

## Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

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**From:** Daniel Widome <daniel.widome@gmail.com>  
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**To:** DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)  
**Subject:** Letter in Support of BZA Application # 21400

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To whom it may concern:

My name is Daniel Widome, and I am the homeowner at 2711 Woodley Rd NW. I am a Woodley Park resident, neighbor, and proud parent of an Aidan Montessori School first grade student, as well as Vice President of the Aidan Board of Trustees.

I am writing to express my support for Aidan Montessori School's application in BZA case No 21400. The improvements for which the school is seeking an area variance would serve several essential functions. First and foremost, it would make the school facilities fully accessible, allowing Aidan to more truly live into its mission of maintaining "an inclusive, equitable environment, where every individual feels a genuine sense of belonging."

The improvements would also significantly improve traffic flow on 27th Street during student pick-up and drop-off times, as the removal of the monumental stairs, creation of a more accessible entrance, and addition of new off-sidewalk gathering space will allow for quicker student transitions and move pedestrian congregations off the public sidewalk.

Importantly, the renovations would also allow Aidan to significantly upgrade and modernize its internal facilities, providing ADA-compliant bathrooms and more useful student spaces. It would also create new, street-level multipurpose space that Aidan has committed to make available for community gatherings and activities, such as Woodley Park Day.

Just as importantly, the renovations make no claim to expand the maximum capacity of the school. Indeed, the proposed work would not result in any net new classroom space, so if approved, it would be physically impossible for the school to exceed its current maximum enrollment cap.

In short, the renovations would result in no additional pedestrian or car traffic in the Woodley Park neighborhood. Indeed, they would serve to facilitate and streamline such traffic.

Aidan Montessori School is an anchor of the Woodley Park community, with a significant proportion of its families and children coming from Woodley Park itself. The proposed renovations would not only strengthen Aidan's role as a beacon of primary and elementary education in DC and nationwide, but they

would also continue Aidan's tradition of being a proud neighbor and member of the Woodley Park community.

Daniel Widome  
2711 Woodley Rd. NW  
Vice President, Aidan Montessori School Board of Trustees