there are events at St. Albans gym and other facilities. First we can't get St. Albans to even admit there is a problem. They try to tell the neighbors that they don't rent out their facilities which we all know is not true because we see the persons who play and attend the events and they tell us where they are from. Second, I am told that there is nothing that St. Albans can do to make persons attending or participating in the events to park in designated spaces or areas. That is simply not true. Other schools have managed to find a solution and NCS is working on the problem. Furthermore there are a number of solutions that neighbors have put forth and they have been ignored. St. Albans won't even talk to the neighbors about how to solve the problem even though the PECF represented to the neighbors and Kathy Patterson that they would have periodic meetings with the neighbors to discuss limits on outside use.

I cannot see how St. Albans expects the neighbors to support them on their building projects or support them when they try to get tax free bonds when they won't even meet with the neighbors to really discuss

these issues let alone address them in a concrete way instead of just saying that we hear you.

In addition I want to ask again that meetings are held no earlier than 7:00 PM because many neighbors work and cannot make meetings at 5:00 and 6:00 PM. Meetings at times that neighbors cannot make do not convey to the neighbors and city officials that you are really interested in good faith consultation with the neighborhood.

Quite frankly I am concerned that the neighbors have been ignored for so long, that it is going to be a hard sell to get them to believe that St. Albans will do something to address these problems if St. Albans' ever decides to address these issues in a meaningful way.

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SRippe@cathedral.org
Date: Thu, 13 Jan 2005 19:55:44 -0500
Subject: parking this evening

As an example of what I am talking about, it is 7:50 PM and there is not a free parking spot to be found all the way from Mass. Ave. to the end of 34th St. on Garfield and no spots on 35th St. There are plenty of empty spaces on the Close right now, including Pilgrim Rd. What is going on? I checked the calendar and there are two activities but they don't look like they would take up so many spaces. Has not anyone instructed the persons coming to St. Albans' this evening, parents and students, based on the events in the calendar, that they are to park on the Close.

It is very frustrating for neighbors because we have to wait until there is a free parking space and then run out and repark our cars to a legal spot for the morning. And this happens VERY frequently.

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From: Carmela C Veneroso <cveneroso@juno.com>
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Date: Mon, 6 Jun 2005 11:37:56 -0400
Subject: St. Albans

I am writing to you to express my great concern about St. Albans. As you both know, I have raised the issue of an effective parking policy for St. Albans students and staff at every public meeting and privately to David Baker and Steve McGregor as well as to the two of you. Each time I have raised the issue with St. Albans, their answer has been that they are working on one, but they specifically refused to commit to a policy that required students and staff to park on the Close or in the garage. I had been very disturbed about their answer because reading between the lines, I could see that they were not going to commit to a policy that would require them to park on the Close. However, for the sake of good relations, I decided to give them a chance and give them the benefit of doubt. Now I have heard from neighbors that not only are they not going to require students and staff to park on the Close and in the garage, but they now want the north side of Garfield St. which is about 85 spaces and they said that they need those spaces even after the garage is built.

You told the neighbors in your public presentations and the DC government in your application for a tax reduced bond, that this garage would get the cars off the neighborhood streets and that there would be more than enough parking spaces on the Close with the new garage to accommodate the schools' needs. In fact I spoke with a high official at the DC government who told me that the only reason that you got the bond was because you promised that this garage would get the cars off the streets. He was appalled when I told him that St. Albans was balking at a parking policy that would require students and staff to park on the Close. He said that if one does not require the students to park on the Close, they will not.

I have tried very hard to work with St. Abans. I have for years discussed the parking problems with them. It is extremely upsetting to me that after all of these discussions and complaints from the neighbors, that they, not only think that registering the cars only (with no requirement to park on the Close) is responsive to what the neighbors want, but that they are now saying they need the 85 spaces on the north side of Garfield St., contradicting what you CLEARLY told the neighbors in your presentations that the parking garage would meet the parking needs of the schools.

Also at every public meeting and in letters to the neighbors, they said that they will not have games going on simultaneously in the two new fields. Now they are putting in a qualifier and they say that generally they won't have games going on simultaneously. Is this working cooperatively with the neighbors? How can we trust them?

St. Albans has already lost credibility with the neighborhood and they are now endangering your credibility with the neighbors and DC government. I think you better get them to implement a effective parking policy that will get the cars off the street or you won't have any credibility left in the neighborhood.

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sdienelt@earthlink.net,csmaymd@aol.com
Date: Sun, 10 Jul 2005 14:28:10 -0400
Subject: St. Albans gym facilities

I have been back in the country for 4 weeks, and 3 out of the 4 weekends I have been here, there have been basketball tournaments all day Saturday and Sunday, and at least on one weekend, the tournament was on Friday and in the evenings as well. During the games the neighborhood has been parked up. And this is the summer. The neighbors get no relief.

Also I checked the St. Albans web site and there is no mention of these tournaments on the calendar.

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sdienelt@earthlink.net,csmaymd@aol.com
Date: Tue, 12 Jul 2005 00:33:40 -0400
Subject: Re: St. Albans' gym facilities

Do you know what was going on at the gym this evening (Tuesday)? The cars starting parking up the street at 7:00 PM and they were still there at 10:00 PM. I don't know what time they left. I was told that all activities ended at 9:00 PM. This is not the first time that the cars have still been parked until at least 10:00 PM.

Also last night (Sunday) the cars were parked in the neighborhood all day and were still there when I left for the evening at 7:00 PM.

We must get a handle on the use of the facilities at St. Albans. School is not even is session and you would never know it from the cars.

I think that someone should compile all of the activities that go on at St. Albans facilities because I don't think any one person realizes just how much activity there is. You said that you were out of town and did not put the activities on the calendar, but I rarely find the outside activities on the calendar.

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