

OFFICE OF ZONING
2010 JUL -1 PM 12:30

July 1, 2010

Anthony Hood, Chairman
District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Zoning Commission Case No. 97-16A – Lowell School Modification
Approved PUD

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

Dear Chairman Hood and Members of the Commission,

CASE NO.

97-16A

EXHIBIT NO.

29

My wife, Priti, and I strongly support Lowell's application before the Commission to modify an approved Planned Unit Development. We live at 1626 Kalmia Road, which is immediately adjacent to Lowell School, and I also send my 4-year-old son to Lowell. Lowell has made numerous efforts to include its neighbors in the development of its proposed Master Plan and has adjusted its proposal significantly to address many of the concerns that have been voiced by the community. As a result, I believe the work Lowell is proposing for its campus will have a positive effect not only on my property, but also on the community at-large.

Lowell's proposal to add 7th and 8th grade classes addresses a significant community need and vastly improves the educational services Lowell will be able to provide. By expanding to the 8th grade, Lowell students will receive consistent, high-quality education in a nurturing environment up to a point where they can smoothly transition to other private or public schools with minimal disruption in their education. As it currently stands, many Lowell parents choose to move their children to other schools (few of which are close by) before they enter the 6th grade, because the sixth grade is not a natural entry point for other private schools in the area.

At the same time, the proposed addition of these two grades would put Lowell on a firmer financial footing, allowing it to maintain its admirable commitment to accepting an ethnically and socioeconomically diverse student body that draws many of its students from our neighborhood.

In terms of the proposed construction, we support Lowell's plan to remove the Fraser building and replace it with a parking deck and play area. The building's current configuration (a hold over from its days as a dormitory when the property housed Gallaudet University) is not amenable to continued use in a primary school setting. Because of its configuration, as well as the presence of asbestos in some building materials, the careful demolition of the Fraser building is a necessity in my mind. Replacing Fraser with a playing field will provide more light

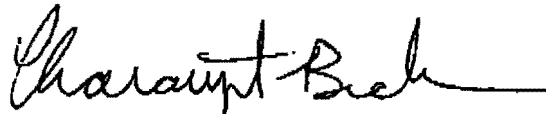
for my rear yard and greatly improve its view and privacy. At the same time, it will create a useful barrier zone separating my and my neighbors' homes from the remaining Lowell buildings, alleviating noise concerns.

From various meetings with my neighbors and the school, I understand that some individuals have expressed concerns about the Fraser demolition process. I believe any concerns about the demolition are more than adequately addressed by Lowell's agreement to pay for a qualified, independent expert retained by a Task Force made up of community members.

I also have appreciated Lowell's continuing efforts to resolve traffic issues raised by the proposed expansion. Lowell has consistently demonstrated its desire to minimize adverse impact on the neighborhood and its willingness to work with neighbors to creatively resolve issues as they have arisen.

Priti and I appreciate your consideration of our comments and we ask that the Commission approve Lowell's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charanjit Brahma", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charanjit Brahma

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

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