



November 16, 2018

The Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Bowser:

On behalf of the Palisades Citizens' Association, it is our honor to congratulate you on your successful re-election campaign. Over the past four years, you have demonstrated qualities that our community values – a can-do spirit, a forward-looking outlook, and a commitment to fairness for all. We appreciate the local capital investments your administration has initiated, and, of course, we look forward to your energetic presence each summer at the Palisades Fourth of July Parade. So, it came as no surprise to many of us that your margin of victory in the Palisades was surpassed by only three other voting precincts in the District.

As your second term begins, we look forward to a continued partnership with your administration for the good of the Palisades and for the good of the city as a whole. In particular, **we view the overcrowding of our public elementary schools as a threat to the long-term vitality of our neighborhoods in Ward 3.**

Key Elementary school is already overcrowded, and according to the DC Office of Planning, this area of Ward 3 will continue to grow precipitously. While we appreciate the capital funds earmarked for enhancing Key School, we do not believe those funds should be used to substantially expand the student population. The campus of Key School is already too small to accommodate the physical education and enrichment needs of the current student body. The school's position in a residential neighborhood is already a burden at its current size. Simply stated, Ward 3 needs a new elementary school, and the solution is apparent – **keep the old Hardy School building public.**



When the decision was made in 1998 to lease the old Hardy School building, the duration of the ensuing leases was kept short in order to leave open the possibility that demand for public education may yet rebound. That day has arrived. Surely, we can work together to find creative solutions for the benefit of Lab School without foreclosing on the largest and most cost-effective option for public education in Ward 3.

In October 2016 you addressed the Palisades Citizens' Association and pledged that any new lease of the old Hardy School building would be subject to full and open hearings. We are grateful for this pledge, because the outcome of this decision will have a profound impact on this community for generations. Now, as your second term begins, we count on you – our mayor – to show bold leadership in planning today for the future of our public education infrastructure needs.

With appreciation and admiration,

Avi Green
President, Palisades Citizens' Association

Juliana Stein, First Vice President
Ellen Maxwell, Second Vice President
Mary Ann Floto, Secretary
Nick Keenan, Immediate Past President
Anne Ourand, Administrator
Spence Spencer, Committee Chair
Dan Balsarak, Committee Chair
Tim Johnson, Committee Chair

Heather Gustafson, Committee Chair
Sara Tucker, Committee Chair
Maya Latynski, Committee Chair
Howard Clare, Committee Chair
Jack Wells, Committee Chair
Brett Young, Committee Chair
Maria Garcia, Committee Chair
Shoshana Rosenbaum, Committee Chair

CC: Paul Kihn, Deputy Mayor
Rich Harrington, Ward 3 Liaison
Jessica Wertheim, Ward 3 Liaison