

Jackie Henderson

12
9-12-15

From: ellen@bowwowpets.net
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 11:21 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sittton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #80854: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Additional files re Montessori School Ex

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 80854.

Request Details:

- Name: Ellen Epstein
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7038505559
- Email: ellen@bowwowpets.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Additional files re Montessori School Expansion problems
- Attachment: [Montessori comments.pdf](#)
- Expected Response Date: Thursday, September 17

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

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DRIVING/PARKING COMMENTS

We are all quite concerned about the expansion plan of the school and the parking/driving issues that will undoubtedly arise from this plan.

We think that it is possible that the school is not truly aware of the difficulties the residents of E. Windsor Ave. already face at the present time and how we are afraid of the impact of adding more students and teachers will have.

We support the school wholeheartedly, but this proposed growth spurt seems to be the tipping point. Up to now everyone had little or no objections to the growth of the school, but there has to be a limit and we believe it has already been reached.

It's a great little school, and the people associated with it are very kind. It started out super small, and they have been expanding annually. I've never had any issues with their requests; however, the current request is to increase enrollment from 64 to 102 students (plus more teachers) and I'm concerned that's just too much expansion for our little block.

My biggest concern is with the traffic caused at drop off and pick up time. Also, on-street parking has become an issue through the years, and that's why I had to put in a driveway on my property.

We are surprised that the Fire Department has approved the plan, as there is no way that a Fire Truck could get through the street during the D/O and P/U times. If one car is coming in the direction of the Fire Vehicle and there are 2 lines of cars filling the street, there is NO WAY that a driver can pull over to let them through.

I have been blocked into my driveway by the line of cars waiting to P/U or D/O the students. I have had to wait until it is clear to back out and turn my car in either direction.

Delivery trucks have parked directly opposite my home and have blocked me in during deliveries. I'm not sure which school was being serviced but there is no room for large trucks on the block.

My house and driveway is directly across from the driveway of the proposed location for the school expansion. Everything that goes on in the school is directly across the street from my home. With 62 students it has created problems backing out of my driveway because of the line of cars waiting to pick up the children. They have parked across my driveway and blocked it or have partially blocked my driveway so that I couldn't move my car around them to get out. My neighbors and I have already been inundated with cars, traffic and no parking for our friends and relatives to visit us. This is a beautiful urban neighborhood that is very desirable and we are privileged to live here. Why ruin it by putting more traffic, more parking problems and more noise on the block? This will definitely happen when you double the school attendance.

I hope the people making the decision on this will take into consideration the effect on neighbors who reside on Windsor and Clyde.

I have experienced such a backup of traffic that I could not turn onto Windsor Ave. from Mt. Vernon Ave. at pickup time. I am afraid that the Main Street could suffer from major traffic jams from this backup.

Although the Fire Dept. has said they have not had problems, we believe that they have been "lucky" to have not had calls at P/U or D/O times in the past. In the future they may have to divert to an adjacent street to get through.

I suggested they get orange cones and one or two traffic cops/crossing guards at block off Windsor Ave from Clyde St to Mt Vernon Ave to all cars and trucks during loading and unloading times except people dropping off kids, emergency vehicles and those of us who live on the street. Otherwise, it's going to be chaos during those times.

I doubt anyone from the City and Fire Dept has physically watched the current morning and afternoon loading and unloading. Windsor is the only street that goes straight through to Braddock, we get more thru traffic than other streets, including trucks going to the shops and restaurants on Mt Vernon. It's not a big deal except when the school is loading and unloading. Sometimes delivery trucks, garbage trucks or large cars (SUVs and pickup trucks) have to sit on Windsor going East for 5 min until they can get through.

My only comment/concern is with the proposed expanded loading and unloading times of 8-9a, 12-12:30pm, 1-1:30pm and 3-3:45pm. That is a longer loading and unloading time than is currently in place. My driveway at 107 E Windsor Ave. is directly across the street from where they load and unload and it can be difficult to get out of the driveway when there are cars not only unloading kids but waiting in a line down to Mt. Vernon Ave.

