

## Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

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**From:** Greg Jaczko <gregoryjaczko@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 2:17 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

We are writing to express our strong support for the application of the River School to develop a new campus in our neighborhood. As parents of two kids who go to River School and residents in AU Park, we can speak to the impact the school will have in the AU Park community and for the city as a whole. We believe it will be overwhelmingly positive for these reasons:

- 1) During our many years at the River School we have been part of a community of learners and educators who are responsive and considerate of the neighborhood in which the current school is situated. The school leadership routinely informs us of changes in pick-up and drop-off activities to better interface with the existing neighborhood. I feel very strongly the new school location will dramatically improve the movement of students into and out of the school, ensuring greater safety for the kids and parents with only a low impact to a portion of the AU Park neighborhood near the eastern end of 42nd Street.
- 2) The current school location is not close to a metro stop. From our current home and our past residence in the U Street area, we have attempted to access the school using mass transit. It is unfortunately not conveniently located near a metro. The new location is within walking distance of the Tenleytown Metro station and will create new opportunities for students and faculty to arrive and depart using mass transit. If the new school opens in time for our children to attend, we will walk or bike to the new location, gladly ditching a driving portion of our daily commute. I know many current families use carpooling (including us) or walk to the existing campus to minimize the number of cars at the school. I expect that will continue if not increase with the new location.
- 3) The River School has been a wonderful community experience for our children. The learning system emphasizes empathy and community within the school, with the nearby community and city as a whole. These values are not just taught within the River School but practiced by the leadership in all its dealing with parents, faculty and neighbors. We fully expect the River School will similarly be a good neighbor to the AU Park community. We see this evidence by the willingness of the school leadership to repeatedly modify proposed traffic flows and practices to address concerns of the homeowners living near the proposed new campus.
- 4) My wife and I have been members of both the AU Park community and the River School community for many years. While our children currently attend the school, we expect to live in our current home many years past our children's attendance at the River School. We fully understand the impact the school will have in the community will outlast any benefit we might see from the new campus. Based on those reasons, we strongly support the development of the proposed facility. We would much rather see another school there than other potential development possibilities.

We hope the BZA will act to approve Application No. 20472. Doing so will benefit the community as well as the future students of the River School.

Sincerely,  
Greg Jaczko and Leigh Ann Caldwell  
4705 46th St NW

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.20472  
EXHIBIT NO.63

Washington, DC 20016