ALLAN I. MENDELSOHN
3310 CATHEDRAL AVENUE, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

July 27, 2005

Ms. Carol J. Mitten
Chairperson, BZA
441 4th Street, NW (Suite 210S)
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Application by St. Albans School
#17320

Dear Ms. Mitten:

Although I was unable to attend the Board's recent hearing on St. Albans' application, I want you and the Board to be aware that I have attended prior neighborhood meetings on this subject, that I am well aware of St. Albans' plans, and that I support them fully and without hesitation. Moreover, I have been to prior neighborhood meetings where those plans have been openly discussed; and I am not at all impressed with the arguments of the opposition. Indeed, from what I was able to understand from their arguments, they were doing nothing more than trying to blackmail the School and the Cathedral Foundation into expending funds in order to do things that were totally unnecessary but that might make the landscape somewhat more attractive only to the objectors. I do not believe they either deserve, or should be granted, the goals they are pursuing.

My wife and I have lived at our home on Cathedral Avenue for over 37 years. We see the cathedral and its grounds every day. It is a wonderful neighbor and has always been so (even though we are not Episcopal). There is no reason to believe that the improvements they wish now to make will be any less attractive than those they have made in the past. Moreover, they have a right to make those improvements on their property; and the adjacent neighbors have little or no right, let alone bases, for complaining. In short, I urge the Board to approve the School's plans and to allow them to begin work promptly. I would only ask that the Board use its good offices to encourage the School and the Cathedral Foundation to reopen the gate on 34th and Cathedral, so that the grounds of the cathedral will, and can, again be readily accessible to all the neighbors.

Respectfully,

Allan I. Mendelsohn

BZA
Case No. 17320
Exhibit No. 46

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17320
EXHIBIT NO. 46