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June 12, 2006

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Office of Zoning
Government of the District of Columbia
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

Reference Public Hearing on Case No. 06-06

Dear Sir or Madam:

My husband and I are members of "Neighborhood Input," a group of residents of an area bounded by Wisconsin, Massachusetts, and Idaho Avenues in Ward Three. We are writing to support the statements given on May 11 by Bruce G. Joseph and our ANC 3C representative, Sheila Hogan

As Mr. Joseph and Ms. Hogan indicated, we oppose the proposed text amendment to the Zoning Regulations in its current form. The proposed amendment draws an arbitrary and irrational distinction based on lot size and would not provide adequate oversight and supervision of charter school land use decisions, which can have a profound and disruptive effect on residential neighborhoods.

We are not opposed to charter schools in any way. We want kids to learn and support the expansion of educational opportunity. But charter schools, like other schools, must be responsive and responsible to the neighborhoods in which they locate.

Our neighborhood has experienced the problem of unsupervised charter school land use first hand. Christ Church of Washington, at Idaho and Massachusetts Avenues has become a charter school mill, renting its facilities to three different schools in three years with no neighborhood input and no process to address community concerns.

As a result of these charter schools, we have experienced additional traffic, noise, vandalism, loitering and drug use. One morning we awoke to find our car's side mirror destroyed. On a separate occasion, we were driving home by way of Massachusetts Avenue, turned on Idaho and almost ran into a six year old boy that went chasing after a ball while playing on Christ Church's front lawn.

As the Washington Post reported last September, "When a school is within a few blocks of your home, your quality of life is affected." We have seen the truth of that statement first hand. Remember, in the words of section 200.1, "the R-1 District is designed to protect quiet residential areas."

Our ANC has adopted a resolution calling for charter schools to require a special exception to locate in residential districts. Such a process will ensure that neighborhood concerns will be addressed and that the property will be suitable for a school. We urge you to accept the recommendation of the ANC resolution.

Sincerely,



Armando Saavedra



Maria Saavedra

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 06-06
EXHIBIT NO. 48

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