

April 9th, 2018

Dear DC Public Schools Chancellor and Representative Allen,

I am writing to request your attention and prompt action regarding the availability of public schooling for PK and elementary school children in Ward 6. Our in-boundary school is Ludlow Taylor Elementary School.

Over the past several years, the H Street Corridor and the adjacent neighborhoods, have received a substantial influx of families with young children. We have seen a lot of residential construction activity along H street NE, as well as general shift in the demographic profile of the population residing within 10-12 blocks from Ludlow Taylor Elementary School. Despite these clear population trends, DC has failed to address the raising need for public schooling for our children. This fact has become painfully obvious in the most recent DCPS lottery, with in-boundary PK3 children waitlisted beyond number 25 on the waitlist for Ludlow Taylor, despite in-boundary preference. To belabor the point, the number of in-boundary children on the waitlist is more than 50% of the number of available PK3 slots in the school. The school is at capacity and with a very high retention rate, the same fate awaits these children next year.

The fact that a child whose parents are paying local taxes on properties assessed upwards of \$800,000 cannot access the local public school system is an outrage. We fear that it will only get worse as time progresses. Fast forward another year, when enrollment is guaranteed, we are looking at a K class that is at least 25 children larger than what is currently in place. How do you plan to accommodate this trend without compromising quality?

The influx of young, dual-earner families with young children who own their homes has helped edge this area forward and draw substantial private developer activity in the neighborhood. The City has benefitted from this trend in numerous ways, financially and through improvements in public safety and security. The right to quality public schooling is fundamental in the social contract between private individuals and local government. We expect an adequate and timely response from the local government to the emergent crisis in the availability of public schooling for young children in our area.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Cc: Principal Andrew Smith, Ludlow Taylor Elementary School