

## Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

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**From:** Bardin, Sara (DCOZ)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 2:44 PM  
**To:** DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)  
**Subject:** FW: CASE #20472 — Opposition to River School Application for Special Exemption

Sara

Sara Bardin  
Director

Office of Zoning | District of Columbia Government [www.dcoz.dc.gov](http://www.dcoz.dc.gov) | [sara.bardin@dc.gov](mailto:sara.bardin@dc.gov)

441 4th Street, NW | Suite 200-S | Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 727-5372 (office) | (202) 727-6072 (fax)

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary Margaret Cannon <[marymargaretcannon2017@gmail.com](mailto:marymargaretcannon2017@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 2:33 PM  
To: ATD DCOZ <[dcoz@dc.gov](mailto:dcoz@dc.gov)>  
Cc: Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL) <[MCheh@DCCOUNCIL.US](mailto:MCheh@DCCOUNCIL.US)>; Planning <[Planning@dc.gov](mailto:Planning@dc.gov)>; ATD OP HP <[historic.preservation@dc.gov](mailto:historic.preservation@dc.gov)>; Lott, Everett (DDOT) <[Everett.Lott@dc.gov](mailto:Everett.Lott@dc.gov)>; Cohen, Matthew (SMD 3E01) <[3E01@anc.dc.gov](mailto:3E01@anc.dc.gov)>; McHugh, Jonathan (SMD 3E05) <[3E05@anc.dc.gov](mailto:3E05@anc.dc.gov)>; Concerned Citizens of Tenleytown <[concernedcitizensoftenleytown@gmail.com](mailto:concernedcitizensoftenleytown@gmail.com)>  
Subject: CASE #20472 — Opposition to River School Application for Special Exemption

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CASE #20472 — Opposition to River School Application for Special Exemption

Dear Chairman Hood & Members of the Zoning Commission Board:

I stand in firm opposition to the River School's application for a special exemption.

As a resident of the neighborhood affected by the River School's application, I respectfully ask that you deny their request and support ANC3e's opposition to this application (per their vote on October 14, 2021).

I have been a resident at 4326 42nd Street NW (in zip code 20016), since the Spring of 2015 — and largely work from home, giving me a full perspective on neighborhood traffic and parking patterns at every hour of the day and evening.

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.20472  
EXHIBIT NO.125

As a native Washingtonian who returned to DC after many years living in other parts of the nation, I have been stunned to see that this once-quiet and safe residential street has become so heavily trafficked — not just due to drivers who appear to use 42nd Street to avoid congestion on Wisconsin Avenue — but from local grammar schools, churches, businesses, and the American University Law school (which alone monopolizes local parking when in session).

Of course — this situation was at its worst pre-pandemic, with all its attendant forced closures. But it is critically important to note that traffic has been building in recent weeks with the advent of the academic year — and that residents are now again just starting to resume “parking roulette” (albeit not yet at full throttle, as normal schedules are still early-stage).

Now — most unbelievably — the River School thinks it appropriate to attempt to add a large group of very young children to the mix — between the ages of 18 months and 8 years old — 350 in all + 90 faculty members — on a small footprint in an already busy neighborhood, and at already busy intersections.

It’s staggering any parent would consider trusting their child to such an institution, that would attempt to establish a school at a location so inadequate for its stipulated needs — even, intrinsically dangerous.

No small wonder the neighborhood opposes the added burden the River School seeks to impose on this community — and stands in firm opposition to the peril this school’s location thrusts upon both children and residents.

Trying to shoehorn 350 young children + 90 faculty members onto one residential property at the already hectic intersections of Nebraska Avenue, Van Ness Street and 42nd Street is not merely ambitious — it is deeply unwise, for it carries inherent dangers to the safety of everyone who would attend this school and to everyone already in this neighborhood.

Please — I implore you to deny the River School's application for special exemption — due to traffic, parking, safety issues for children already walking to school in this area — and safety issues for the many children who would be added to the proposed River School footprint.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Mary Margaret Cannon  
4326 42nd Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20016  
Cell: 202-830-5203