

November 13, 2017

Lucas W. Peterson
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D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 200S
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bzsubmissions@dc.gov

Re: Letter of Support for BZA Case No. 19581 – LAMB PCS at 5000 14th Street NW

Dear Members of the Board:

I live four blocks from the corner of 14th and Gallatin Sts NW, the site of Kingsbury School.

Since I have lived here, the neighborhood has become wealthier and more European-American in appearance, to the exclusion and alienation of its longtime, more ethnically-and-racially-diverse residents. While this wealth has brought with it many amenities, the character of the community has suffered. I support the Latin American Montessori Bilingual (LAMB) Public Charter School's proposed move to the Kingsbury campus next year. This move, including the eventual enrollment of 600 students, will help retain our neighborhood's ethnic and financial diversity -- at least among its daytime population. My hope is this increase in the vulnerable student population will also spark traffic management interventions and create a safer community for pedestrians and cyclists and their families.

I support LAMB's request to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA). I understand that this request specifically asks for an exemption to the Sixteenth Street Heights special overlay; an increase of the enrollment cap to 600 students over 6 years, which the building has capacity to hold; and for the eventual construction of a gym on the grounds.

LAMB has worked closely with ANC 4C throughout its community engagement process for this application. LAMB has engaged many residents, West Education Campus, and the ANC to ensure that the school will be an asset to the community and that any harmful impacts will be mitigated. LAMB hosted many community meetings, met with individual neighbors, listened to community concerns, and worked collaboratively with residents to find solutions to their concerns. LAMB has proven to be responsive and committed to being a good neighbor. And as a LAMB parent, I can commit to doing my part to ensure my child's school upholds its commitments to the community.

Very Respectfully,



Lucas W. Peterson