On-street parking has become more difficult recently. What is the plan to ensure no teachers need to park along the side streets? What about parents who volunteer, etc?

As a homeowner on E. Windsor Ave, I am NOT supportive of additional parking though. We often have a difficult time parking in front of my house and this has been getting harder and harder lately. Recently, some driver scraped my new car parked on the corner of E. Windsor and Clyde. I am NOT saying it was a Montessori person, but it was either in the middle of the night or early in the morning. I do not wish to have any more parking allowed for the school.

How will the parking in the pastor's driveway work? What happens when someone at the top of the driveway needs to go somewhere?

Speaking of noise, we don't know what they plan to do in the large side yard of this single family home. Is this going to be a play area for these children, which will bring a huge amount of noise during the day for the neighbors?

We live at 26 E Windsor Ave (on the corner of E Windsor and Clyde Avenues) and our driveway is on Clyde Ave facing the church where the school is housed. On several occasions we have not been able to enter or exit our driveway either due to people parking and blocking the driveway. Clyde is a narrow two-way street and cars are allowed to park on both sides. At times when our driveway is not completely blocked by a parked car, it's has been effectively blocked due lack of space to turn into or out of the driveway without scraping an adjacent parked car.

The last time the Montessori school proposed to expand, we did not express our concerns to the DRCA or the city, but instead spoke to an administrator at the Montessori school. The administrator said that the school tried to discourage parents and employees from parking on Clyde, which we appreciate, but since the school expanded to 64 students the problems accessing our driveway have become worse. We expect that the additional expansion (almost doubling the number of students) will result in even greater problems. The situation has become so bad that once, after a parked car completely blocked our driveway for more than two hours, we had a tow truck remove the car in order to allow us to exit our driveway.

NOISE COMMENTS

I work from home and cannot imagine what it will be like to have a parking lot and a playground directly across the street from me.

I have heard many complaints from the residents on E. Custis St. about the unbearable noise during playtime and do not want that issue to become relevant on our quiet street as well.

CHILD SAFETY COMMENTS

The amount of students had already doubled from the original plan and now they want to double it again. I feel it would be twice as congested and dangerous for that many children to be running around outside.

The safety of the children would be greatly compromised by putting a play area on Windsor Ave. with the amount of traffic flow.

I have seen firsthand how larger cars (SUVs, Pickup trucks) and delivery trucks can't get down Windsor Ave going east during loading and unloading times, especially when there are cars parked on the south side of the street. Frankly, I see this as a security concern for the kids as much as a traffic issue. If a kid darted into the street after being dropped off, they could easily get hit by oncoming traffic.

There have been groups of children playing basketball/kickball in the parsonage driveway after school. This is quite hazardous when the ball bounces into the street, both to the children and to passing vehicles.

Comments collected from emails received from: (in order of address)

Ellen Epstein
113C E. Windsor Ave.

Sharon Edwards
Lifelong resident of Rosemont and Del Ray
113B E. Windsor Ave.

Liz Chadderdon
107 E. Windsor Ave.

Susan Bernstein
105A E. Windsor Ave.

Leslie and Kirk Steffenson
105B E. Windsor Ave.

Nicola Conte
39 E Windsor Ave.

Melissa Panger/Norman Birchfield
26 E. Windsor Ave.

Jackie Henderson

From: ellen@bowwowpets.net
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 11:16 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #80852: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council RE:
<https://alexandria.legistar.com/Legi>

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 80852.

Request Details:

- Name: Ellen Epstein
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7038505559
- Email: ellen@bowwowpets.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: RE: <https://alexandria.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2453636&GUID=D52449A2-B34D-493F-B5D8-5CC4E69BF551>

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Silberberg, and members of City Council,

Please strongly consider my comments concerning the application for a Special Use Permit (SUP) for the Montessori School currently housed in the Del Ray United Methodist Church classrooms building at 100-120 East Windsor Avenue in Del Ray.

I will make it very clear that although in the past the residents and neighbors of the Church have been wholly supportive of all endeavors, I feel safe in representing my neighbors in saying that the constant growth of both the Montessori school and the popularity of the neighborhood have made noise and traffic issues unbearable for those of us who live here.

