

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Shalini Roy <shalini.d.roy@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 2:57 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 wanted to register our family's firm support for the River School, which has proposed to come to our neighborhood (only a few blocks away from us, actually). I have seen signs protesting traffic, but do not really understand this opposition; no neighbor opposing the school has actually taken the time to share any clear or compelling argument with us.

All of our neighbors are entitled to their own opinions, but I wanted to make it clear that they do not represent us as a neighborhood. Some of my neighbors have children in the River School and I know they plan to walk or ride bikes to school. We've personally really enjoyed the amenities of having schools near us (for example, my kids always want to go play at Georgetown Day School). So, while I have a child at Janney Elementary and will soon have another child there as well, I see value in having schools around us. Places where children can learn and grow are an asset to our community.

I've been thankful to have the chance to hear more about River by listening to neighbors that support the school and seem to share very clear, concrete reasons that I should support it. I have found their arguments very convincing. I see that the River School has made extraordinary efforts to commit to avoiding increased traffic. It also sounds like that traffic will be kept on Nebraska Avenue, which is a street that already seems poised to handle this (plus I think it's the site of multiple other schools and I've not seen problems there).

More generally, everything I hear and see about the River School suggests that they would be good neighbors; it seems that the school's parents and faculty are firmly committed to a lot of things our family values, like diversity, helping children with learning differences, supporting the environment through carpooling and community service, and ensuring they communicate well with us as a community.

In sum, I think the River School would make a great addition to the neighborhood, and I hope to welcome them. Thank you so much for taking the time to listen to my thoughts on the matter.

Sincerely,
Shalini Roy

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.20472
EXHIBIT NO.64