

November 13, 2025

The Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings
100 Maryland Avenue, Room 200
Rockville, Maryland 20850

RE: LETTER IN SUPPORT OF HOLTON ARMS SCHOOL SPECIAL EXCEPTION

I write to express my strong support of the Holton Arms School Special Exception request. I have been a Bethesda resident for 15 years. I reside at 7205 Arrowood Road with my husband and 3 children (Madison, Parker and Chase) where we have lived since August 2019, and live within the boundaries of the Bradley Boulevard Citizens Association. From 2011-2019, our family lived at 8504 Burning Tree Road (also located within the BBKA). The BBKA does not represent me or my family's interests. The Special Exception should be granted. The BBKA's objections, as well as those presented by some residents of Al-Marah, mischaracterize and misrepresent the impact of granting the Special Exception to the community.

We have been neighbors of the Holton Arms community since 2011. I have spent the last 14 years driving in and around the Holton Arms School both in the mornings and afternoons, and consider myself quite the "expert" in traffic patterns in our area.

Our oldest children, Madison and Parker, attended Burning Tree Elementary School from 2011-2018. In 2014, I was finally successful in securing a spot for Madison for summer camp at Holton Arms's Creative Summer – it took 3 years! It was because of our girls' amazing experiences at Creative Summer that our family was exposed to the Holton Arms community.

In 2018, Madison and Parker enrolled as students at Holton Arms School. The journey for our girls at Holton Arms has been invaluable and rewarding beyond words. Madison graduated from Holton Arms in May 2025 and now attends college in New York City, Parker is currently in the 10th Grade.

This is my 8th year as a Holton Arms parent and the primary parent who drives to and from Holton Arms for morning drop off and afternoon pick up. Our 7 year old son, Chase, is in 1st Grade at Primary Day School which he has attended since 2023, located across the street from Holton Arms on Royal Dominion Drive.

When my husband is traveling for work, which is fairly often, I am also the primary parent who drives to and from Primary Day School for morning drop off and afternoon pick up. I spend my early mornings driving from our home on Arrowood Road to Holton Arms and Primary Day School. My route to Holton Arms takes me around 7:45am to Burdette Road and then a left hand turn from Burdette onto River Road. I use the left turn lane at River Road and Royal Dominion to drop my daughter at Holton Arms School. On the days that I simultaneously drive Chase to Primary Day School, I usually drop off first at Holton Arms - because their school day starts 25 minutes earlier than Primary Day School - and then cross over River Road at Royal

Dominion and proceed to make the left hand turn from Royal Dominion into the Primary Day School parking lot. There have been occasions where I first drop off at Primary Day School and then proceed across the street to Holton Arms. There are many families that have children at both Primary Day School and Holton Arms.

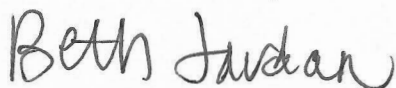
In the afternoons, when I am picking up at Holton Arms after school (3:30pm) I take the same driving route. There are often times after picking up my son from Primary Day School at 3pm dismissal that I drive directly across the street to pick up my daughter for an appointment before Holton's 3:30pm dismissal time, as well as times that I pick up my daughter from Holton prior to the 3:30pm dismissal and drive across the street to Primary Day School to pick up my son. There is no excessive traffic in the Al-Marah neighborhood driving to Holton Arms either in the morning or in the afternoon. I have been doing the same drive for 3 years.

I think it's important to note that afternoon traffic pick up at Holton varies considerably depending on the sports season as the Upper School (grades 9-12) have sports after school until 5:30pm and often later for games. Not every student leaves campus at 3:30pm. Many students stay for sports or extended-day (which applies to lower, middle and upper school). During the fall and spring sports seasons I (along with other parents) usually do not pick up at the 3:30pm dismissal time.

As a member of the Holton Arms community for the last 8 years, I know that Holton Arms is a good neighbor and values the surrounding community. I see it first hand and also can attest to the improvements that Holton Arms has made just in the last year alone to ensure that traffic entering and leaving the school grounds is efficient and self contained. There are now more security and traffic officials once you enter Holton Arms during morning and afternoon pick up, as well as for special school events, to help move cars quickly onto campus to prevent backups and traffic outside of the school. Cars are now held in holding patterns on school grounds away from River Road, during carpool and special events, and moved further into campus to help navigate and ensure no disruptions to the community. I have also experienced staggered start times and early dismissals for school (lower, middle and upper school) both when there are planned events and when we have had to have an unplanned early dismissal.

Holton Arms School is a gift not only to my children, but to the girls in our community. I urge the zoning commission to approve the Special Exception and allow Holton Arms and our greater community the benefits of what an all-girls education has to offer. Access to all will enrich all of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Javdan".

Beth Javdan
7205 Arrowood Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20817