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June 5, 2019

VIA EMAIL ONLY

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Robert W. Gundlach, Jr., Esquire

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2700 Kelly Road Suite 300

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RE: Borough of Clifton Heights
Upper Darby School District Proposed Middle School

Dear Mr. Gundlach,

I am the Solicitor for the Borough of Clifton Heights ("Borough").

The Borough received your correspondence dated May 23, 2019 pertaining to an application to the Borough for land development and the Borough is addressing this correspondence to you regarding the proposed Middle School.

It was pointed out at the Borough's May 28 meeting that the proposed Middle School would increase the population of the Borough by 15-25% on days when school is in session. This increase in population will place an enormous burden on the Borough's citizens and infrastructure. In order to evaluate and plan for this burden the Borough needs to make sure they are making decisions on reliable facts.

Reliable fact question 1:

The Upper Darby School District Enrollment Report posted on the BoardDocs website for the May 14, 2019 School Board Meeting listed a total student count of 1,439 for Beverly Hills Middle School and a total student count of 1,368 for Drexel Hill Middle School. On May 28, 2019, just two weeks later, the KCBA Report titled "Middle School & Aronimink ES" posted on the BoardDocs website for the May 28, 2019 Finance & Operations Committee Meeting listed a current enrollment of 1560 students for Beverly Hills Middle School and a current enrollment of 1400 students for Drexel Hill Middle School.

The Borough previously submitted a Right to Know Request to the School District requesting information on the number of students enrolled in the School District who are residents of the Borough. The School District's response was that they did not know. The Borough's Right to Know Request was denied and the School District offered a "close approximation".

School District enrollment numbers fluctuating by 8.4% over two weeks for Beverly Hills Middle School and fluctuating by 2.3% over two weeks for Drexel Hill Middle School, combined with the School District's response to our Right to Know Request that they do not know how many students are from the Borough, leads us to the question – does the School District know how many students are enrolled in these two schools?

How can the School District and the Borough plan accordingly without reliable facts?

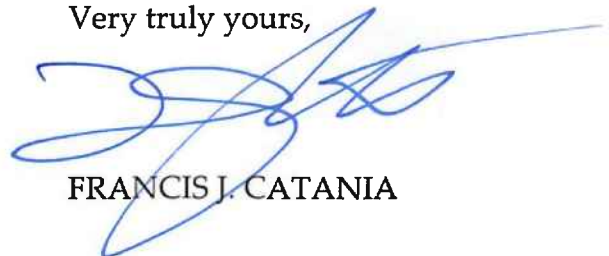
Reliable fact question 2:

The 2017-2018 Safe Schools Report for Beverly Hills Middle School lists a habitual truancy rate of 32.15%. How can class size and overcrowding be a problem when 1/3 of the school's population is habitually truant? How is the School District complying with 22 Pa. Code §11.24 requiring removal from student rolls?

As the Borough evaluates the proposed Middle School plan reliable facts continue to be needed. In order to accurately evaluate future infrastructure needs the Borough will need access to accurate enrollment data. The Borough will also need to know how many of the students the School District anticipates will attend school – not just be enrolled. Can you clarify these discrepancies?

The Borough considers this letter to be a public document.

Very truly yours,



FRANCIS J. CATANIA

FJC\jlr

Cc: Borough Manager