

November 13, 2017

D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001
bzsubmissions@dc.gov

Re: Letter of Support for BZA Case No. 19581 – LAMB PCS at 5000 14th Street NW

Dear Members of the Board:

My family resides in the Sixteenth Street Heights neighborhood (Kennedy Street NW). We understand that the Latin American Montessori Bilingual (LAMB) Public Charter School would like to move their school to the Kingsbury campus next year. We support this move, including the eventual enrollment of 600 students, because we believe the best use of that space is for it to remain a school.

We fully support LAMB's request to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA). We understand that this request specifically asks for an exemption to the Sixteenth Street Heights special overlay; an increase of the enrollment cap to 600 students over 6 years, which the building has capacity to hold; and for the eventual construction of a gym on the grounds.

LAMB has worked closely with ANC 4C throughout its community engagement process for this application. LAMB has engaged many residents, West Education Campus, and the ANC to ensure that the school will be an asset to the community and that any harmful impacts will be mitigated. LAMB hosted many community meetings, met with individual neighbors, listened to community concerns, and worked collaboratively with residents to find solutions to their concerns. LAMB has proven to be responsive and committed to being a good neighbor.

On a personal note, my children attend LAMB, and we live within walking distance of this new campus. We love that this will allow more school resources to go to support the kids who attend LAMB, many whom fall into a lower economic bracket. The large campus space allows for ease of drop off and pick up for families that do drive, and since 50% of our students live in Ward 4, walking is certainly an option. We are supporters of the local elementary school (West) and love the idea of both schools working together and sharing resources. I also believe that with so many kids in the area, it will be hard to overlook the need for traffic and safety solutions to protect kids attending both schools.

We look forward to your response, and hope that you will agree that this move will be beneficial to our neighborhood. I'd be hard pressed to come up with a better option of converting from a school to a school.

Regards,

Courtney Sieloff
1352 Kennedy Street NW

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.19581
EXHIBIT NO.79