

11/14/2017

D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001
bzsubmissions@dc.gov

Re: Letter of Support for BZA Case No. 19581 – LAMB PCS at 5000 14th Street NW

Dear Members of the Board:

My wife, 23 month old child, and I are residents of the Sixteenth Street Heights neighborhood. My child is too young for LAMB and I have no friends or relatives working at that school. However, I am a major proponent of improving the quality of education for DC students and I strongly believe that one way to achieve this goal is to allow the best schools to enroll more students. The Latin American Montessori Bilingual Public Charter School (LAMB) has a proven track record as one of the best charter schools in DC. LAMB has applied to move their school to the Kingsbury campus next year and to increase enrollment at that campus to a total of 600 students. I strongly support this application because I believe this will put LAMB in a better position to enroll more students and thereby improve the overall quality of education in DC schools. I also believe that accepting LAMB will improve our neighborhood's reputation.

This means that I support LAMB's request to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA). I understand that this request specifically asks for an exemption to the Sixteenth Street Heights special overlay; an increase of the enrollment cap to 600 students over 6 years; and for the eventual construction of a gym on the grounds.

One concern raised by some neighbors near to the school is that the school would cause too much traffic congestion. I bike around the Kingsbury campus on a daily basis as I take my child to day care. Since the existing traffic study was done before Emerson was changed to a one-way street, I took it upon myself to do my own traffic counts on 17 different days over the last 2 months. I am not a traffic expert but I believe that these numbers may be helpful for the on-going discussion. I estimate that even after the school is at full enrollment, there will likely be less than 1 car every 10 seconds on average during the morning rush hour (7:30 to 8:30 a.m.) on the blocks of Piney Branch and Gallatin next to the school. While this is a large increase over current conditions, it seems to me that this is a very small price to pay for the expected benefits of having LAMB in our neighborhood. Details of my counts can be found here.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DaJpNcR2uoNcaFk8MHV09AE2RDWx9aCZnfuEqOVjerg/edit?usp=sharing>

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,
Duncan Chaplin
1321 Ingraham St NW
Washington, DC 20011

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.19581
EXHIBIT NO.98