The term TIPPING POINT, which has been thrown around in these discussions, has already come, it is not a dream for the future. The residents of E. Windsor Ave, Clyde, and Custis believe that the TIPPING POINT has been reached with the last growth spurt that the school went through and we are strongly opposed to adding ANY more students at this time.

Although on paper the school has worked to "ensure" that the traffic and noise will be controlled, this is not possible, since the school cannot actually direct traffic or control the parents, and the traffic is already a mess.

For example, I see that the current SUP states that only 2 cars at a time are allowed to stop between a small area outside the school. This past year there was a constant line of 8-10 cars spanning the length of Windsor Ave. to the corner of Mt. Vernon Ave. at Pick Up and Drop Off times. My neighbors and I have been blocked into or out of our own driveways by the lines of SUVs going in both directions as well as Delivery Trucks parked for extended periods of time opposite our driveways.

Being good neighbors we never complained to the authorities about our inconveniences, but patiently sat in our cars and waited for the cars/trucks to move. I have been blocked into my driveway many times by the traffic, and once by someone who parked in front of my driveway.

It is a very tight street and the extra, non-resident cars have made it impossible to come and go. For example, in order to pull out of my driveway and turn in either direction, my tires have to touch the curb in front of the church. That is impossible with a line of cars standing there, so I cannot leave my property until they move. Thus, the proposed expanded times are more of a hinderance to us than a help. And although I know Sarah Fondreist's intentions are good, they are not practical.

I am attaching the letter and comments files that were sent to the School about a month ago with our concerns along with some photos to show the traffic congestion on E. Windsor Ave.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ellen Epstein
113C E. Windsor Ave.

- Attachment: [montessori letter.pdf](#)
- Expected Response Date: Thursday, September 17

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the **Call.Click.Connect.** staff interface.

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City of Alexandria

301 King St., Room 2400
Alexandria, VA 22314

Legislation Text

File #: 14-4415, Version: 1

Special Use Permit #2015-0064

100-120 East Windsor Avenue - The Del Ray Montessori School

Public Hearing and Consideration of requests (A) to amend previously approved Special Use Permit #2014-0084 to increase enrollment and increase hours of operation at an existing private academic school and day care center and (B) for a parking reduction; zoned R-2-5/Residential Single or Two-Family. Applicant: The Del Ray Montessori School represented by Sarah Fondriest

Planning Commission Action: Recommended Approval as Amended 6-0

Jackie Henderson

From: amy.walker@navy.mil
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 8:18 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #80837: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council RE:
<https://alexandria.legistar.com/Legi>

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 80837.

Request Details:

- Name: Amy Walker
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 571-748-8518
- Email: amy.walker@navy.mil
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: RE: <https://alexandria.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2453636&GUID=D52449A2-B34D-493F-B5D8-5CC4E69BF551>

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Silberberg, and members of City Council,

Please consider my comments concerning the application for a Special Use Permit (SUP) for the Montessori School currently housed in the Del Ray United Methodist Church classrooms building on East Windsor Avenue.

While neighbors in that area have long supported functions at the church, to include religious services, AA meetings, the Creative Play daycare and the Montessori school, we have some definite concerns about continued expansion of these activities and the evaluation of them individually.

Collectively, they create serious issues with noise, traffic and safety.

I live on the side of the street away from the church property. Even there, noise issues are very evident and I don't know what I would do if I lived on the other side of the street and tried to work from home, recover from an illness, or have a child who was trying to sleep. I'm such a huge fan of having my windows open when weather permits that it would be very discouraging.

As far as traffic and safety are concerned, it's a bit of mayhem around the church block, especially when you combine it with people frequenting 7-11, commuting to work, or kids going to and from Mount Vernon School. Sometimes the parking is so congested that neighbors are physically unable to get cars out of their driveways.

