

December 18th, 2017

Dear Members of the Board of Zoning Adjustment,

My two daughters are students at the Latin American Montessori Bilingual Public Charter School and we live at 1875 Newton St NW. We would like to ask for your support for LAMB's move to the Kingsbury building as a permanent home for our school.

For fifteen years, LAMB has been the only public, accredited, dual-language immersion Montessori school in the DC metropolitan area and one of a handful nationwide. LAMB's education model has proven results, with consistent placement in the top tier of charter schools in the city. Year after year, LAMB has a waiting list of hundreds of families who hope their children have access to this high quality school. LAMB administration has worked to keep the school small, but also slowly grow to serve as many of the city's families as it can. We admire their commitment to this.

Out of necessity, LAMB has moved five times. Many public charter schools face this situation in this city. But with each move, LAMB is seeking to get a little bit closer to its dream of one campus for all of their students. Kingsbury offers so much for LAMB's students, with secure abundant exterior green space, off-street parking, and sufficient interior space to support the current school size and future growth to a maximum of 600 students (PK3-5th grade) by 2023. Therefore, we look forward to working with our community so that the enhancements to the Kingsbury property are mutually beneficially for both the community and our school.

Kingsbury fulfills LAMB's dream. Re-locating to Kingsbury means over time all of LAMB students can be together under one roof. Instead of operating from three sites, we can all be together. The amount of resources that the school can save and share to enrich academic and social development for our very diverse student population will be phenomenal. The consolidated campus will also reduce traffic in the city, as a large portion of LAMB students live in the Ward 4 area and would be able to walk/bike to school.

We are heartened that the ANC recently voted 6-0-1 in support of LAMB's proposal for a process to eventually increase enrollment to 600 students. From the comments from ANC Commissioners, we believe they see that LAMB has worked to be good neighbors and address concerns of neighbors.

Best,

Mariana Orloff

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.19581
EXHIBIT NO.135