

To: The members of ANC 4C

Comments in support of LAMB's move to Kingsbury Campus  
For ANC 4C meeting  
September 25, 2017

As the parent of a pre-k student at LAMB's Missouri Ave. campus, we would like to urge ANC4C to fully support LAMB's move to the Kingsbury campus.

Need, and demand, for bilingual education in Ward 4 is high.

Twenty-five percent of young children in Ward 4 speak Spanish at home, and 23% of Ward 4 residents are foreign born. Of that, 61% are of Latin American origin.<sup>1</sup> These are the highest numbers in DC with the exception of Ward 1, where the numbers are only marginally higher. Census data show that Ward 4's Hispanic/Latino population has increased dramatically, from only 4.2% in 1990 to 19% in 2010,<sup>2</sup> while data from DC's Office of Latino Affairs shows that the Latino population increased more in Ward 4 than in Ward 1 from 2000-2010.<sup>3</sup>

Yet, while Ward 1 has 4 DCPS elementary schools with a bilingual program, Ward 4 has only 1. Because of this, we both believe strongly that LAMB's success is of great importance to Ward 4 residents, and also strongly support the development of additional bilingual programs in Ward 4's DCPS elementary schools. We believe that LAMB could be an ally and a resource for this at West Elementary and other schools in Ward 4.

LAMB has been committed to Ward 4 and its large Spanish-speaking population since 2003, with half of all LAMB students residing in Ward 4.<sup>4</sup> Just over half of the student body is Hispanic or Latino and 37% are English language learners.<sup>5</sup> LAMB further benefits its student population by providing a rich Montessori environment in which students learn or perfect their English or Spanish with a goal of not simply speaking or understanding, but of being fully bi-literate.

Our family is bilingual and bicultural, and we feel extremely fortunate to be able to send our daughter to LAMB. For us, LAMB's success as a school means that our daughter will continue to embrace her Latina identity and her Chilean roots. It

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<sup>1</sup> <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/61000US11004-ward-4-dc/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.neighborhoodinfodc.org/wards/Nbr\\_prof\\_wrd4.html](https://www.neighborhoodinfodc.org/wards/Nbr_prof_wrd4.html)

<sup>3</sup>

[https://ola.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ola/publication/attachments/fy11\\_12\\_agencyperformance\\_officeoflatinoaffairs\\_responses\\_indices2011.pdf](https://ola.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ola/publication/attachments/fy11_12_agencyperformance_officeoflatinoaffairs_responses_indices2011.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.dcpsb.org/sites/default/files/report/2015-2016%20Annual%20Report%28DSFC%29%28LatinAmericMontesBilingPCS%29.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.dcpsb.org/school/latin-american-montessori-bilingual-pcs-lamb>

means that she will be able to talk with her grandparents on Skype and bond with her cousins when we travel to Chile. Like many other Ward 4 parents who have immigrated to the US, the bilingual Montessori education provided by LAMB is deeply connected to our family's identity.

LAMB's move to the Kingsbury campus represents an important step in its ability to successfully provide a bilingual Montessori experience to the many families like ours in Ward 4. Operating out of one campus will remove many logistical hurdles and challenges and allow for a greater focus on the students and the community.

We urge ANC4C to fully support LAMB's move to Kingsbury and the zoning exception required for this move.

Sincerely,

Rodrigo Alvarez Muñoz  
Cassandra Ogren  
65 Underwood Pl NW

Cc: Council Member Brandon Todd  
ANC 4B-07 Member Judi Jones