

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
441 4th Street NW  
Suite 200/210S  
Washington DC, 20001  
November 27, 2017

Re: BZA Application No. 19599 (Georgetown Day School project – 4200 Davenport Street NW)

Dear Board of Zoning Adjustment:

I write in support of the Application of Georgetown Day School, Application No. 19599, to construct a new private school in the R-2, R-3, and MU-4 Zones at 4200 Davenport Street NW (Squares 1672 and 1673, Lots 4, 14, 804, 812, 815, 824, and 822).

I live in Tenleytown and formerly walked to and shopped at the Safeway. I think the unified campus for the School is a sensible use of the site and a use that fits with the neighborhood, specifically that it is in keeping with the combination of residential, schools, religious institutions, parks and playgrounds, and small businesses with an emphasis on local businesses that help give Tenleytown its “village” type flavor. It was these qualities which attracted me to Tenleytown twenty years ago, that enable a sense of community to remain rooted and flourish in this neighborhood, and that keep drawing new families to Tenleytown.

Our neighborhood has undergone a lot of changes since the days of Babe’s Billiards (whose loss some of us still lament). As our area braces for more development and changes, I’m mindful of the benefits of being so accessible to public transportation, and I agree with the imperative felt by many, many, neighbors not to “Friendship Heights-ify” this village-within-a-city. I think that the unified campus would be a good fit for our neighborhood, especially as compared with other uses (e.g. large commercial/retail) to which the Safeway site could be put. For these reasons, I would welcome having the unified campus in our neighborhood at the Safeway site.

On the question of traffic: as a parent who deals with “morning rush hour” traffic every weekday, sometimes on foot, sometimes on public transportation, and sometimes in a private vehicle, I am concerned about vehicular traffic in the neighborhood. It is well known that the vehicle traffic flow in Tenleytown needs to be improved and the corridor needs to be made more pedestrian-friendly, something you are studying and working on. I think that the proximity of the unified campus to public transportation (Metro and bus) will be an asset in terms of traffic. I trust that Georgetown Day School is listening to the concerns of local residents and will work with the local community to help ensure that vehicular traffic generated by the unified campus will be routed in ways that are responsive to these concerns. I hope that you will consider how pedestrian flow can be enhanced as the project moves forward. I also hope that the school will

encourage its unified campus families to use public transportation (which kids love), and will consider installing charging stations for electric cars so as to support efforts by teachers and staff to reduce pollution. Overall, I think the traffic impacts will be considerably less than other uses that could be located on the Safeway site. I therefore support this application.

I am not affiliated with Georgetown Day School.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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