

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Lauren Howard <laurenrhoward@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 11:06 AM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: BZA Application No. 20643: Maret School Athletic Fields Project

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BZA Chairman Frederick Hill,

As former Maret School parents and 42-year residents in ANC 3G03, we are providing comments in support of the Maret School Application No. 20643 for new student athletic fields on the property of the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC).

Completion of this project would have substantial benefits to Maret, ECC and the Greater DC community, including:

For Maret:

- Its high school athletes would finally have regulation-size fields for their baseball, soccer, lacrosse, and football programs.

For ECC:

- The funds generated from Maret's lease would help ensure ECC's long-term viability, which would benefit the special needs children that ECC had been serving until it suspended operations in June 2019.

For the Greater DC Community:

- Maret would share the proposed athletic fields with a number of youth sports organizations that do not have access to quality playing fields.

Maret has met with neighborhood residents to address their concerns and, as a result, has committed to forgo the use of field lighting and amplified sound (other than for a shot clock for lacrosse games). In addition, Maret (i) has revised its plan to re-locate certain field elements (including retaining walls, scoreboard, batting cage, and bullpens); (ii) is evaluating ways to mitigate the transportation impact; and (iii) is actively considering more limited use of the fields by DC youth sports groups. Further, Maret plans to use the fields only during the daytime and thus has no need to install the lighting that would be needed for night games.

In view of these various benefits to the community, Maret, and ECC, as well as Maret's responsiveness to neighbors' concerns, we urge you to approve Maret School's Application No. 20643 for new student athletic fields on the ECC property.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren and Glen Howard
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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.20643
EXHIBIT NO.139

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