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To DC Zoning and Governing Officials:

As a resident of American University (AU) Park, I oppose the zoning waiver that would allow The River School to build an expanded school (and clinic) at 4220 Nebraska Ave NW. I attended public meetings, presentations and Q&As with The River School and my reasons are several:

- The necessary structures and infrastructure are too dense for that small parcel of land. Approximately 500 persons (students, small children, faculty, administration, clinic staff, subcontractor support services, etc.) plus parents will be using the property.
- The traffic management plan will partially mitigate but will NOT resolve the safety and traffic issues along Nebraska, Van Ness, 42<sup>nd</sup> and Warren streets. Please consider that the River School is also a preschool and childcare facility, and therefore most of its children are very young. And over half of the students are from MD and VA, and others do not reside in near to AU Park. With this population, car-reduction policies will help but only go so far –especially at times of rain, snow, severe heat, etc.
- Nebraska Avenue is a main commuter artery between Wisconsin/Tenley Circle and Ward Circle/American University/Foxhall Rd/Chain Bridge/VA. Therefore DC, MD, VA commuters and day workers will continue to utilize this critical artery. Backups blocking a lane of Nebraska for a significant stretch will occur during morning and afternoon rush hours. (Just visit Georgetown Day School, St. Albans, other schools at these times.)
- Safety!! The issues for walkers, cyclists, even cars in the area of the Nebraska - Van Ness intersection are already known. National Presbyterian School and AU buses/students are contributors along with the high volume of commuter traffic. River School will escalate the congestion, and therefore public safety issues, twice per day.
- Safety concerns #2 -- 42<sup>nd</sup> Street because Georgetown Day School buses and cars zip along this route from Van Ness to the school, and back. (Janney School's contribution to traffic is less impactful since it is a neighborhood public school.)
- Safety concerns#3 – As we know, GPS/WAZE will direct drivers away from (the above) congested streets to side streets. In this case, narrow residential streets such as Warren, Yuma and numbered cross-streets will see redirected cars and trucks driving too fast.
- Traffic studies performed during the pandemic are inaccurate.

Once built, the River School cannot be held accountable for failures in estimating traffic or in their traffic management plan as presented to you now. Not even their action plan for parents who do not comply with driving/parking policies should be of assurance to you.

**Questionable traffic data, unenforceable policies and weak compliance plans will not address the safety and congestion issues I and others are presenting to you.**

We have 8 schools on or near the major traffic arteries of Wisconsin and Nebraska which make up the eastern boundary of AU Park -- all in one general strip from AU to GDS. There is no safe place for yet another school on this "school row."

Long-time DC resident,

Maureen Miller