

July 12, 2010

**VIA Overnight Delivery**

Hon. Francoise Carrier  
Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Re: Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart  
Mandatory Referral of SHA Road Improvements at Rockville Pike and  
Cedar Lane, Bethesda, Maryland

Dear Ms. Carrier:

Our firm represents the Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart ("Stone Ridge") regarding the anticipated condemnation of a portion of its campus by the Maryland State Highway Administration ("SHA") to accommodate road improvements at the intersection of Rockville Pike and Cedar Lane in Bethesda, Maryland. Stone Ridge is a K-12 Catholic school for girls located on approximately thirty-four acres in the southeast quadrant of the Rockville Pike/Cedar Lane intersection. The proposed intersection improvements will impact the entire frontage of the school campus. The purpose of this letter is to provide Stone Ridge's perspective on the proposed intersection project.

Overall, Stone Ridge is pleased with SHA's cooperation and willingness to address Stone Ridge's concerns as it develops and refines the proposed intersection plans. While Stone Ridge would certainly prefer to maintain its current campus configuration without SHA impacts, it recognizes the importance of SHA's project to provide additional transportation capacity to accommodate the relocation of Walter Reed Army Medical Center to the National Naval Medical Center, Stone Ridge's immediate neighbor to the south. The plan before you reflects a mutual and constructive effort by SHA and Stone Ridge to minimize campus impacts and, where appropriate, to adjust the campus to better accommodate SHA's improvements.

Notably, SHA and Stone Ridge have worked together to re-locate a sizable stormwater management facility, originally located on Stone Ridge's property, to a more suitable location on nearby public park property. We have also worked together in adjusting campus entrance locations on both Rockville Pike and Cedar Lane to safer and more convenient locations for the betterment of both internal and external circulation. In addition, SHA has been willing to install retaining walls in areas where slope grading would be awkward or inconsistent with the

Hon. Francoise Carrier  
July 12, 2010  
Page 2

campus' character, and SHA has graciously agreed to allow Stone Ridge to erect monument signage on SHA property at the heart of the Rockville Pike and Cedar Lane intersection.

Stone Ridge is aware that, notwithstanding its cooperative relationship with SHA, much work still remains as the plans continue to be refined. The exact location of Stone Ridge's Rockville Pike entrance is still in flux, primarily due to grading complications. Stone Ridge and SHA still need to determine how to address the relocation of campus fencing and the prominent Rockville Pike entrance gate (once the entrance location is finalized). The installation of a traffic signal on Cedar Lane at the relocated campus entrance across from Elmhurst Parkway is very important to both Stone Ridge and our neighbor across Cedar Lane, Locust Hill Citizens Association. Stone Ridge looks forward to working with SHA on these issues, and others, in a mutually satisfying manner as the plans progress.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the status of the plans at this time.

Sincerely,



Patrick L. O'Neil

cc: Barb Solberg  
Christina Minkler  
Lawrence Cole  
George Milne  
Steve Tawes