

4590 Indian Rock Terrace N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20007

February 26, 2006

Mr. Geoffrey H. Griffis, Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia Office of Zoning
441 4th Street NW, Ste 210-s
Washington DC 20001

Re: Application No. 17429 Friends of St. Patrick's et al.; Hearing February 28, 2006

Dear Chairman Griffis:

I am writing to you in opposition of the application of St. Patrick's to develop a new middle and high school at 1801 Foxhall Rd with an initial enrollment of 440 students and 100 faculty. The construction and operation of a school of this size will have significant impact on the environment and traffic through our neighborhood. The only way that these issues can be resolved is for St. Patrick's to negotiate openly and fairly with the community.

In the Foxhall and Palisades neighborhoods, we have long been burdened with a disproportionate share of private school traffic created by the 9 private schools and 2 universities within one-half mile of the proposed St. Patrick's site (St. Patrick's Lower School, Georgetown Day Middle and Lower Schools, the Lab School, the Field School, the Rock Creek International School, Our Lady of Victory School, the Washington International School, the River School, GW- Mount Vernon and Georgetown University). Some of these schools are good neighbors while others persist in creating traffic, parking, noise, and operations problems for us. Several schools have ignored existing BZA requirements that were designed to protect neighborhood interests. Neighborhoods look to the BZA to ensure that neighborhood interests are protected when new schools are built.

When the Field School was built, a reasonable balance was struck that accommodated both the needs of the school and that of the neighbors. Their plan included hard vehicle and student caps, widening of Foxhall road, and continuation of an established traffic plan, with both future enrollment and occupancy itself tied to the school's compliance with these protections. The Field School has been an outstanding neighbor and a true asset to our community. St. Patrick's, on the other hand, has a long history of conflict with its neighbors. They have not attempted to strike a fair balance on their construction plans nor on their plans for operating the school, once it is built. It is unfair to expect the neighbors to have to hire expensive lawyers to protect their interests just because the school will not compromise.

I ask you, the Board of Zoning Adjustment, to direct St. Patrick's to enter into the same sort of negotiations that were so successful with the Field School. If they do so, I would remove my opposition to the school.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth W. Ratigan

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia

CASE NO.

17429

EXHIBIT NO.

65

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17429
EXHIBIT NO. 65

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REMARKS: Please add this statement
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