

November 14, 2017

DC Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th St NW #200S
Washington, DC 20001
bz submissions@dc.gov

RE: Letter of Support for BZA Case #19581 – LAMB PCS at 5000 14th St NW

Dear Members of the Board:

I am a resident of the 1300 block of Emerson Street, NW which is diagonal to the campus of the Kingsbury School and the future site of the Latin American Montessori Bilingual Public Charter School ("LAMB"). I understand that LAMB wants to move into the Kingsbury campus next year. My family and I, including my four adult children support this move because we believe that the best use of the site is for it to remain as a school. I wholly support LAMB's move to the site which includes the full enrollment of 600 students.

I support LAMB's request to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA). We understand that the request specifically asks for an exemption to the 16th Street Heights special overlay. In addition, LAMB is requesting an increase in the enrollment cap to 600 students over six years as the current building has capacity to hold more than that. I also understand that there will be eventual construction of a gym on the grounds. I am agreeable with the BZA granting and exemption to the 16th Street Heights special overlay. I played an integral part in securing the special overlay and LAMB's request does not run afoul of our intent in seeking the overlay back then. I still have the paperwork we used for the process.

There is also a perception that LAMB's 600 students would result in overcrowding because Kingsbury currently has 300 students only. I share personal knowledge about the structure of Kingsbury's student composition as my daughter attended Kingsbury at this site. Kingsbury's requested accommodations for only 300 students because its students learn differently and receive services such as occupational therapy and speech pathology, etc, services that require additional rooms and space. In my daughter's 5th grade classroom for example, which was approximately 25 feet by 15 feet, there were only six (6) students in that large class room. Kingsbury's classroom and space needs are, thus, not comparable to LAMB's, and LAMB's request to add 300 more students is simply a request to utilize what the building can accommodate in the first place.

LAMB has worked closely with the community, attending multiple meetings and making themselves readily available. They have also extensively worked with our ANC 4C during this application process. Indeed LAMB has proven to be very responsive and committed to being a good neighbor and active participant.

Having worked along the 14th Street business corridor for over 20 years, this is the first time I am aware of a prospective purchaser of such a large tract reaching out to the community to mitigate concerns long before they proceed with the purchase. They have listened to concerns and they have gone as far as making commitments to

improve our streets so that the students and West Elementary and LAMB will have safe passage to school.

I am looking forward to LAMB being a part of my community. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach me at (202) 277-4593.

Sincerely,

Audrey Nwanze
1308 Emerson Street, NW