

# Hopkins House Request is Clarified

To the Editor:

From time to time, in public debates, truth is overwhelmed by distortion. I write to defend the truth by correcting the distorted public record as it appeared in your paper on June 7, ("Hopkins House Requests Denied by Commission").

This is what we asked of the Planning Commission: To recommend approval for Hopkins House to add six additional children to its preschool enrollment, for a total of 55 children at its Princess Street building; and, to extend by one hour our operating hours until 7 p.m.

Hopkins House did not, at any time, agree to a limit the size of the preschool at its 5,300-square-foot Princess Street building. What we did agree to is docu-

mented in a letter signed by representatives of Hopkins House and the local civic association on March 17, 2000. More than 62 neighbors signed letters and wrote e-mails in support of the Hopkins House application for a SUP. This is an unprecedented level of documented, public community support.

The Inner City community surrounding Hopkins House is composed of more than just the four individuals who appeared at the Planning Commission meeting to oppose our SUP. Our neighborhood civic association, having just weathered a similar controversy a few months earlier, understandably declined to take a position on our application and sent no official representative to speak on its behalf at the Planning Commis-

sion meeting.

With the exception of Monday and Tuesday mornings until 11 a.m. when alternate street parking is in effect, parking is amply available on the streets surrounding Hopkins House. The City Staff Report confirms this.

The Inner City neighborhood is a family community that cares deeply about children and cherishes the programs and institutions that help to educate them and protect them. This has been true for all of the 62 years Hopkins House has been a part of this neighborhood.

—J. GLENN HOPKINS  
*President, Hopkins House*