

To Whom It May Concern:

Our son, Mateo, just started PK3 at the Latin American Montessori Bilingual Public Charter School (LAMB) this year, and we live in Ward 4 at 1360 Hamilton Street, NW. We also have a younger daughter, Lucia, and hopefully she will attend LAMB in a few short years.

We would like to ask for your support for LAMB's move to the Kingsbury building as a permanent home for our school.

For fifteen years, LAMB has been the only public, accredited, dual-language immersion Montessori school in the DC metropolitan area, and one of a handful nationwide. LAMB's education model has proven results, with consistent placement in the top tier of charter schools in the city. Year after year, LAMB has a waiting list of hundreds of families who hope their children have access to this high quality school. LAMB administration has worked to keep the school small, but also grow gradually to serve as many of the city's families as it can. We admire their commitment to this.

We have lived in the District since 2003 and very much enjoy being a part of the 16th Street Heights neighborhood since we bought our home here nearly four years ago. Kingsbury is less than three blocks from our house. This is our neighborhood and the opportunity to give more to the neighborhood where we live is powerful. Almost 50% of our fellow LAMB families and 25% of LAMB staff and teachers also live in Ward 4. We believe in public education and chose LAMB because of its unique ability to provide a Spanish-immersion Montessori education for our children, and feel lucky that our son got a spot at this well-regarded school.

We want this Tier 1 school with a proven track record in our neighborhood. We are already invested in this neighborhood and are beyond excited about the possibility of walking our children to school every day. We know many other families who attend LAMB, live in the neighborhood, and who are equally excited about making Kingsbury our home. Some of our peers who live farther away will carpool and/or take the abundant public transportation in the vicinity of the school.

Out of necessity, LAMB has moved five times. Many public charter schools face this situation in this city. But with each move, LAMB is seeking to get a little bit closer to its dream of one campus for all of their students. Kingsbury offers so much for LAMB's students, with secure abundant exterior green space, off-street parking, and sufficient interior space to support the current school size and future growth to a maximum of 600 students (PK3-5<sup>th</sup> grade) by 2023. Therefore, we look forward to working with our community so that the enhancements to the Kingsbury property are mutually beneficially for both the community and our school.

Kingsbury fulfills LAMB's dream. Re-locating to Kingsbury means that over time all of LAMB students can be together under one roof. Instead of operating from three sites, we can all be together. The amount of resources that the school can save and share to enrich academic and social development for our very diverse student population will be phenomenal.

We are heartened that the ANC recently voted 6-0-1 in support of LAMB's proposal for a process to eventually increase enrollment to 600 students. From the comments from ANC Commissioners, we believe they see that LAMB has worked to be good neighbors and address concerns of neighbors.

We need your help and support to make this dream a reality for our children and families, and for LAMB to put down its roots in the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Heights Neighborhood. The realization of this dream will manifest in a future where community and schools work together, which is the founding principles of public education. Our children are counting on you.

Sincerely,

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