

September 13, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

We are Jocelyn & Jamie Richgels and our family lives at 1302 Delafield P NW and we have been a proud Latin American Montessori Bilingual (LAMB) Public Charter School family for over 7 years. Our children are in 4th, 1st grade and a new start this year in PK3.

I am writing this letter in support of LAMB re-locating to the Kingsbury Center at 5000 14th Street, N.W. It is my hope that this letter will help LAMB gain much needed support from the District of Columbia Government, particularly this Advisory Neighborhood Commission. **Critically important is a request for support of the Board of Zoning (BZA) Application - Case Number 19851 special exemption to include building a gymnasium which will also double as a meeting space, both of which can be open for community use outside of school hours.**

We have lived in the ANC 4C-02 SMD for over 15 years, are happy and settled in the 16th Street Heights neighborhood. Kingsbury is only two blocks from our house. This is our neighborhood and the opportunity to conduct more and more of our daily activities in the neighborhood where we live is something we take pride in as long-time residents. We frequent many of the businesses on 14th street just down from Kingsbury. We imagine many of our fellow school families will find it easy to frequent the same local businesses if this move is approved. Almost 50% of my fellow LAMB families and 25% of staff and teachers also live in Ward 4.

We feel fortunate that our children are able to attend LAMB, and join other families who are committed to a bilingual Montessori education. We also feel fortunate to have found our first home in 16th Street Heights and feel settled in this welcoming neighborhood. Since our children entered LAMB, we have dreamt about what it would be like to have our children's school located at the beautiful Kingsbury campus, to walk out our front door for the 2-block walk to school!

We are invested in this neighborhood and are excited about the possibility of our children walking to school. We know many other families who attend LAMB, live in the neighborhood, who are equally excited about making Kingsbury our new home. Some of our peers who live farther away will carpool and/or take the abundant public transportation in the vicinity of the school.

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'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. We personally have driven our children to 3 different LAMB campuses for school because of our commitment to the education that they receive. 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

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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.

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 16th Street Neighborhood. The realization of this dream will enable LAMB and the community to work together to support the principles of public education.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn & Jamie Richgels

1302 Delafield PL NW