I'm not advocating for you to disapprove the SUP for the Montessori school. The school, along with the daycare and other church activities is a good mixed use and a needed asset for the neighborhood. Rather I'm asking that you approve their plan for the next year while having a comprehensive evaluation done for the church complex and initiating traffic study for the Del Ray neighborhood. This would facilitate informed decision making for many future items that will come before the Council for approval.

Best,
Amy Walker
104A East Custis Avenue

- Expected Response Date: Thursday, September 17

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the [Call.Click.Connect. staff interface.](#)

Jackie Henderson

From: bingue406@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 7:53 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #80824: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council RE: <https://alexandria.legistar.com/Legi>

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 80824.

Request Details:

- Name: Mary Ann Kirkpatrick
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: (703) 587-5175
- Email: bingue406@comcast.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: RE: <https://alexandria.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2453636&GUID=D52449A2-B34D-493F-B5D8-5CC4E69BF551>

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Silberberg, and members of City Council,

Please seriously consider my comments on the above matter. Our home is directly behind the parsonage that is slated to become an extension of the Montessori School that is currently housed in the Del Ray United Methodist Church classrooms building on E. Windsor Avenue.

In discussions at the Del Ray Land Use Committee and the Planning and Zoning Board hearing, it was apparent that this expansion is considered by the neighbors in the immediate area to be the tipping point for traffic saturation in the neighborhood. Many of the existing problems are the result of the Creative Play School, which is housed in the same building. Residents have no way of knowing which school's faculty or parents are creating the problem. What we do know is that more traffic, however well organized pick up and drop off might be, will exacerbate the problems we're already having with parking and trying to get out of our driveways.

For some of us, noise is an issue. Four neighbors' homes, including ours, share a lot line with the playground behind the school. With the addition of the preschool play area behind our house, we will have play area on two sides of our home. We don't often work from home, but when we do, the noise is a distraction. One neighbor can't participate in conference calls with her doors and windows closed because of the noise and another couple has moved because they both worked from home and had to wear earbuds to hear co-workers and conference calls.

One final issue of concern is the health and safety of the pre-schoolers they plan to place in the parsonage: the house has a history of mold. The backyard floods and in the past, water has collected in the crawl space.

Please consider the QUALITY OF LIFE of the surrounding neighbors. John and I are planning to sell our home within the next couple of months (we can't afford to retire in Alexandria) and we are very concerned that potential buyers will be put off by the noise and the traffic. The student population has grown a lot since we bought our house, and while it might be a revenue generator for the church, it is certainly not in the best interest of the neighborhood.

Very respectfully,
Mary Ann and John Kirkpatrick
113 E Custis Ave

- Expected Response Date: Wednesday, September 16

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the **Call.Click.Connect.** staff interface.

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City of Alexandria

301 King St., Room 2400
Alexandria, VA 22314

Legislation Text

File #: 14-4415, Version: 1

Special Use Permit #2015-0064

100-120 East Windsor Avenue - The Del Ray Montessori School

Public Hearing and Consideration of requests (A) to amend previously approved Special Use Permit #2014-0084 to increase enrollment and increase hours of operation at an existing private academic school and day care center and (B) for a parking reduction; zoned R-2-5/Residential Single or Two-Family. Applicant: The Del Ray Montessori School represented by Sarah Fondriest

Planning Commission Action: Recommended Approval as Amended 6-0

Jackie Henderson

From: robinwink41@msn.com
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2015 11:22 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #80956: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council No descriptive text provided

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 80956.

Request Details:

- Name: Robin Wink
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7036840698
- Email: robinwink41@msn.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: No description provided.
- Attachment: [Letter to the City Council.docx](#)
- Expected Response Date: Friday, September 18

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at [the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.](#)

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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RE: <https://alexandria.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2453636&GUID=D52449A2-B34D-493F-B5D8-5CC4E69BF551>

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Silberberg, and members of City Council,

We are writing in response the Montessori School at 100 E. Windsor Ave request for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to expand the school from 64 to 102 students. We attended the land use committee meeting, expressed our concerns, and know that the committee voted to support the expansion.

