

Mrs. Howard G. McClintic
5115 Palisade Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20016

February 17, 2006

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, NW, Room 201
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Griffis,

I have been driving down Foxhall Road for forty years--since 1965, when I was a high school day student at Mount Vernon Seminary (now George Washington University at Mount Vernon College) and for the last thirty years as a resident of three different houses off the Foxhall Road corridor. Since 1990, I have had at least one student at St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School and, at one time, three students. I bring that up because I think it gives me some experience with which to comment on the traffic patterns of Foxhall Road. Never, in those forty years, has traffic flowed as efficiently as it does today.

I think that is ironic as I remember the very logical concerns of neighborhood residents over the "traffic" that the Field School would create. As a parent of a Field School student for the past three years, I have been amazed that the traffic on Foxhall has not only not gotten worse, it has greatly improved! And as I turn right off of Foxhall onto Whitehaven Parkway, I am amazed at how efficient, safe, and attractive St. Patrick's improvements have made that previously homely and congested street. Whitehaven Parway is a typical residential street that bisects four sizeable schools, yet it is free-flowing at any time of day or night. Again, I bring this up because of the fear that is generated anytime there is talk of adding or expanding an institution in a residential neighborhood.

I would be willing to say that many of the opponents of the Field School and St. Patrick's on MacArthur Boulevard have been converted to proponents of the St. Patrick's high school on Foxhall because they have seen that these expansions and additions can actually improve the appearance and efficiency of our neighborhood. Plus, as a parent who at one time had her three children in three different schools in Potomac, MD; McLean, VA; and the District, it is very welcome to consider the value of a good, new high school closer to home.

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I am very grateful to the Friends of St. Patrick's who not only have created the possibility of a wonderful new school in Washington, but who have also created a situation whereby the necessary development will be as tasteful and moderate as possible while preserving the beauty, utility, and flow of one of our most gracious residential streets. I am also grateful to the Field School for saving the Cafritz mansion, remodeling the property thoughtfully while maintaining open green space, and for offering my middle child an unsurpassed education. I know that most neighbors now agree that it is a great asset to the neighborhood.

In the forty years I have been traversing Foxhall Road, I have seen one after another beautiful residence torn down, seven in all. A big beautiful yellow Victorian house used to sit on a hill where the Kreeger Museum is now. A 19th-century mansion with columns overlooked the city where the German Embassy is today. And, of course, the majestic Phillips mansion was a period piece that can never be replaced. With so much to regret, it is so nice to think what a positive and attractive use St. Patrick's will make of that property.

As someone whose life is very involved with that part of the city and that community, I will continue to be very supportive of every effort St. Patrick's High School makes to establish itself on Foxhall Road.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kate McClintie". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a stylized "M".