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November 10, 2017

Chairman Fred Hill or Current Chairman
D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

Chairman Fred Hill or Current Chairman

RE: Opposition to Application #19581

Dear Chair and Members of the Board:

My husband Antonio and I, live at 1503 Gallatin St NW, diagonally across from the Kingsbury School at 5000 14th Street NW. We are concerned about plans for the Latin American Montessori Bilingual School (LAMB) Public Charter move to the Kingsbury property, and in particular, the likely increase in neighborhood congestion from a five-fold increase in students at the proposed Kingsbury/LAMB campus. In our transit every morning, we exit from an alley onto Piney Branch Rd NW, and we are particularly concerned about the likely increase in traffic along Piney Branch. Travel along Piney Branch toward Gallatin St NW was not considered in the traffic study commissioned by the Applicants (Building Hope and LAMB), which already highlighted (in red) the likelihood of severe congestion in front of our house along Gallatin St NW. The omission of Piney Branch from the study was a serious deficiency, and feel that any plans to allow entry or exit of vehicles on Piney Branch during morning drop off or afternoon pick up from the Kingsbury/LAMB property will have significant detrimental effects on the community.

Piney Branch is an unimproved road with no pedestrian walkways, no parking lanes in either direction and is frequently restricted to one lane of travel with cars parked along it. Nonetheless, for students traveling from north and east of Kingsbury in the morning windows, are very likely to avoid traffic lights by driving down Piney Branch from Colorado St NW. In particular, if the entrance to LAMB/Kingsbury is used for drop off and pick up of children, then this raises considerable concern about the volume of traffic that will travel along this narrow and unimproved road.

Apart from the likely difficulties this will cause for those of us in the neighborhood who need to commute to work, those of us who are parents of young children are particularly concerned about the possibility of anxious LAMB parents driving at high speeds down Piney Branch in an effort to get to school on time. We strongly believe that Piney Branch should not be used for child drop off and pick up.

We are not strongly opposed to LAMB moving into the neighborhood, but the Applicant's request requires the neighborhood to agree to an unprecedented increase in the number of students at the school across from our home. We strongly urge the BZA to adapt the parameters recommended by the Office of Planning in their letter dated November 3, 2017. Specifically, these knowledgeable and experienced city planners have recommended that

- The maximum number of LAMB students in the interim stage will be 310 with a maximum number of faculty/staff of 36.
- Once Kingsbury departs from the property, LAMB submit a new proposal to the BZA to consider expanding the student population to 600.
- LAMB shall also submit details of the gymnasium to the BZA for review prior to construction either as part of the

review for the expansion to 600, or as a modification to the interim approval for LAMB.

As the total student population will approach 450-475 students during the combined Kingsbury/LAMB interim stage, which is a 450 percent increase in the number of students commuting to an already congested neighborhood, we believe that the Office of Planning has made an informed and sensible recommendation and strongly urge the BZA to adopt this staged approach to the LAMB proposal.

Sincerely,

Alysa Chin-Shue