

13 October 2021

from: Kathleen Gallagher
4600 Asbury Pl NW
Washington DC 20016
ANC3E

to: BZA
Washington DC

Dear Commissioners:

This letter concerns BZA Application 20472 - The River School. The BZA hearing is scheduled for 27 October 2021. I am writing in support of their application to build a new school at the large property at the intersections of Nebraska Avenue, 42nd Street, Van Ness Street NW. The neighborhood opposition, judging from their signs which are incidentally largely posted on public property, cite the increase in traffic as their only point.

This large property is close to many schools which also of course generate some traffic — Georgetown Day School, National Presbyterian School, - it is also close to Wisconsin Avenue which has traffic and of course Nebraska Avenue has traffic. It is in my view suburban traffic - a bit congested at rush hour, but otherwise very manageable.

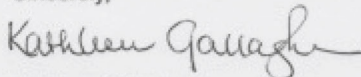
The proposed school enrolls students up to third grade and focuses on hearing disabled students to some extent.

Obviously the families dropping off young children will generate some traffic, early morning and mid-afternoon, but not really contribute to rush hour. And it will serve the community very well - this is a family neighborhood. There are many schools and many other services that attract families. We all enjoy a great environment and property values that keep rising as a direct result of how pleasant it is to live here. I am frankly amazed that people seem inclined to buy here, as it is a great community with access to all the pleasures of city living, move, and then start complaining about traffic as they are unpacking the moving boxes.

This is a valuable property which will inevitably become something other than what it is right now. There are many possibilities, with a school at the top of the list. Other options might include yet another 8-story condo building perhaps? Another Whole Foods?

What could possibly be better than a school?

Sincerely,



Kathleen Gallagher