

**From:** [Pellegrino Family](#)  
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**Subject:** Montessori Children's School expansion  
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Hello,

I'm writing to voice my family's support of the expansion of Montessori Children's School of Key West to 1217 Varela Street, both as nearby residents and as parents of a student at the school.

When our daughter enrolled at MCS, I was concerned that traffic/street parking might be congested and hectic. However, many children walk or bike to/from school, and the flux of car traffic during morning drop-off and afternoon pickup is brief. Parent/caregiver drivers are cautious, courteous, and leave the area expediently. When I glance at vehicles driving by the school on United or Varela during these times, or at pedestrians or people on bikes heading for work or business at City Hall, rather than seeing impatience, there are lots of smiles and waves for the kids.

The proposed picket fence continuation along the property line sounds like an improvement to that stretch of Varela. The existing wood picket fence looks charming and appropriate for a historic neighborhood; extending the fence will disguise the less-historic look of the block wall house at 1217 Varela.

A thriving school is considered by most an asset to a neighborhood, enriching both the sense of community and the value/desirability of surrounding properties. This small expansion of MCS surely won't impinge on — and may actually enhance — the quality of life there, since a school makes for a conscientious neighbor — one that frees up parking spots after hours and on weekends, and is reliably quiet at night! Thanks for your time and consideration.

Best,

Jessica and Moses Pellegrino  
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Sent from my iPhone