

Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA)
441 4th Street NW, Suite 200S
Washington DC, 20001

Letter in Support Re: BZA Application No. 20472: The River School

Dear Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) Board Members:

As a resident of Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 3E, I am writing to express my strong support for The River School's application for zoning relief in Application No. 20472 to construct a child development center and private school campus in the R-1-B Zone at premises 4220 Nebraska Avenue NW.

I have been a resident of ANC 3E for almost 10 years and my child is currently a student at The River School. My child was born with bilateral sensorineural hearing loss and as a consequence, has hearing loss in both ears. The diagnosis of my child's condition was delayed which led to significant speech and language development delays during her formative years. I enrolled my child at The River School several years back once I became aware of the strength of its educational program and its unique model. The River School has developed a truly innovative early childhood and elementary educational model with a strong focus on language and literacy that educates young children with hearing loss alongside their hearing peers. As far as I'm aware, The River School is the only such educational institution in our region, and perhaps the country, that offers such a distinctive model and I have witnessed its positive impact firsthand.

The River School has had an immeasurable bearing with regard to the progress and development of my child. The spectrum of impact has been broad and I consider myself really fortunate to reside within close proximity to such an institution of purpose.

The River School has also positively impacted other families within our community and has supported, nurtured and developed students with hearing loss over the past 20 years. The River School is comprised of a wonderful community of teachers, administrators, parents and students and based on my personal experience, I believe that they will be wonderful neighbors and considerate community members of ANC 3E. I would therefore kindly request the members of the Board of Zoning to consider the plans outlined by The River School to establish a child development center and private school campus and to grant The River School the zoning relief it requires to establish its unique, nationally recognized and mission driven model of inclusive education at 4220 Nebraska Avenue NW.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Winta Alem

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