While we are supportive of the Montessori School, and all of the activities at the Del Ray United Methodist Church, **we oppose this request because of the traffic and parking problems that currently exist in the blocks immediately adjacent to the property where the expansion is proposed.**

We also urge the city to immediately initiate and conduct a thorough traffic and parking study of the Del Ray business zone and the residential blocks on either side of Mt Vernon Ave before approving any additional activities that have bearing on traffic and parking in the area. While we understand that a study may be planned for 2017, that schedule should be accelerated to evaluate and address the continuing expansion of commercial and nonprofit activities in the area.

We reside at 106 E. Custis Ave; the 100 block of E. Custis frames the north side of the block where the United Methodist Church and the school are located. Our block is a close-knit residential area that includes 6 homes on the North side and another 4 homes on the South side backing to the church and school property. We also know that our neighbors on E. Windsor Ave and Clyde Ave are very concerned about this proposed expansion.

We recognize that the Montessori school is not responsible for all of the activities that are creating congestion, but we simply believe our neighborhood is maxed out. During busy times in the morning and evening we have found it nearly impossible to exit our driveway. Moreover, virtually every parking spot on Custis and Clyde in the vicinity of the church and school are occupied from approximately 6:30 am until approximately 9:00 pm. We do believe that we have reached a "tipping point" and that it is necessary for the City and the Planning Commission to take a holistic view of all of the activities within the blocks adjacent to the school and Mt. Vernon Ave.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. Living with the parking and traffic issues on our street can be very frustrating. While we reap the benefit of living within the heart of Del Ray, we are also now bearing significant burden as well. We fear that substantial expansion of the student population at the Montessori School will make our living situation significantly worse. We trust and hope you will take our views into consideration.

Many thanks,

Robin Wink
Beth Egan
106 E Custis Ave
Alexandria, VA 22301

12
9-12-15

Jackie Henderson

To: Council and Aides
Cc: Mark Jinks; James Banks; Christopher Spera; Gloria Sitton; Kilo Grayson; Sermaine McLean; Karl Moritz; Ann Horowitz
Subject: FW: Updates to Our Policies and a Request for a Neighborhood Representative

Good afternoon—

Please see the email below from Planning and Zoning for docket item #12 on Saturday's docket.

From: Ann Horowitz
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 2:50 PM
To: Jackie Henderson
Subject: FW: Updates to Our Policies and a Request for a Neighborhood Representative

Jackie,

Please include the following letter from the Del Ray Montessori School Director to Del Ray neighborhood residents, relevant to SUP2015-0064, in materials for the September 12, 2015 City Council meeting. The letter provides additional information regarding recently enacted school policies to reduce traffic congestion during the pickup and drop off of children in the East Windsor Avenue loading zone, designated for this use. In addition, the school director has requested that a member of the community act as a liaison between the school and residents.

Thank you.

Ann

From: Sarah Fondriest [<mailto:sarah@thedelraymontessorischool.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 9:47 AM
To: Ellen Epstein
Cc: marinacarter@gmail.com; sean.howell2@gmail.com; Kristine Hesse; Danielle Fidler; Kirk Steffensen; Leslie Steffensen; Liz Chadderdon; Sue Bernstein; Sharon Edwards; drcalanduse@googlegroups.com; Norman Birchfield; Wolfhard Ramm; Justin Wilson; nlconte@aol.com; Greg Greene; lolaelfman@gmail.com Elfman; Justin Wilson; captkirk47@comcast.net; Mary Ann Kirkpatrick; Ann Horowitz
Subject: Updates to Our Policies and a Request for a Neighborhood Representative

Dear Neighbors,

The first day of school for our returning students was yesterday, with new students (currently enrolled, not related to the expansion) to be added to the school over the course of the next few weeks. I am sending this email to update you regarding our communication with parents about our arrival and dismissal procedures. I am also writing to request a neighbor to serve as the liaison between the school and the neighbors.

As was mentioned at the Community Meeting, we have sent out correspondence to our returning and new parents regarding the updates in policies, along with reminders of our arrival and dismissal procedures. We also

hosted an Orientation Meeting last week for new parents and shared information with them regarding our procedures and the concerns of the neighbors.

