

Metropolitan Police Department
Second District
3320 Idaho Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

March 18, 2006

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis
Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Application No.17383, The Lab School of Washington

Dear Mr. Griffis:

I am the Police Service Area (PSA) Traffic Officer assigned to the Palisades, Foxhall, Wesley Heights and Spring Valley areas. At the request of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, I conducted a traffic study of arrivals and dismissals at the Lab School. My observance included traffic on Whitehaven Parkway and at the school entrance at the intersection of MacArthur Boulevard and Reservoir Road, NW.

As you will recall, I attended the BZA hearing on the application on November 22, 2005 and testified in reference to St. Patrick's and Lab School traffic on Whitehaven Parkway. I have continued to be on Whitehaven and have had reason to visit Lab School personnel several times since November regarding school buses parking on the street, parents parking and picking up students at the gym door on Whitehaven, and on 15 March closely observed dismissal at the school between 2:15 and 3:17 pm on Reservoir Road. This is what I observed:

2:31 pm	Calvert County Bus pulls onto Lab School lot – exits at 3:19 pm
2:33 pm	Springfield Yellow Cab arrives and parks on Reservoir – still parked and waiting at 3:17 pm
2:33 pm	DCPS Bus onto LS lot
2:37 pm	DCPS Bus onto LS lot
2:45 pm	Montgomery County Bus onto LS lot
2:48pm	DCPS Bus onto LS lot
2:51 pm	Montgomery County Bus onto LS lot

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	DCPS Bus onto LS lot
2:52 pm	PG County Bus onto LS lot
	Engine Co. 29 exits firehouse and travels north on MacArthur
2:53 pm	DCPS Bus onto LS lot
2:55 pm	PG County Bus onto LS lot
2:56 pm	DCPS bus onto LS lot
2:56 pm	Montgomery County bus onto LS lot
2:56 pm	DCPS bus onto LS lot
3:04 pm	DCPS bus onto LS lot
3:08 pm	Driveway into school full and blocked
3:12 pm	6 cars and one bus lined up on MacArthur at intersection with Reservoir
	This bus enters the LS driveway at 3:21 pm
3:15 pm	First bus exits LS driveway
3:17 pm	Metropolitan Police Officer on site directing traffic

Some parents not wishing to enter the carpool line park on Reservoir Road and either go into the school to pick up their child or wait for their child to exit the school property onto Reservoir Road. This is very dangerous as parents and students do not cross at the light and cars often make U Turns to head back north on Reservoir Road. Other parents park and wait on Whitehaven Parkway and students are picked up there to avoid the carpool line. At the same time Lab School is dismissing students, St. Patrick's further up Whitehaven is dismissing students. Also, Our Lady of Victory, at the intersection of Whitehaven and MacArthur, is dismissing students. It would improve safety if Lab School dismissal was kept at the front of the school and an organized carpool process was established. It does not appear to me that anyone is in charge of arrival or dismissal at Lab School. Dismissal lasts for almost one hour. One police officer alone cannot handle what is happening on Reservoir Road and on Whitehaven.

I attended the special meeting of the ANC on 16 March and reported on what I observed the afternoon before the meeting. I am also sending my observations to the BZA to provide a picture of daily traffic at the Lab School. I recommend that all Lab School traffic be kept on Reservoir Road and parents be required to use the carpool line. This would improve overall safety and order.

Martin Wells presented the school's transportation plan. I suggest much more is needed in the way of school supervision, direction and enforcement for the plan to succeed.

Sincerely,



Anthony L. McElwee
Badge #3766