

Our Lady Of Victory Church

4835 MacArthur Blvd. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007
337-4835

November 1, 2005

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis
Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
440 4th Street, NW
Suite 210 - S
Washington, DC 20001

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D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
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RE: 17383, The Lab School of Washington

Dear Mr. Griffis,

On October 1, 2005 I assumed the office of Pastor. His Eminence, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick appointed me to oversee the operations of the parish as well as a very successful Catholic elementary school.

Little did I realize that our elementary school is situated in a neighborhood that can boast of an academic "corner" — a university campus and three private schools, all located within one block of our parish school.

My letter is offered to express a concern about the proposed addition of fifty diagonal parking spaces and a sidewalk along what seems to be the south or southeast side of Whitehaven Parkway. A portion of these proposed parking spaces is directly opposite the entrance way to our elementary school.

After inquiry among some of our neighbors as well as following a conversation with the Principal of our parish school, I have learned that the parking already in existence at the Lab School exceeds the current available space at the school. And, again upon viewing the scene and with some discussion with local people, it seems that the Lab School staff, faculty or students are already using parking spaces provided at the two homes and other buildings on Whitehaven Boulevard that are owned by the Lab School.

Am I correct in understanding that with an additional fifty spaces, the off street parking already allowed on Whitehaven Boulevard would no longer be available to the parkers but that these same parkers would be provided parking spaces in the fifty to-be-created spaces?

I wish to make clear that I do not support the addition of the fifty spaces as proposed. My primary reason for this objection is my genuine concern for the safety of our children. Twice each day at times when individuals would be arriving and departing from the proposed parking spaces, parents of our children would be dropping off and picking up their children.

Anyone who attempting to make his/her way up or down Whitehaven Boulevard at those times of the day knows well the current congestion that exists on this thoroughfare. To provide another fifty parking spaces that would be most

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operative at the very same times of the day that the schools would be receiving and dismissing students would create, it seems to me, a danger for children and parents alike. It seems to me to be a new burden that all would have to endure but most particularly the Our Lady of Victory elementary school where the drop off/pickup area is so limited.

As a former firefighter and chaplain in several major city fire departments, I have a personal concern about the congestion the proposed fifty parking spaces would add to the already overly congested street particularly during the times of day as mentioned above. I cannot begin to imagine the difficulties to be encountered were it necessary for the ladder truck and engine companies to use Whitehaven Parkway during the common drop off and pick up times.

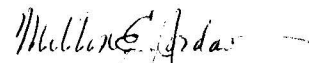
Should there have been any prior letters of support for this proposal, I write to make clear that any such letters are null and void at this time.

As a former academician at the high school and collegiate level and now as the Pastor of the parish and parish elementary school, I am most understanding of the parking needs schools have in today's urban settings.

However, in this particular instance, I believe the Lab School should embark upon a study to develop plans to fulfill its needs without such a strong and dangerous impact upon the community and in particular upon the students, faculty and staff at Our Lady of Victory School. For fifty years this school has managed to serve as a resource for parents seeking the Catholic school education for their children. Furthermore, the school has collaborated with the neighborhood during these same fifty years. which has been located at its current location for fifty years.

I appreciate your particular efforts to serve the needs of all who live and work and attend classes in our neighborhood. Your's is no easy task. As a newcomer to the neighborhood, I rest my trust upon your wisdom in serving the safety needs of our parents, students and faculty.

Sincerely,



Reverend Milton E. Jordan
Pastor

cc: Ms. Sally Smith
ANC 3D
Mr. Spence Spencer