Since our last meeting, we have added two new policies to our Parent Policy Manual. They are as follows:

- After proceeding through the loading zone, parents may NOT turn right on Clyde Ave. They MUST either turn left on Clyde Ave. or proceed to Commonwealth Ave.
- If parents are driving and parking in the neighborhood to walk their children to the door, they may NOT park on Clyde Ave between E. Windsor and E. Custis Ave.

In addition to sending out correspondence and speaking with parents directly, I also plan to be outside for both arrival and dismissal daily, to give supervision and guidance to parents in attempts to ensure that they are aware of the rules, and following them. I plan to assist with our loading zone, and to also stand on the corner of Clyde and Windsor to observe and provide guidance to parents, when necessary.

Finally, I'd like to make a request to have one neighbor who can serve as the liaison between the neighbors and the school. I am open to discussing the role of this person, but my immediate thoughts are that this person would meet with me regularly to discuss concerns, ideas and share any feedback. This might be easier than attempting to communicate with everyone at once via email.

As mentioned in previous correspondence, we are committed to working with you to hear your feedback and troubleshoot any possible issues or concerns that may arise.

If you have any questions, please let me know. I am here Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm.

Kindest Regards,

Sarah

Sarah Fondriest
Director
The Del Ray Montessori School
100 E. Windsor Ave.
Alexandria, Va 22301

703.380.1241

www.thedelraymontessorischool.com

Jackie Henderson

12
9-12-15

From: Jackie Henderson
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 5:14 PM
To: Allison Silberberg; bill euille; del pepper; John Chapman; justin wilson; lashawn timmons; lillian thompson; mark mchugh; nancy lacey; nancy lavalle; paul smedberg; shelli.gilliam; tim lovain; wendy donohue
Cc: Mark Jinks; James Banks; Christopher Spera; Gloria Sitton; Kilo Grayson; Sermaine McLean; Karl Moritz; Ann Horowitz
Subject: FW: Updates to Our Policies and a Request for a Neighborhood Representative

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Thank you.

Ann

From: Sarah Fondriest [<mailto:sarah@thedelraymontessorischool.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 9:47 AM
To: Ellen Epstein
Cc: marinacarter@gmail.com; sean.howell2@gmail.com; Kristine Hesse; Danielle Fidler; Kirk Steffensen; Leslie Steffensen; Liz Chadderdon; Sue Bernstein; Sharon Edwards; drcalanduse@googlegroups.com; Norman Birchfield; Wolfhard Ramm; Justin Wilson; nlconte@aol.com; Greg Greene; lolaelfman@gmail.com Elfman; Justin Wilson; captkirk47@comcast.net; Mary Ann Kirkpatrick; Ann Horowitz
Subject: Updates to Our Policies and a Request for a Neighborhood Representative

Dear Neighbors,

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Finally, I'd like to make a request to have one neighbor who can serve as the liaison between the neighbors and the school. I am open to discussing the role of this person, but my immediate thoughts are that this person would meet with me regularly to discuss concerns, ideas and share any feedback. This might be easier than attempting to communicate with everyone at once via email.

As mentioned in previous correspondence, we are committed to working with you to hear your feedback and troubleshoot any possible issues or concerns that may arise.

If you have any questions, please let me know. I am here Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm.

Kindest Regards,

Sarah

Sarah Fondriest

Director
The Del Ray Montessori School
100 E. Windsor Ave.
Alexandria, Va 22301
703.380.1241
www.thedelraymontessorischool.com

Jackie Henderson

From: ellen@bowwowpets.net
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2015 10:34 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #80996: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council RE: <https://alexandria.legistar.com/Legi>

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 80996.

Request Details:

- Name: Ellen Epstein
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7038505559
- Email: ellen@bowwowpets.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: RE: <https://alexandria.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2453636&GUID=D52449A2-B34D-493F-B5D8-5CC4E69BF551>

I am proposing a change to the plan to admit a total of 85 students in this calendar year, which has been requested by the Montessori School.

