

## Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

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**From:** Dana Berliner <DBerliner@ij.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 1:02 PM  
**To:** DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)  
**Subject:** Comments in Support of BZA Application No. 20472: River School

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To Whom it May Concern,

I write in support of the application of the River School to open a new location in DC. Our daughter attended River for three years. We wanted her to be able to continue, but at that time, River did not have any grades past third grade. At their new location, they will be able to expand to add additional grades. River is a unique and incredibly positive environment for a wide variety of kids. Many of the kids are hard of hearing, and they are completely integrated with the other kids in a way that seems uncommon in other schools, where kids with some kind of issue are siloed or made to feel different. River is not like that. It is also a uniquely positive environment, where teachers are closely attuned to the individual kids and the children love going to school. Even other private schools are not able to replicate it.

River has been at MacArthur Blvd. The entrance is at an awkward intersection, with a street median and crosswalk, as well as an extra intersection. Nonetheless both pickup and dropoff worked incredibly smoothly. The staff and people who directed traffic were efficient, and the car line moved rapidly. On many occasions, I would walk my daughter in or park to pick her up from school. I was always able to find parking, and that's not surprising, because even those who parked could get their kids rapidly and leave, thus opening up parking quickly.

I should also mention that River was a boon for the small businesses nearby. I met River parents at the coffee shop across the street. River kids and parents would meet after school at the pizza place. Other parents visited a coffee shop one block away or the lunch places in the neighborhood.

River is a lovely organization and a great neighbor. It handles traffic flow extremely well, and any neighborhood should be happy to welcome it.

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.20472  
EXHIBIT NO.161

Dana Berliner  
2319 Ontario Road NW  
Washington DC 20009  
202.744.6482  
danacberliner@msn.com