

Aidan School BZA application #21400

From Janet Frank <janetefrank@gmail.com>

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To DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ) <DCOZ-BZASubmissions@dc.gov>

Cc Pat Spillman <pat.spillman@earthlink.net>

 1 attachment (17 KB)

Brief unofficial history of the Aidan School.pdf

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Dear BZA

Please do not grant the zoning variance to the Aidan Montessori school for expansion.

We have lived on 27th St. since 1985. At that time the property at 2700 27th St was being used as a Spanish cultural center. In 1993 the Aidan school attempted to get BZA approval for them to have a property on Utah Avenue near St. John's College High School.

The BZA rejected their request.

In 1995 the Aidan Montessori school purchased 2700 27th St from St. Thomas Apostle Church. It does not appear that the Aidan Montessori school tried for BZA approval at that time but took over an existing parochial school without going to the BZA. Aidan sought approval only from the Woodley Park community Association and the ANC.

At the same time, it was discovered that the school was over the capacity limit of 180 students. The ANC tried to get the school to agree to a capacity limit of 180. The school would not agree, (see censure letter of 2004). In 2005, one hundred and five residents of the community signed a petition to limit the school's enrollment to 180.

This past November, someone from the school was handing out a flyer on which it said that their "early plans" would be

. Improve pedestrian flow on 27th St.

. Add a ground level meeting space for community use

Not increase student capacity or enrollment

It is disingenuous for them to claim that they are not interested in increasing enrollment. They have always been interested in increasing their enrollment.

It is irritating that the people on the ANC who voted to support Aidan's request don't live anywhere near the school.

The traffic concerns of 2004 have not disappeared, although they have diminished. (See attachment)

If the BZA accepts Aidan's request, please insist that they not be allowed to exceed their enrollment cap of 180 students ever, as long as they are in the current building.

Sincerely,

Janet Frank

2716 27th St NW

Photos show 3:43 p.m. and 8:01 a.m. on January 5 2024





Brief unofficial history of the Aidan School

Before the Aidan school acquired the property on 27th St. they had occupied classroom space at Temple Sinai on Military Road. When Temple Sinai decided it wanted to use its classroom space for its own religious preschool, the Aidan school looked for more property elsewhere and decided it wanted a piece of land on Utah Avenue near St. John's College high school. The ANC in Chevy Chase turned down their application because it determined that the Aidan Montessori school would adversely impact the neighborhood because of noise and parking limitations.

In 1963 the BZA granted permission to St. John's Apostle Church to build a parochial school on 27th St. St. John's apostle was a neighborhood church, and the school would be a neighborhood parochial school.

In those days, children walked to elementary school and there were not lines of cars bringing kids to elementary schools. St. John's apostle School was granted an enrollment capacity of 240.

The parochial school student body diminished, and the property morphed into a Spanish cultural center. In 1985, when we moved into our house a few doors up from the school, it was the Spanish cultural center.

In 1995 Aidan bought the property and building and signed an agreement with the Woodley Park community Association and the ANC that limited enrollment to 180 students. Aidan also agreed to register the agreement with a limit of 180 with the BZA within 36 months.

In the fall of 2004, the Woodley Park community Association traffic team observed traffic conditions at the school. Despite parents, knowing they were being formally watched, their cars continued to stand in double parked cues on the southbound lane for as long as 20 minutes at noon and the three 3 o'clock pick up times they blocked the alley, the crosswalk and the intersection at Garfield and 27th St. in November 2004 members of the WPCA executive committee met with Aiden and outlined the DC traffic violations mentioned above. In January 2005 the WPCA traffic committee met and voted unanimously to recommend that WPCA not approved a change in the capacity of 180 students. in January 2005 the executive committee of the WPCA passed a resolution to limit the enrollment to the originally agreed-upon student capacity of 180.

