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99 North William Street, PO Box 4612
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

February 1, 2024

Ms. Lucy Morrison
Administrator
Mr. Richard Saltzberg
Development of Regional Impact Coordinator
Martha's Vineyard Commission
Box 1447
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

info@mvcommission.org

Re: Montessori School Expansion

Dear Ms. Morrison & Mr. Saltzberg:

I reviewed the memorandum submitted by the attorney for the Montessori School. Essentially, he argues that the School has the legal right to do what it wants and that the people who live in the neighborhood just have to deal with it, like it or not, regardless of its impact on their lives and the neighborhood.

If I learned anything in the 40+ years that I practiced law (most of which as a general partner in one of the country's largest law firms), it is that everyone has an "argument". Without reviewing the School's contentions line-by-line, let's agree that there are counter-arguments to every one. Another thing I learned in decades of law practice is that even if something is considered somehow "permissible" (and I'm not conceding that the School's plan is), it still might not be the right thing to do.

The concerns expressed (and the images presented) in the letters written by us and our neighbors are not imaginary. Trees were heedlessly destroyed. Traffic has increased. The racket has sometimes been borderline deafening. Lighting has been, to be polite, inappropriate. The current structure of what unquestionably is indeed a business is out-of-character for this residential neighborhood. No meaningful notice or opportunity for dialog / input was provided. These are undisputed facts, and they pertain to the CURRENT structure.

We are certain that the MVC has ample authority to do the right thing. For the reasons previously discussed, we reiterate our strong opposition to the plan to expand the Montessori School now under consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew A. & Ann Marie Peterson