

Dear BZA members,

My husband, Lloyd, and I live in Ward 4 (4C02), approximately 3 blocks from the Kingsbury Center, and we **support BZA case #19581**.

My understanding is that 4C02 residents and extended neighborhood (including those living near the site) are supportive of LAMB, a Pk-Grade 5 public charter school, moving to the site. I think we are very fortunate to be replacing one school with another - given the large property in such a prominent neighborhood, it is likely to be attractive to many developers or uses that would be highly disruptive to our quiet neighborhood.

**We are also fortunate that the school, LAMB, has a reputation as an excellent school both in and out of the classroom. Peace, character building, and community are core components within LAMB.**

That said, since Kingsbury has been under enrolled for quite some time, it will be a change for many of us. And I appreciate those neighbors living even closer will feel some impact. However, I believe that impact has been exaggerated. Specifically,

1) LAMB has not proposed major changes to current structures or grassy/wooded areas with the exception of possible removing one tree to accommodate a gymnasium. The Montessori approach to learning actually encourages interaction and respect for the environment. Yes, that might mean additional noise created by happy, productive children but this is during school hours.

**Thus, noise, lighting, infrastructure and environmental effects will be negligible with the occupancy of LAMB.**

2) LAMB's move is contingent on the school consolidating from three separate buildings to one site. Maintaining Kingsbury current enrollment of ~100 children (300 max) is not viable for such a costly site for any school looking to move there. Currently, my understanding is that Kingsbury is renting out the facility and grounds during off-school hours to help cover costs. This is not obviously desirable for anyone in the neighborhood - we should not put LAMB in a similar situation.

With LAMB's arrival the school will be busier and that means more traffic. However, it is important to note that because of the already existing parking spaces there is no need for parents to double or illegally park on residential streets. Also, LAMB currently has staggered drop-off in the morning that will not interfere with West EC. So while there will be more parents dropping off children, it will not all occur within a 15 minute window and it's possible to have LAMB parents (who are expected to volunteer 30 hours or more)/staff to assist with helping to keep things orderly and moving along. The scary "1000 more daily car trips" is simply not true. Currently, at the Military Road/Missouri Campus, folks are walking or biking. No doubt this would continue, and perhaps increase due to all the LAMB families nearby, at Kingsbury. Most of the children at LAMB currently attend with a sibling - this alone will reduce the number of car trips if a consolidated campus is allowed. Being on a major bus line (14th St) will also accommodate those living N/S of the site to bus instead of drive.

Not to mention, that currently many LAMB families carpool. I see this only continuing for those living outside of Wards 1 & 4.

In addition, LAMB will only be fully in operation the mandated 180 days of classroom instruction for about 8 hrs/day - greatly minimizing the overall impact to the immediate neighbors.

**I end with the simple fact that we live in a dynamic city.** One that has seen an increase in residents and subsequently, young children (just go to any Rec Center or Farmer's Market on a Saturday!). **There is a need to accommodate growth in a manageable, thoughtful way. And I believe accommodating LAMB zoning case so that it can thrive in its new location is an important step but also the right thing to do for our neighborhood.**

Thank you and I look forward to a positive outcome from Wednesday's hearing,

Julie Ann Kase\* and Lloyd A. Foulds Jr.\*

Parents of Ross Foulds (PK-4 LAMB; former PK-3 West EC) 5210 13th St. NW

\*currently adding to car traffic driving to LAMB MO campus daily but look forward to walking/biking to Kingsbury and catching the bus to work