

January 29, 2018

Name: Erica S. Merson, Ph.D.

Street Address: 5426 MacArthur Blvd, NW

City, State, Zip: Washington, DC 20016

**Re: BZA Application No. 19694 of 5104 MacArthur LLC and
Palisades Montessori; Letter in Support**

To the DC Board of Zoning Adjustment and ANC 3D:

I am writing in support of BZA Application No. 19694 of Palisades Montessori, for special exception relief from the parking requirement, to allow Palisades Montessori to operate a matter-of-right use at 5104 MacArthur Blvd, NW.

I understand that no parking is available on the subject property, as the property is land-locked, and that relief for two (2) parking spaces will not have a material impact on the surrounding neighborhood. The subject block is a commercial block, with several restaurants having a much greater impact on daily parking than would a small, local Montessori school use.

The community aspect created by the preschools and schools in the Palisades is a concrete civic asset that should be highly valued. High-quality child development services strengthen the ties that families have to their neighborhoods, and Palisades Montessori has served the Palisades community since 1984. The proposed new location at 5104 MacArthur Blvd. NW, will provide expanded benefits for local parents and children, while bringing badly-needed access to infant and toddler care to a neighborhood in demand of these vital family-oriented services.

I urge the Board to grant the requested relief and allow this community to better meet the great demand for child development services.

Thank you,

