

## Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

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**From:** Finlay Mungall <fmungall@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 10, 2021 8:45 PM  
**To:** DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)  
**Subject:** Comments in Support, BZA Application No. 20472: The River School

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Dear Chairperson and Secretary of the BZA,

I am submitting this note to speak out in favor of the River School, which I understand would like to locate in our neighborhood at Van Ness and Nebraska Avenue. We have no plans for our daughter to attend the River School, but we like the idea of our neighborhood attracting a school that is so unique in what it aims to do (helping deaf children), and which will contribute to the preservation and beautification of what I also understand are a set of historic mansions/buildings on the property. The artistic renderings are aesthetically pleasing, and the buildings of a modest height and with walls and roofs that will blend in with all of the trees. I'd much rather this nice school come to this property than what might otherwise come to the property (I can only imagine a bunch of 4 story townhomes, high rises, or similar) – or worse, a property that is vacant for a prolonged time or in which historical buildings deteriorate while waiting for someone else to come in. Tying this project up would cause our home values to drop; adding a beautiful school and a reason for more people – including people with children struggling with hearing loss – to come to the neighborhood will make our property values increase. There are so many reasons to support this project!

I work for the Federal Aviation Administration, so am of course not specialized in auto traffic, but I frankly have no concerns about added traffic as a result of this school. It's a small school, and they seem to have responded to the neighborhood demands for a sensible traffic plan and really delivered.

In sum, I fully support the River School, and would welcome them to the neighborhood. We are definitely the kind of neighborhood that would support a school for children with hearing loss to learn, and that would recognize that this school has offered a unique opportunity for us all.

Very Kind Regards,

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Board of Zoning Adjustment  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.20472  
EXHIBIT NO.55