

**Board of Zoning Adjustment of the District of Columbia  
Form 140 – Party Status Request**

**Party Witness Information**

1. A list of witnesses who will testify on the party's behalf;

**Thomas Orgren**

2. A summary of the testimony of each witness;

**As a tenant of a property that is adjacent to the field that is the subject of the reapplication, we request that the continued use of the field be approved, including allowing nearby neighbors that are impacted by the field to be able to access the field during approved daytime hours on all days of the week while Blessed Sacrament School and associated athletic leagues are not using the field.**

3. An indication of which witnesses will be offered as expert witnesses, the areas of expertise in which any experts will be offered, and the resumes or qualifications of the proposed experts; and

**There will be no expert witness**

4. The total amount of time being requested to present your case.

**5 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?

**The back of our property abuts the Blessed Sacrament School field that is the subject of reapplication. Under the current zoning agreement, residents of nearby properties impacted by Blessed Sacrament School (including ours) are permitted to use the field that is the subject of the application during certain hours on all weekdays, weekends, and holidays when the school and affiliated groups are not using the field.**

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

**I am a tenant of 3610 Quesada St NW, adjacent to the field that is the subject of the application.**

3. What is the distance between the person's property and the property that is the subject of the application before the Commission/Board? (Preferably no farther than 200 ft.)

**Our back yard is only separated by a 12-foot-wide alleyway from the field in question.**

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?

**The field is an important asset to both the Blessed Sacrament School and the neighboring community under the terms of the current zoning agreement that permits nearby neighbors to use the field during daytime hours on all days of the week when the school community is not using the field. The field currently provides a safe space for children to play free from the danger of cars and relatively free from scrapes and bruises thanks to the rubber field surface. It encourages kids to get outside and fosters community within the neighborhood – we met many of our neighbors for the first time out on the field while our children played together. The noise of children from Blessed Sacrament School playing all day on weekdays is easy to live with while knowing that our family will have our turn to use the space too. The noise impact from authorized nearby residents using the field on weekends is minimal compared to the noise of regular school on weekdays and has never been disruptive to our household. Under the current zoning agreement, the field provides positive benefits to both Blessed Sacrament and the surrounding community.**

**If the application for reauthorization of the field including use of nearby residents on all days of the week is denied or use of the field is restricted to weekdays only, nearby residents (including our family) would lose de facto access to the field. The school and affiliated groups use the field for during almost all of the permitted weekday hours (until 6:30pm) for 9 months of the year, and weekend hours are the only times while school is in session when neighbors reliably have access to the field. Curtailing weekend use would fundamentally alter the relationship of the surrounding community to the field and Blessed Sacrament, requiring surrounding neighbors to endure the noise of children throughout the workday while getting very little benefit from the field to mitigate the nuisance.**

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.

**See above.**

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.

**As neighbors that are immediately adjacent to the field and are affected by noise of being next to a school field that is busy most weekdays, we are impacted by changes to zoning of the field more than the general public. Restricting weekend use would change the symbiotic relationship between Blessed Sacrament and the surrounding community in negative ways. Since our house looks over the field, we take an active interest in ensuring that users are follow the rules of the field. In rare cases when users do violate rules in ways that are disruptive to neighbors (such as bringing in dogs to play), we are the ones to remind them of the rules and ask that they be followed.**