

RUTH SWANSON

September 25, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I understand that the current residents of the Kingsbury School are leaving. As a homeowner in Ward 4C02 I'm writing to support the relocation of the Latin American Montessori Bilingual (LAMB) school to the Kingsbury Center at 5000 14th Street, N.W. I have lived in the neighborhood for 13 years and I strongly believe that having the LAMB school as our neighbor would be a win-win scenario for our community. I have friends in the neighborhood who attend West Elementary and LAMB. I think it would be wonderful to have two such good DCPS schools available to families in the area.

I understand that some of my neighbors are concerned about increased traffic with growth in students occupying the building. However I think that an elementary school like LAMB is our best opportunity for that space. The school has been underutilized for the years that Kingsbury inhabited it and I believe that any school or other entity would seek to increase the utilization of the space, which has a much greater capacity than its current zoning limitations. If another institution moved in, I would be more concerned. For example, a high school would bring teenagers who might drive recklessly, loiter in the neighborhood, bring drugs, etc. A health or other non-school institution might bring additional weekend traffic and activity. Therefore I very much support a school like LAMB with a strong reputation as one of the oldest and highest quality charter schools in the District to locate in that space. Moreover, our local businesses in 14th street heights could certainly use the added business brought in by LAMB families.

Therefore, I encourage you to support LAMB's request for rezoning to increase the number of students and for **support of the Board of Zoning (BZA) Application - Case Number 19851** special exemption to include building a gymnasium. The gymnasium will also serve as a community meeting space outside of school hours, which I think we need in our community.

I look forward to having the LAMB school as a neighbor and hope that the school gains the support needed from all layers of local government and community. The future of our neighborhood is dependent on having a good neighbor in the Kingsbury space and I think the LAMB school fits that role.

Sincerely,

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