

**roberta flack**

**January 8, 2008**

To Whom It May Concern:

When I close my eyes, I can see Stevens Elementary School as it was when I was a student there. This was a long time ago. We lived in Arlington, Virginia, and my mom wanted my brother and I to have a chance to go to school in Washington DC. So, we caught a bus and then a trolley, and eventually we landed at Stevens. It was one of the most important educational experiences of my life. When I arrived at Stevens, I was 9 years old and in the 6th grade. For some reason it was decided that I was too young and too small to be in the 6th grade, so I was put back to the 5th grade. It did not matter to me, because I was able to learn, grow, and share experiences with teachers and other students, that opened a world unimagined to me. What a foundation!!! Being given an opportunity by my home-room teacher Ms. Tate, to develop musically and in every way educational. I have only **great** memories of my elementary school days at Stevens. I cannot fathom any good or great reason to close a school where students can, should, and will come to learn. **What will stand in the place of this school?** I admit not knowing all of the reasons that have been given to justify this incredible thing that might happen, but again, I ask: **What will stand in it's place?** Will whatever it might be, offer opportunity and support to the community? I implore you to consider other options so that this school might remain. It is not just an old building. It can stand and be useful and beneficial for many, many, many more years, and not just as a building, but as a place where young people can hear, experience, and learn the meaning of hope, prosperity, and success through education.

Sincerely,



Roberta Flack