

September 13, 2017

An and John Almquist  
4902 Arkansas Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to demonstrate my strong support for the Latin American Montessori Bilingual (LAMB) PCS and its plans to relocate to the Kingsbury Center at 5000 14th Street, N.W. Please feel free to forward our letter to whomever you wish. We hope that this letter will help LAMB gain support from the District of Columbia Government, the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANC) and the Board of Zoning (BZA) Application - Case Number 19851. Which is the special exemption to include building a gymnasium that will also double as a meeting space, both of which can be open for community use outside of school hours.

Our names are An and John Almquist and we are the proud parents of Alexander who has attended LAMB for two years. We live in Ward 4 at 4902 Arkansas Ave, NW. An has taught in Ward 4 beginning in 2002 and we are now raising our son here too. We are very proud to be a part of the 16th Street Heights neighborhood and community. Kingsbury is two blocks from our home. The proximity provides the unique opportunity for Alex to walk to school and share the same experience as we did growing up. Almost 50% of my fellow LAMB families and 25% of staff and teachers also live in Ward 4. As graduates of K-12 public schools, we specifically chose LAMB for our son's education.

LAMB is a phenomenal institution that offers a bilingual and a Montessori curriculum taught by excellent teachers and committed staff. We love the school so much that we were willing to drive to the South Dakota campus each day—twice to ensure that Alex was able to attend a magnificent school. However, the one hour-long round trip in the morning with an additional one-hour round trip at the end of the day has taken a toll on our family, car, and our time. This year, we are closer to our home by enrolling at the Missouri campus. So far, the proximity of Alex's school has been a game-changer for us.

As community members of 16<sup>th</sup> Street Heights (SSH), we are invested in the neighborhood and very excited about the possibility of LAMB being a part of it. We know other families who attend LAMB who also live in the community, and are equally excited about making Kingsbury our new home. Nevertheless, we also understand some of the concerns that may arise due to this transition and I am certain that the LAMB community will work with other stakeholders for the best possible outcome and solution.

Just as Kingsbury has a rich history, LAMB does as well. 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 is more than a school. For some, it is a home away from home as many students and staff are there for 10 hours a day between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Out of necessity, LAMB has moved five times, each time seeking to get closer to its dream of an exterior green space where our children can play, off-street parking, and sufficient interior space to support our current school size and future growth to a maximum of 600 students (PK3-5th grade) by 2023. Therefore we look forward to working with the community so that the enhancements to the Kingsbury property are mutually beneficial for both the community and our school.

Kingsbury fulfills LAMB's dream. The relocation to Kingsbury means that over time, all of the 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 diverse student population will be economical and valuable. We need your help and support to make this dream a reality for our children and families and for LAMB to put down roots in the SSH Neighborhood. The realization of this dream will enable LAMB and the community, ANC, and BZA to work together to support the principles of public education.

Best regards,

An Almquist  
John Almquist