Already this month the amount has been increased from last year's enrollment of 41 students by 15 new students. This brings the total up to the current maximum of 64 students, which was previously approved.

That is already an increase of 36%.

I suggest that the school keeps the enrollment at this amount until a traffic study is conducted.

Since neighbors have already been complaining about the traffic at last year's enrollment level, I think it would be a good idea to see how the traffic works at this level before approving such a large increase for the future.

Please see Sarah Fondreist's plan below:

We are licensed for a maximum of 64 students. We have 56 students currently enrolled. 15 of these students are new this year, while 41 of them are returning from last year.

We will not add any more students until October 5, assuming we are approved. Once we add this program, we will increase by 12. Then, when November 2 comes, we will add 10 more. By mid-November we plan to have 78 students enrolled. Over the course of the school year, we will add approximately 7 more students totaling the 85 that we agreed to limit our enrollment to for this year.

- Expected Response Date: Friday, September 18

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the [Call.Click.Connect. staff interface](#).

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Legislation Text

File #: 14-4415, Version: 1

Special Use Permit #2015-0064

100-120 East Windsor Avenue - The Del Ray Montessori School

Public Hearing and Consideration of requests (A) to amend previously approved Special Use Permit #2014-0084 to increase enrollment and increase hours of operation at an existing private academic school and day care center and (B) for a parking reduction; zoned R-2-5/Residential Single or Two-Family. Applicant: The Del Ray Montessori School represented by Sarah Fondriest

Planning Commission Action: Recommended Approval as Amended 6-0

Jackie Henderson

From: sueb1742@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2015 8:26 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #81000: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Silberberg

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 81000.

Request Details:

- Name: Sue Bernstein
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-399-6167
- Email: sueb1742@aol.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Silberberg, and members of City Council,

I am writing in concern of the Montessori School at 100 E. Windsor Ave request for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to expand the school from 64 to 102 students.

I support the Montessori School, and all of the activities at the Del Ray United Methodist Church, however, I oppose this latest request because of the traffic and parking problems that currently exist in the blocks immediately adjacent to the property where the continued expansion is proposed.

I lived directly across the street from the church at 105A E. Windsor Ave., and I am particularly concerned about the flow of traffic during school pick up and drop off times which also coincides with AA meetings at the church. E. Windsor is commonly used as a thoroughfare between Mt. Vernon Ave. and Braddock Road, and emergency vehicles travel frequently on E. Windsor. Traffic flows steadily both east and west on E. Windsor. Cars are parked on the south side of E. Windsor. During school drop off and pick up, cars are also temporarily parked on the north side of E. Windsor, and we have seen gridlock on a regular basis.

Additionally, parking on E. Windsor has become very difficult for residents. Last year, I installed a driveway on my property as a way of doing my share to alleviate the limited street parking problem; however, I am still regularly inconvenienced by gridlock and unable to back out of my driveway.

I urge the city to immediately initiate and conduct a thorough traffic and parking study of the Del Ray business zone and the residential blocks on either side of Mt Vernon Ave before approving any additional activities that have bearing on traffic and parking in the area. While I understand that a study may be planned for 2017, that schedule should be accelerated to evaluate and address the continuing expansion of commercial and nonprofit activities in the area.

I recognize that the Montessori school is not responsible for all of the activities that are creating congestion, but I simply believe our neighborhood is maxed out. During busy times in the morning and evening I have found it nearly impossible to exit my driveway. I do believe that we have reached a "tipping point" and that it is necessary for the City and the Planning Commission to take a holistic view of all of the activities within the blocks adjacent to the school and Mt. Vernon Ave.

Thank you for your consideration of my views. Living with the parking and traffic issues on our street can be very frustrating. While I reap the benefit of living within the heart of Del Ray, I am also now bearing significant burden as well. I fear that substantial expansion of the student population at the Montessori School will make our living situation significantly worse. I trust and hope you will take our views into consideration.

Many thanks,

Sue Bernstein
105A E. Windsor Ave.

- Expected Response Date: Monday, September 21

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the **Call.Click.Connect.** staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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