

DC Board of Zoning Adjustment

441 4th St NW #200S

Washington, DC 20001

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RE: Letter of Support for BZA Case #19581 – LAMB PCS at 5000 14th St NW

Dear Members of the Board:

We are residents of the 16th Street Heights neighborhood. We understand the Latin American Montessori Bilingual (LAMB) Public Charter School would like to move their school to the Kingsbury campus next year. We support this move, including the eventual enrollment of 600 students because we believe the best use of the space is for it to remain a school.

We support LAMB's request to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA). We understand this request specifically asks for an exemption to the 16th Street Heights special overlay; an increase of the enrollment cap to 600 students over six years, which the building has capacity to hold; and for the eventual construction of a gym on the grounds.

LAMB has worked closely with ANC 4C throughout its community engagement process for this application. LAMB has engaged many residents, West Education Campus and the ANC to ensure the school will be an asset to the community, and that any harmful impacts will be mitigated. LAMB hosted many community meetings, met with individual neighbors, listened to community concerns, and worked collaboratively with residents to find solutions to their concerns. LAMB has proven to be responsive and committed to being a good neighbor.

In addition to proving to be among DC's premier learning institutions, we've seen the school at work to be a tremendous neighbor and neighborhood asset as recently as this summer in the wake of an apartment fire that devastated the homes of hundreds of neighbors. The school made a public rally cry to residents in and around the city for delivery of clothing, toys and every type of household furnishing and appliance that could be made available to our neighbors who lost everything in that fire.

The school builds bridges every day in its curriculum, teaching native English speaking children and native Spanish speaking children the best ways of coexisting – sharing communication and stories and traditions. Their very mission is in every way aligned with what we proudly cherish about our neighborhood – diversity, open arms to varying cultures, and raising children to be wonderful citizens.

Regards,

Brett Cloninger-West

Matthew Cloninger-West

Submitted on 11/14/2017 by:

Brett West