

## Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

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**From:** Leigh Comas <comas@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 3, 2022 4:57 PM  
**To:** DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)  
**Cc:** Speck, Randy (SMD 3G03); Higgins, John (SMD 3G02)  
**Subject:** BZA Application No. 20643: Maret School Athletic Fields Project

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Dear Chairman Hill:

I am writing to provide comments in support of the Maret School Athletic Fields Project. As a longtime DC resident, Maret parent and trustee, and DC Stoddert Soccer parent volunteer, I believe that this project will provide substantial benefits not only to Maret students (58% of whom are DC residents) but also to the broader community.

The partnership between the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC) and Maret will enable Maret to meet the needs of its student-athletes and provide ECC with funding to resume programming to meet the needs of its student population. In addition, Maret would like to make the field available to outside youth sports organizations in light of the general lack of athletic field space in the District. Maret's proposed fields are in keeping with the use of the site for educational purposes, and the Maret/ECC partnership ensures that denser, more intensive uses of the property (such as senior living facilities or housing developments) will not be pursued for the duration of the lease.

Maret prides itself on being a good member of the community and a good neighbor. The school has numerous longstanding relationships with dozens of non-profit organizations (included Horizons Greater Washington) and a good relationship with its current Woodley Park neighbors. The school has worked assiduously and transparently to address the concerns of ECC neighbors since announcing its partnership with ECC, and I have no doubt that Maret will continue to work with ECC neighbors to ensure that their concerns are addressed throughout the life of this lease. Simply put, that is just how Maret operates.

The proposed fields will be attractive, environmentally sensitive and thoroughly unobtrusive: landscaping will be plentiful, heritage trees will be preserved, on-site parking (and bike racks) will be provided, stormwater management will be improved, playing fields will be unlit, teams will arrive via buses, amplified sound equipment will be prohibited, etc. The concerns of a handful of neighbors are unfounded -- these fields and the children who will use them will be wonderful additions to the neighborhood.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leigh Comas  
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Board of Zoning Adjustment  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.20643  
EXHIBIT NO.136

