

To Whom It May Concern:

Our names are Jennifer Phillips and Gabino Villanueva and we are the proud parents of a student who attends the Latin American Montessori Bilingual (LAMB) Public Charter School. Our son, Mateo, just started PK3 at LAMB this year. We also have a younger daughter, Lucia, and hopefully she will attend LAMB as well in just a few short years.

We are writing this letter in support of LAMB re-locating to the Kingsbury Center at 5000 14th Street, N.W. It is our hope that this letter will help LAMB gain much needed support from the District of Columbia Government, including Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, and corporations and foundations for the many layers of approval and costs associated with moving to Kingsbury and making it our new educational home. **Critically important is a request for support of 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.**

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. LAMB is more than a school. For some it is a home away from home as many students and staff are there for 10 hours a day between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

We live in Ward 4 at 1360 Hamilton Street, NW. We have lived in the District since 2003 and very much enjoy being part of the Sixteenth 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 that also happens to be in our neighborhood.

We want this Tier I 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 new 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, each time seeking to get a little bit closer to its dream of exterior green space where our children can play, off-street parking, and sufficient interior space to support our current school size and future growth to a maximum of 600 students (PK3-5th grade) by 2023. Therefore we look forward to working with the community so that our 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 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 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 16th 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,

Jennifer Phillips and Gabino Villanueva

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