

To Whom It May Concern:

We are Julie Ann Kase and Lloyd Foulds. We are the proud parents of a student who attends the Latin American Montessori Bilingual (LAMB) Public Charter School. Our child, Ross Foulds, is a new PK-4 student at LAMB for the 2017/2018 school year. We are writing to support the LAMB effort to relocate to the Kingsbury Center at 5000 14<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. It is our hope that this letter will help LAMB gain much needed support from the District of Columbia government, particularly the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions. **We encourage the ANC to support the Board of Zoning (BZA) Application - Case Number 19851 special exemption to include building a gymnasium which will also double as a meeting space, both of which can be open for community use outside of school hours.**

We live in Ward 4 at 5210 13<sup>th</sup> St NW (4C02, the same as the Kingsbury site). We have lived here for about 3 ½ years and very much enjoy the family-friendliness of the neighborhood. Kingsbury is less than 3 blocks from our house. This is our neighborhood and we are very much invested in it. We currently support the Farmer's Market, local restaurants on Georgia Ave and Upper 14<sup>th</sup> St, and regularly participate in community-driven activities. The opportunity for our child to walk (and eventually bike) to school is incredible and better aligns with our belief of reducing our family's environmental impact. Currently, we are both driving for drop off and pick up of our son at LAMB. With the school adjacent to an North/South bus line, like that on 14<sup>th</sup> St, means that both my husband and I could hop on a bus for our work commute immediately after/before picking up our son; eliminating our need to drive a car. Additionally, almost 50% of our fellow LAMB families and 25% of staff and teachers also live in Ward 4. Being so close to public transit will also benefit LAMB families outside of Ward 4 immensely.

We strongly believe in the merits of public education, including exposure to cultural and socioeconomic diversity. We have also raised our son in a bilingual environment since birth. We are committed to raising our son to be academically and emotionally strong while culturally aware. LAMB offers him a chance to reach his fullest potential in a warm, nurturing setting. But with LAMB currently split into three campuses, the fullest potential of LAMB hasn't materialized. The Kingsbury campus will fulfill LAMB's dream. Not only does it offer the physical space needed for ALL students and staff, but also proximity to Rock Creek Park – endless possibilities given the Montessori focus of the school. Moreover, the amount of resources that the school can redirect towards academic enrichment and social development for our very diverse student population will be phenomenal.

Just as Kingsbury has a rich history, LAMB does as well. 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. Out of necessity, LAMB has moved five times, each time seeking to get a little bit closer to its dream of exterior green space where the children can play, off-street parking, and sufficient interior space to support our current school size and future growth. Importantly, the enhancements to the Kingsbury property will be mutually beneficially for both the community and our school.

We need your help and support to make this dream a reality for our children and families and for LAMB to put down roots in the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Neighborhood. The realization of this dream will enable LAMB and the community to work together to support the principles of public education.

Sincerely,

Julie Ann Kase, Lloyd A. Foulds Jr., and Ross A.K. Foulds

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.19581  
EXHIBIT NO.55