

I am writing to support LAMB's application for the move to Kingsbury.

My family and I live at 709 Varnum St. NW. We have lived in DC for nearly 10 years, first in Mt. Pleasant and now in Petworth. I am sure you are familiar with the school and its focus on diversity, its excellence in education, and its devotion to the community. My oldest daughter is a student there, and my younger daughter will likely attend as well. I am sure you also know that 50% of the kids who attend are from Ward 4.

I have been on both sides of this debate. Twice, we moved to a neighborhood for a particular school district. Twice we were re-districted out of that district, most recently at Powell. Twice, I attended ANC / school board meetings to voice my protest. Although I was twice unhappy with the result, I understood that these decisions were made for the greater good of the community. In the end, LAMB was the *only* school that had a spot for us in pre-K3, not Powell (even though recently expanded), not Barnard, not any other charter school in Ward 4.

I tell you this story only to give you a sense of the numbers game facing the city. As you likely know, DC is one of the top 15 fastest growing cities in the country. Nearly 900 people a month move to DC. The city is in desperate need of school spots. West of the park, very few students place into local pre-K3. East of the park, the situation is good now but is getting worse. The demographic trend is obvious. Ward 4 is experiencing rapid growth in families, as anyone who eats dinner at 5 PM on Upshur street can tell you.

I implore you to support LAMB and its expansion at Kingsbury. I believe this move is ideal for the community as a whole and represents the best use of existing infrastructure.