

D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
Second Floor
Washington, DC 20001
Attn: Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman

November 21, 2005

RECEIVED
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Re: Support for BZA Application No. 17383 – The Lab School of Washington

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for The Lab School's Application for a student and faculty/staff increase and to locate additional parking in the public space along Whitehaven Parkway. I am a nine year resident of the Foxhall Village Community and a former teacher at The Lab School for six years. I have nothing but the utmost respect for all that The Lab School accomplishes in the lives of learning disabled children and adults. One of the reasons that The Lab School model is successful is that it is structured to have a high teacher-student ratio. This provides students with the individualized attention that they need to maximize their strengths and help in their areas of need. I trust you will appreciate how critical this is to so many students. Lowering the number of current faculty/staff would be disastrous to this model and put severe constraints on giving each child the one-to-one attention that they need to succeed.

For as long as I have known The Lab School, they have been focused on giving back to the community. Whether it is cleaning up and gardening the Palisades Park, picking up trash along the C & O Canal, or volunteering monthly at So Others Might Eat soup kitchen, Lab School students learn about giving back to others. As far as I am concerned as a neighbor, I know how much the community appreciates the use of the Lab Swimming pool. My family has personally benefited from the wonderful outpatient services that The Lab School offers by using Occupational Services for my two year old son and watching his improvement from the attention he receives from such an experienced professional.

I know that the Lab School has been challenged with their parking constraints over the years but is seeking to find a long term solution. The angled parking spaces would add continuity to the spaces already in place by St. Patrick's and would provide a safe area for pedestrians along Whitehaven. The Lab School is such an important resource not only to the Washington Community, but also our neighborhood. As a neighbor of the Lab School, I would like to support this application and help preserve this jewel for future generations. Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Elizabeth Clay Blee

Mary Elizabeth Clay Blee
4458 Greenwich Parkway, NW
Washington, DC 20007

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 17383
EXHIBIT NO. 41

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17383
EXHIBIT NO. 41