

March 14, 2016

HAND DELIVERY

Marnique Heath, Chairman
D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment
Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200 South
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

Re: Case No. 17300: Request for Minor Modification of Condition of Approval

Dear Chairman Heath and Members of the Board:

Pursuant to Section 3129.7 of the Zoning Regulations, the St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School ("Applicant") hereby requests approval of a modification of a condition of approval in Case No. 17300. The Applicant simultaneously asks that the Board use the authority granted to it pursuant to Section 3100.5 to waive the requirement in Section 3129.7 to hold a public hearing on this matter.

In Case No. 16852, published in December 2002, the Board approved an application to allow a private school for grades seven through nine to locate at 4925 MacArthur Boulevard. The approval included 20 conditions, one of which is the requirement to establish a shuttle bus system to transport students between the newly established campus on MacArthur Boulevard and the existing campus on Whitehaven Parkway. See Condition No. 7 of Order No. 16852 attached as Exhibit A. This condition was upheld in subsequent modifications of the order, most recently in Order No. 17300 ("Order"), which was approved in April 2005 (see Orders No. 17164 and 17300, also attached as Exhibit A.) The Applicant has abided by this condition for nearly fourteen years; however, circumstances have changed since the initial imposition of Condition No. 7. The Applicant would like to modify the condition to reflect more current environmental considerations, as well as considerations for impacts on the neighborhood and the students' and educators' time.

Condition No. 7 of the Order states:

7. The Applicant shall provide a shuttle bus system to minimize the number of vehicles coming to the subject property to drop off or pick up students.

- (a) Students who do not walk to school or arrive at the subject property by public transportation will be required to arrive at the Applicant's Whitehaven Campus between 7:30 a.m. and 7:55 a.m. on school days for transportation to the subject property by shuttle bus. In the afternoon, the students will be required to return to the Whitehaven Campus via shuttle bus for pick-up.
- (b) Students may also walk from the gymnasium at the Whitehaven Campus to the subject property after 7:30 a.m., provided they have already been recorded as having arrived at the Whitehaven Campus. Any students walking from the Whitehaven Campus to the MacArthur Campus shall walk across Whitehaven Parkway, through the Lab School campus to MacArthur Boulevard and then proceed to the subject property. At dismissal time, students may walk from the subject property to the Whitehaven Campus, for sports or for dismissal, provided they have the approval of the MacArthur Campus Director or his/her designee. Any students walking from the MacArthur Campus to the Whitehaven Campus shall walk along MacArthur Boulevard and through the Lab School property to the Whitehaven Campus.
- (c) The shuttle buses shall employ a round-trip route between the Whitehaven Campus and the subject property utilizing Whitehaven Parkway, MacArthur Blvd., Arizona Avenue, Loughboro Road, and Foxhall Road back to Whitehaven Parkway.
- (d) The shuttle buses shall stop to on- and off-load students on MacArthur Blvd. in front of the school building. The Applicant shall ensure that the shuttle buses do not idle at the subject property but are released from the Whitehaven Campus as necessary to make scheduled morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups.
- (e) The Applicant shall monitor compliance with the shuttle bus system daily and shall make such compliance a condition of student enrollment. The Applicant shall not permit students to be dropped off or picked up at the subject property at arrival and dismissal times except in prearranged special circumstances, such as when a child will arrive late due to a doctor's appointment. Student drop-offs in special circumstances shall be at the Ashby parking lot.

The Applicant proposes to modify subsection (c) above to read as follows (newly proposed language is bolded and underlined). Subsections (a), (b), (d) and (e) would remain unchanged:

(c) The shuttle buses shall employ a round-trip route between the Whitehaven Campus and the subject property utilizing Whitehaven Parkway, MacArthur Blvd., Arizona Avenue, Loughboro Road, and Foxhall Road back to Whitehaven Parkway. **If traffic conditions allow, the shuttle bus shall be permitted to take a legal U-turn on MacArthur Blvd. at Chain Bridge Road, and return to the Whitehaven Campus via MacArthur Blvd.**

The shuttle bus is used to transport the seventh and eighth graders to the Whitehaven Campus 2-3 times a day for their science and math classes, in addition to any shuttle trips the students may take for drop-off and pick-up.¹ The designated shuttle bus route is 2.8 miles and can take up to 20 minutes per trip. This route is unnecessarily circuitous; by allowing the shuttle bus to take a U-turn on MacArthur Boulevard, the trip is reduced considerably – it is only 0.9 miles roundtrip and takes only a fraction of the time. The bus would take a single-maneuver U-turn at Chain Bridge Road, which is permitted. See map of route and truck-turning diagram attached as Exhibit B. Simplifying and shortening the shuttle trip is important in terms of both the children's time and from an environmental perspective.

The Applicant has vetted this alternate route with the community, most recently at the January 2016 quarterly meeting, which indicated its support, and at the ANC meeting in February. Attached as Exhibit C is a resolution in support of this modification from the ANC.

The Applicant is not proposing to modify the other conditions imposed in Case No. 17300, but only to modify the approved shuttle bus route established in Condition No. 7(c). It asks that the Board approve this request as a modification on its consent calendar at its earliest public meeting.

Sincerely,



Allison C. Prince



Christine A. Roddy

¹ It should be noted that weather permitting, students regularly walk between the two campuses under teacher supervision, rather than taking the shuttle bus.

Certificate of Service

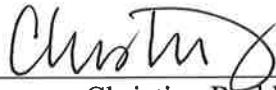
I certify that the enclosed documents were forwarded to the following addresses on March 14, 2016, by hand delivery or first class mail.

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Christine Roddy