

October 25, 2021

Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW
Suite 200 S
Washington DCN 20001

RE: Case # 20472 River School Proposal - OPPOSITION

Dear Chairman Hill and Members of the Board of Zoning Adjustment

I am a resident of Washington DC, and have lived at 4535 Van Ness Street since 1977. That is 4 blocks west of the proposed site for the River School.

I ask that you oppose the River School's application for zoning exceptions, Case 20472, and that you oppose the purchase, relocation and significant expansion of the school to 4220 Nebraska Avenue, NW.

The traffic and safety issues which would result from this plan are extreme. The intersection most affected by the plan - 42nd Street, Nebraska and Van Ness - is already problematic. I am surprised that any transportation expert would consider adding to the enormous amount of traffic already traversing Nebraska Avenue every day, traffic generated by the large number of institutions in the area: American University and Law School, the Presbyterian and Methodist kindergardens, Janney School, and Homeland Security. Nebraska Avenue is also a major route for commuters to cross the city. There are also city buses regularly on Western, there are shuttles operating on Nebraska. Adding traffic to pickup and drop-off children will strain the intersections and result in gridlock for those on Nebraska. Undoubtedly, an excessive amount of traffic will pile up on to Warren, Van Ness and 42nd Streets.

There is a good deal of pedestrian traffic in the area due to the schools, and the playground on Van Ness. Adding lanes of cars lining up on Van Ness and 42nd Streets, attempting to get to the River School, could endanger pedestrians.

I have watched through the years I have lived in the neighborhood as various institutions build and expand. Always there are assurances that traffic safety and volume will be managed; always the assurances prove empty as traffic volume, commuter traffic, cut through traffic increase with no corresponding increase in enforcement or safety mitigation. I was a Vice Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board before I retired. When there are too many potential safety deficiencies, insufficient recognition of the human factors which accompany delays and gridlock, overcrowding of existing systems and networks, then accidents happen. I think the

traffic alone generated by the proposed school would be sufficient grounds for denying the application.

Thank you for your consideration and your service.

Sincerely,

Carol J. Carmody

cc:

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