



HORIZONS
Greater Washington

August 28, 2026

District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment
Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20001

Re: St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School
BZA Case No. 17429B

Dear Chair Pourciau and Members of the Board:

I am writing today as both a DC resident and the Executive Director of Horizons Greater Washington in support of St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School's proposal to construct a new, permanent Middle School on Whitehaven Parkway and to allow for limited expanded use of its existing Foxhall Field.

For context, Horizons is primarily a summer academic enrichment program for over 430 K-8 students in the DC area. We have hosted a site at St. Patrick's since 2009. At Horizons, we work not only to stop the "summer slide" for underserved students in DC, but to accelerate academic achievement during the critical summer months. Horizons takes a whole child approach to learning and students learn in small classes, participate in art, swimming, and STEAM classes, in addition to regular instruction in math and reading. By the end of the summer, we see tremendous impacts, with over two-thirds of students having made improvements in math and reading skills over the summer or finishing the summer at grade level. On average, students who show academic improvements show over 9 months of improvements in our program. None of our incredible results or 20-plus years of programming would be possible without partners such as St. Patrick's.

Our presence at St. Patrick's is made possible by the school's genuine commitment to children and to its community. Head of School Jalene Spain Thomas and the St. Patrick's team have been generous, welcoming partners, opening the campus each summer so that our students can spend their days learning, playing, and growing in a place that feels like home. That kind of partnership is not something we take for granted, and it is central to the experience we offer families in this community. I can personally attest to the way St. Patrick's opens its campus to serve our students. So much of what makes a Horizons summer special happens outdoors in active, community building space.

We understand that the Whitehaven Parkway athletic field will not be available for use during construction of the proposed middle school, as it will be used for construction staging. Our program would benefit tremendously from the opportunity to utilize St. Patrick's existing Foxhall Field during this time. We understand the concerns that nearby neighbors may have with respect to this use of the field, and we are committed to working directly with the St. Patrick's team to ensure that issues such as parking and traffic, noise, and trash removal are all proactively addressed—and if any issues do arise, are promptly resolved.

As a community partner, I have seen the entire St. Patrick's community live out its mission and values, particularly in supporting children's growth and connecting to the surrounding neighborhood. In my role, I



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can attest that St. Patrick's is a conscientious, welcoming, and willing partner, always mindful of its responsibility to serve the greater good. I am grateful for St. Patrick's partnership with Horizons, and I am fully confident that allowing limited use of the Foxhall Field for programs such as ours will benefit the larger community while protecting the interests of those who reside closest to the field.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Di Marco", followed by a long horizontal line.

Mike Di Marco
Executive Director
Horizons Greater Washington