

Witness

Clay H. Wellborn, on his own behalf and that of Edna P. Wellborn.

Summary of Testimony

Clay H. Wellborn and Edna P. Wellborn are opposed to the application by Blessed Sacrament unless Blessed Sacrament agrees to the following:

1. All provisions established earlier in BZA decision dated September 13, 2011, and in the private agreement between Msgr. John Enzler, Pastor on behalf of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament and Clay H. Wellborn and Edna P. Wellborn are to remain in effect.
2. Because the playground has become attractive to climbers, replace the current fence, which can easily be climbed over, with a 10' chain-link fence around the entire site-- including the gates--which are unlikely to be climbed over by neighborhood children when no guardian is present. This has already been done on the east side of the playground and in other examples of DC playgrounds.

Image 2: Replace the existing fence with a 10 ft chain-link fence to discourage climbing.



3. Keep the field locked at all times, except when it is in use by legitimate Blessed Sacrament activities.
4. Ensure that the field is closed and locked by 6:30 pm or sunset -- whichever is earlier.
5. Arrange for regular watering of any new trees or shrubs in the border between our two properties.
6. Name a permanent coordinator of the field. Identify that person as the one we should contact in case of need. Provide us and the BZA with a position description for this person.
7. Make the guardian, who ensures that the 6:30 closure is observed, permanent. Require him/her to be present between 6:20 pm and 10:00 pm. Instruct the guardian to require all those on the field to clear the area by 6:30 pm or sunset--whichever is earlier. Provide us and the BZA with a position description of this person.
8. Because the noise of balls hitting the existing fence is like water torture--which happens many times during each day--provide a method to silence such occurrences, for example, by providing a net to catch the balls before they hit metal. An example is the playground between 41st Street, Livingston Street, and Western Avenue, NW.

Image 3: Use of net to catch balls before they hit metal



9. Provide respite from the constant noise from the use of the playground by closing the playground on weekends. The playground at the Presbyterian Church across Chevy Chase Parkway from BS closes on weekends, for example.
10. To see whether Blessed Sacrament can effectively manage the playground, require them to return to the BZA after ten more years.

Expert Witness

None

Total Time Requested

25 minutes

Party Status Criteria

1. How will the property owned or occupied by such person, or in which the person has an interest be affected by the action requested of the Commission/Board?

Our residence is between the playground and Blessed Sacrament School. We are intensely affected by noise from the playground.

2. What legal interest does the person have in the property? (i.e. owner, tenant, trustee, or mortgagee)

Owner

3. What is the distance between the person's property and the property that is the subject of the application before the Commission/Board?

Immediately next door, to the east

4. What are the environmental, economic, or social impacts that are likely to affect the person and/or the person's property if the action requested of the Commission/Board is approved or denied?

Our residence is between the playground and Blessed Sacrament School. We are intensely affected by noise from the playground.

5. Describe any other relevant matters that demonstrate how the person will likely be affected or aggrieved if the action requested of the Commission/Board is approved or denied.

Noise affects our quality of life. We do not use our back yard because of the noise, nor can we use the porch on the east side of our house until after 6:30 pm.

6. Explain how the person's interest will be more significantly, distinctively, or uniquely affected in character or kind by the proposed zoning action than that of other persons in the general public.

Our interest is more significantly affected because our residence is oriented away from Blessed Sacrament School and toward the playground, as the current Blessed Sacrament coordinator of the playground can testify, because she has been in our house.