

February 1, 2022

Frederick L. Hill
Chairman of the Board of Zoning Adjustment

Dear Chairman Hill,

As a parent and resident in NW DC, I write to wholeheartedly endorse the Maret School and Episcopal Center For Children's planned leasing arrangement for the development of athletic fields on the ECC campus. For full disclosure, I am also a parent at Maret.

As any parent of a young athlete in DC knows, field space in DC is extremely tight. We've signed up for several DC-based leagues for my eight-year old son that end up scheduling all of their games in Montgomery County. We end up getting ice cream, gasoline, groceries and buying other food right after these games in Montgomery County because that is where we happen to be. I'd much rather be contributing to DC's economy and supporting DC-based businesses. Creative solutions to expand field space within DC like the one presently under consideration – and *especially* ones between private entities that benefit the wider public – should be encouraged.

I've lived in the District and in several different neighborhoods for twenty years and am very invested in it prospering while retaining its essential character. That's a tricky balance, but if our great city wants to attract more and more residents and businesses, it will need to accommodate the needs that flow from those decisions. This includes expanding field space. The Maret-ECC partnership seems to do that without sacrificing any public lands, which seems to be a win-win for everyone.

All the best,



Praveen Madhiraju