

From: [Alison Silvers](#)
To: [DCOZ - BZA Submissions \(DCOZ\)](#)
Subject: Comments in Support of BZA Application No. 20472: The River School
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Dear Chairperson and/or Secretary of the BZA,
I write in support of BZA Application No. 20472: The River School. We are members of the ANC3D community and our children have attended the River School for the past seven years. I am also the co-president of the River School Parent Association and have served as a room parent and the Community Service Chair for many years.

We support the River School's proposal for its new campus wholeheartedly as both a River family and as members of the community. River is an exemplary educational institution and a considerate and responsible part of our vibrant neighborhood. While there are numerous reasons River's proposal should be granted, in this letter we wanted to address the issue of parent traffic for pick-up and drop-off that came up in the previous ANC proceedings and was a point of concern for other community members.

Parents and caregivers drop-off and pick-up their children at most schools in DC. While this inevitably creates some temporary and minor congestion in the area immediately surrounding a school, there are many policies and safeguards that River in particular has implemented to address and alleviate potential issues. These include but are not limited to: staggered arrival and drop-off times, retired police serving as crossing guards and directing traffic, walkers entering in a separate line, and faculty and teachers removing and putting children in cars so that parents do not exit their vehicles causing additional delay. The whole process at school pick-up is currently over in thirty minutes from start to finish and only impacts one lane of traffic on MacArthur Blvd. while the other lane always remains free and clear for cars to move swiftly by. Parents only cue a few minutes before the start time and the traffic guards ensure that the through traffic lane is always moving and clear, while also making sure that walkers and bikers remain safe. Parking signs in the local neighborhood are obeyed by the parents and day after day the system runs smoothly.

With its new campus proposal River is introducing even more safeguards, public transportation and carpool incentives, and traffic signal improvements that will not only address the modest increase in its new student population, but improve traffic flow and alleviate congestion well beyond the current levels in its new neighborhood. The studies conducted show that if traffic is indeed a primary (and for many their only) concern, the community will more than benefit from River's new campus.

Thank you for your consideration and for approaching this process with a fair and open-mind, and looking at the many innovative ideas and concessions the school has proposed to accommodate the concerns of its new neighbors.

All our best,
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