

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Mike Di Marco <mdimarco@horizonsgreaterwashington.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 8:52 PM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: BZA Application No. 20643: Maret School Athletic Fields Project

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mdimarco@horizonsgreaterwashington.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the DC Government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe. If you believe that this email is suspicious, please forward to phishing@dc.gov for additional analysis by OCTO Security Operations Center (SOC).

Dear Chairman Hill:

I write to you today as both a DC resident as well as the Executive Director of [Horizons Greater Washington](#) in support of the proposed partnership between Maret and the ECC to ensure greater field and recreation space for our community. For context, Horizons is a primarily summer academic enrichment program for 400 K-8 students in the DC area. We have hosted a site at Maret since 2000. At Horizons, we work to not only stop the summer slide for underserved students in DC, but to accelerate academic achievement during the critical summer months. On average, Horizons students gain 1-3 months in math and reading skills at the conclusion of each summer with Horizons. We are proud to serve primarily students who attend Title I public and charter schools.

None of our incredible results or 20+ years of programming would be possible without Maret's commitment to Horizons. This commitment to community and Horizons' mission starts at the top with Head of School Marjo Talbott. It was Marjo's commitment to our mission and building a better, more equitable DC that brought Horizons to the DC area over 20 years ago. Since that time, Marjo has served as a steady presence on our Horizons Board of Directors and helped the program expand from serving 15 students at Maret in 2000 to serving over 400 students at three schools in Summer 2022. It is Marjo's vision, commitment, and advocacy with her fellow school leaders that has made our expansion of programming possible.

I can personally attest to the way that Maret wholeheartedly opens their doors to serve our Horizons students. At no cost, Maret provides program space, busing, staff resources, materials, supplies, and yes, field space to Horizons to ensure that our Horizons students can have a transformative and life changing experience every year for nine years. As part of the partnership, Maret gives Horizons students full access to their campus and resources, including critical outdoor space. I have seen firsthand how squeezed the school is to manage their limited field space (including lack of access to full sized fields). A partnership with the ECC will give Maret (and Horizons' students) access to field space that is not already available.

As a community partner, I have seen the entire Maret community live out their mission and values— particularly in supporting their students' success and connecting to their communities. In my role, I can attest that Maret is a conscientious, welcoming, willing partner always mindful of their responsibility to serve the greater good. I am grateful for Maret's partnership with Horizons and am fully confident that the proposed partnership with the ECC will benefit the larger community.

Sincerely,
Mike Di Marco
5 Missouri Ave NW, Washington, DC 20011
201-788-7216
mdimarco@horizonsgreaterwashington.org

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.20643
EXHIBIT NO.123

--

Mike Di Marco

Executive Director

Horizons Greater Washington

Office Phone: 202-939-8885

Cell Phone: 201-788-7216

www.horizonsgreaterwashington.org

Find us on [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

#inspirebuildtransform

